



THE HALLEY'S COMMENT

Autumn 2020 | Issue Ten



A message from the Principal

John Dixon

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the first edition of The Halley's Comment for the academic year 2020/2021.

It was an absolute pleasure to welcome all students and staff back to The Halley Academy at the start of September; I genuinely missed the buzz of a thriving academy community. During the period of enforced closure, where we hosted the Leigh Academies Trust SE London Hub, and the wider opening, we as an academy remained true to our values. We continued to uphold our high standards and expectations to deliver the very best blended learning experience.

I was very pleased that recruitment was able to continue as planned, albeit virtually, and am delighted to welcome new colleagues to The Halley family, including my new Deputy Principal, who will introduce herself below.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mr Carl Guerin-Hassett for his outstanding work as Deputy Principal during the latter part of the last academic year. We wish him all the best in his new position as Principal of The Hundred of Hoo Academy, part of Leigh Academies Trust.

I hope you enjoy the articles in this edition of our newsletter. If you would like to get in touch with us please email admin@thehalleyacademy.org.uk or contact the academy on 020 8516 7977.

Welcome to our new Deputy Principal



My name is Ms Sharma and I am the new Deputy Principal at the academy. I am delighted to have become a member of The Halley Academy

community and I have had a very warm welcome by all. It has been a pleasure meeting our students and getting to know them, and I have been impressed with their excellent start to the new academic year.

I have said to many of our students, all schools have classrooms and a playground, but it is the people who make The Halley Academy community so special. Our values are lived by all and we see the importance of working together to achieve excellence as an integral part of our daily work.

Our students are proud to wear their uniform each day and we encourage them to consistently demonstrate our values in their conduct as ambassadors for the academy. Acts of kindness are effortless for our students and it is lovely to see how supportive students are of each other.

As I begin my journey at The Halley Academy, I am keen to contribute to the unique and special community that we have. By working together with students, staff, LAT, governors and parents we will be able to provide enriched learning experiences as well as support students to practise strong moral principles.

I look forward to working with you for the very best for our students, as they deserve, and I wish you all a very successful academic year.

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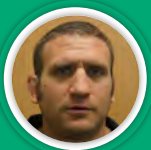
Our School Team



Mr Russell
Head of School



Ms Parsons
Deputy Head of School



Mr Roques
Director of Progress



Ms Godfrey
Small School Manager



Ms Gill
Small School Manager



Ms B Walder
Small School
Administration

FRANKLIN SMALL SCHOOL UPDATE

The start of the 2020/1 academic year brings an array of exciting new academic and wider learning experiences for students within Franklin School.

Our Small School was named after the eminent and pioneering British scientist, Rosalind Franklin, whose work helped discover DNA and create modern medicine. Franklin once said famously: "by doing our best, we come closer to success". It is the values of Franklin's work that we hope to impart to all students in our Small School: supporting each other through collective responsibility, respecting ourselves and each other, striving to be the best versions of ourselves, and achieving success together. And it is precisely these values that will shape our work with your child in the Franklin School community.

It has been a pleasure to welcome back all students to the Academy. We appreciate that all new academic years bring with it a healthy mix of anticipation and excitement. This is particularly true this September after our period of enforced closure over the Spring and Summer. We've been incredibly impressed with the start that all Franklin students have made, returning to their studies with renewed focus, commitment and drive. It has been pleasing to see students readily utilise their Google Classrooms to support and enhance their classroom based learning at home. A number of students have already completed their Award Cards, a sign of their commitment to learning and meeting the highest standards. Our Franklin assemblies, albeit now held virtually, are a highlight of every week - giving our Small School community the opportunity to discuss our shared values and celebrate each other's successes.

On a personal note, I am proud to be part of a team that is committed to supporting students throughout their time in Franklin School. I am supported by the Deputy Head of School, Ms Parsons. Mr Roques is the school's Director of Progress and is responsible for the academic progress of students across Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. Ms Gill and Mrs Godfrey, our Small School Managers, are the driving force of the school and are able to provide students with the academic support and pastoral care which will underscore their successful transition into adulthood. We are all ably supported by Mrs Walder who is the School Administrator, the glue that keeps us together.

Attendance and punctuality continues to be an important focus for all students in Franklin School. We know that this is one of the most significant facilitators of academic success, with research showing that even a single day of lost learning can be detrimental to the progress of a student. Any, and all, support that you can provide to ensure that your child is at school, every day, punctually and professionally, is very much appreciated.

As the academic year unfolds we will of course strive to keep you, the families, updated with everything that your child has been up to. If you would like to contact someone at any point, please email us at franklin@thehalleyacademy.org.uk.

We look forward to continuing to support your child throughout their time in Franklin School, and wish them all the best for what should be a successful year ahead.

Mr Russell
Head of Franklin School

"All that is necessary is the belief that by doing our best we shall come nearer to success and that success is worth attaining"

Rosalind Franklin



Our School Team



Mr Stevens
Head of School



Mr Godina
Deputy Head of School



Ms Jess
Director of Progress



Ms Halliday
Small School Manager



Ms Smith
Small School Manager



Ms Murfitt
Small School
Administration

TURING SMALL SCHOOL UPDATE

This year marks the start of an academic year like no other. The Turing School is delighted to welcome back its students after such a long period of time out of the building.

In truth, the Turing School never closes and we have not stopped supporting our students throughout the entire period of lockdown. Many of you would have received calls from the Turing School Senior Team to check in on how your child was finding their Home Learning. We appreciate all of the fantastic feedback and thank you for the support you provided over this time.

We will continue to offer our excellent level of support to all students in the Turing School. Please encourage your child to speak to their tutor or members of the Turing team if they are feeling anxious, or worried about their studies or returning to the academy.

Whilst it is important to reflect and recognise the previous seven months, we must also look forward and to the bright futures our young people will have. What is most important now is that our Turing students throw themselves into their studies once more, showing that excellent Commitment to Learning they willingly exhibited in previous modules. Their teachers have designed bespoke curriculum packages to ensure that no student is academically disadvantaged, with some exciting announcements on the horizon around the academy's new loan device provision and what that means for our learners of the future.

Student achievement and commitment should be celebrated. You are no doubt receiving a number of praise emails already around your child's excellent start to this academic year. We are re-launching our award cards across the academy, with Turing School determined to continue being the leading school across The Halley Academy. Please encourage your child to keep up this fantastic effort and achievement so far and more importantly get their award card signed!

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Mr Godina back as the Turing Deputy Head of School. Mr Godina previously held this role in 2019 before a brief sabbatical to the Franklin School last year. I am delighted to have Mr Godina return and would like to thank Ms Parsons for all the incredible work she gave to the Turing School.

Please continue to share your child's fantastic achievements outside of the academy with us in the Turing School, we are incredibly proud of what our students achieve. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you as parents and carers for your continued support. As the academic year unfolds we will of course strive to keep you, the families, updated with everything that your child has been up to. If you would like to contact someone at any point, please email us at turing@thehalleyacademy.org.uk.

Mr Stevens
Head of Turing School

"Those who can imagine anything can create the impossible"

Alan Turing



Our School Team



Mrs Cronin
Head of School



Mr Davis
Deputy Head of School



Ms Taylor
Director of Progress



Ms Stratford
Small School Manager



Mr Thomas
Small School Manager



Ms Harrington
Small School
Administration

EASLEY SMALL SCHOOL UPDATE

The Easley staff team were eagerly anticipating the return of our Easley students to the academy to start the academic year. It was a pleasure to see all year groups come back in a responsible and mature manner in line with new regulations. Since then, Easley students have been keenly applying themselves to their studies, clearly enjoying their learning.

'I was looking forward to coming back to school to meet up with friends again and begin my year 11 studies. It was odd initially, getting used to the 'new normal'. However, we've got used to the changes and are engrossed in our GCSE studies which is vitally important for us year 11s. I feel excited about the challenges ahead.'
- Inderveer 11E1

'I feel safe coming back to The Halley Academy. I've come back with a positive mood since all the teachers made me feel welcome.' - Shemi 9E1

'As a new student joining a new school, it felt strange for the first few days. The Easley staff supported me and now I feel settled and have made new friends. I'm enjoying my subjects, especially English.' - Zondag 8E3

It's been lovely to see our new Year 7s too who have settled in impressively well and are full of enthusiasm and positivity. Here's a joint statement from 7E1 and 7E2:

'The community feeling at The Halley makes us feel safe and welcome!'

Finally, we're proud to offer our congratulations to :

› **Kobeen 11E**

› **Luca 11E2**

who both won a Bronze Award for the Intermediate Mathematical Challenge earlier this year.

Let's continue to look after ourselves and others and stay safe.

Ms Taylor
Director of Progress, Easley School

"You can do anything you want to, but you have to work at it"

Annie Easley



Our School Team



Mr Harrison
Head of School



Mr Burrows
Deputy Director of
Sixth Form



Ms White
Small School Manager



Mrs Hampton
Small School
Administration

HAWKING SMALL SCHOOL UPDATE

Student Careers Question Time at The Halley Academy



Year 12 at The Halley Academy attended Student Careers Question Time on Tuesday 10th March. Hosted in the impressive listed hall at the academy, our valued guest panelists were:

- Wayne Wilson, Network Manager of KATO and previously a professional footballer
- Dr Joan Wales, Head of Safety and Operational Risk at BP
- Tom Milner, Director of the Natural Resources Investment Banking Group
- Gabriella Belgrave, Forensic Accountant at KPMG

Run along the lines of the popular BBC TV programme, Question Time, students were given biographies of our guests beforehand to give them time to consider the types of questions that they would like to ask.

These included:

- What questions did you ask yourself before starting your career?
- What is the one thing you learnt from your chosen career and would you change anything?
- What advice would you give to your teenage self?
- What is the basic and highest wage in your field?
- What was your motivation to succeed in the area you did?
- What advice would you give a student who hasn't made up their mind what to do as a career/university?

Panelists gave comprehensive answers, with several key tenets running through the advice that they gave, such as, it's not always about salary but rather about finding work rewarding and stepping up to the mark.

Students thanked our guests at the end of the panel session with a loud burst of applause. We are most grateful to our panelists, most of whom are regular supporters of The Halley Academy with Gabriella and Joan being Governors and Tom and Joan also being STEM mentors at the academy. We are also grateful for the support of the Tallow Chandlers Livery Company with helping to introduce us to so many impressive business contacts.

Mr Harrison
Head of Hawking School

Take the Lead

Sixth Form students in Hawking School at The Halley Academy have been participating in the [Take the Lead](#) programme since February. This is a free scheme from The Old Vic theatre company aimed at supporting young people to develop the essential transferable skills necessary in order to succeed at university or in the workplace. Students currently following the IBCP pathway felt a strong resonance between their Personal & Professional Skills syllabus and the programme's focus on building communication, problem-solving and teamwork skills, as well as self-management and self-belief.

The programme included free tickets to see Daniel Radcliffe perform in The Old Vic's production of Endgame by Samuel Beckett, and students then drew on this experience to consider how they might use posture, body language and tone of voice in a professional situation.

Following this, students worked closely with arts professionals and representatives from the world of business to build a theatre company, plan a production, produce an elevator pitch and hone their interview skills. They then came together with participants from other schools and colleges to celebrate their achievements and showcase their skillsets.

Students have been really positive about the programme, and the team of facilitators from The Old Vic described their pride and pleasure at watching students grow in confidence as they progressed through the sessions.

We have really relished this experience and look forward to working closely with The Old Vic again in the future.

Mr Burrows
Deputy Head of Hawking School

Induction Day

Induction Day 2020 for our Year 7s was a huge success. Our new cohort of Year 7 students were welcomed into The Halley Academy family in style.

A range of activities were enjoyed throughout the day from orienteering to making origami. Students had the opportunity to put their tutors on the hot seat where they were asked a range of questions and were also introduced to the IB learner profile and how the MYP is central to our learning journey at KS3.

Within their tutor groups, students were given the chance to share things about themselves in the 'getting to know you' activity and also exercise their competitive streak as they battled to win trophies!

Our Year 7s have had an extremely positive start to the year and we wish them the best of luck in their academic careers.

Quotes from students:

'The orienteering task was a fun way to explore the playground'

'I was really nervous about starting secondary school but now I feel like I've been here for a long time'

'Secondary life is more exciting than primary school'

'One thing I enjoyed about the induction day was getting to know fun facts about people'

'I liked the booklet because I was too shy to say things but I could write them down instead'



HARmony Camp

In the final week of the summer holidays, we welcomed forty one of our new Year 7s into school to take part in our HARmony Camp. The three days were packed with activities ranging from sports, quizzes, comic design to water colour paintings.



The activities had been meticulously planned by our Year 9 heroes, who had spent one day at the beginning of the holidays being trained by Humanutopia. The Year 9 heroes were highly praised for their commitment and creativity, as well as their leadership qualities. During the summer camp, our Year 9 heroes played a pivotal role in not only delivering these activities but in also acting as home group leaders, getting to know their Year 7 students and helping them with any questions that they may have.

Our new Year 7 students rose to the challenge and despite many of them having not stepped into a school environment for five months; they settled quickly into the activities and relished the opportunities to make new friends, learn more about the school and acquire some new skills as well as unleashing some hidden talents.

It was a pleasure to see the students gain in confidence and build new relationships, making their transition into secondary school much easier. The students were running into the school by the last day and feedback from parents has been overwhelmingly positive. Thank you to all those staff who made this opportunity possible for our new Year 7 students.



Year 7 Transition

This year, our transition plans were dramatically altered as a result of the current times. However, our students were still introduced to The Halley Academy in a variety of ways. Firstly, we established our transition website, which allowed for all of our students to access information about the academy and to meet the small school that will be so important to the pastoral support and learning journey of our students whilst at The Halley Academy.

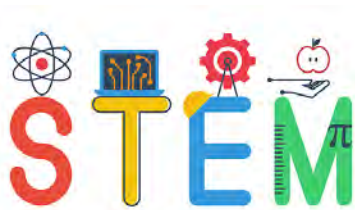
Individual videos were made for each of our small schools; Easley, Franklin and Turing and families were contacted in advance, helping to ensure a smooth transition. Following on the success in recent years of our 'Transition Activities Week', all students in the penultimate week of the summer term, were introduced through our website, to the

great variety of lessons we are able to offer at the academy; learning to draw a bee in Art to creating a volcano in Geography.

This academic year, we are continuing to offer transition information through virtual means and on our website, you will be able to access a 360° tour of the academy, as well as our film, that introduces new students and families to some of our staff and most importantly the views of our students.

We are also hosting a number of Google Meets with our primary feeder schools and our department faculties will be offering a little glimpse of their subject areas. If you do require any further information surrounding our academy, please contact admissions@thehalleyacademy.org.uk.

STEM Club



The STEM club continues to grow in strength as we embark on new projects. Last academic year was a successful one up until the incidence of the Coronavirus. We saw an increase in numbers with keen interest shown by students in Years 7 and 8.

Just like most groups we have adapted to hosting our sessions virtually by creating a Google Classroom where fun, engaging experiments which are safe and easy to do at home are uploaded. The classroom code is **mig4g4d**.

Currently the STEM team are developing a Halley STEM policy and Scheme of Work which will complement the constituent subjects, and give the students the opportunity to expand their knowledge beyond the normal curriculum.

We are also developing a regular newsletter to promote the club's activities, and to enhance the students' experience of STEM in the real world – watch this space!

Mr Mensah
Coordinator of Learning - Science

MyON

In June of this year, The Halley Academy joined forces with MyON - a new online reading platform that will allow our students access to thousands of enhanced digital books. MyON provides essential support and resources, as well as promoting a love of reading and literacy. All students now have login details:

- Username: 1st letter of first name followed by first 4 letters of last name, e.g. John Smith = JSMIT (if it isn't working, please try with a '1' added to the end).
- Password: abc

MyON will form part of our Academy literacy strategy, allowing students to have access to a personalised literacy platform which will match students with books that will complement their interests and reading level. Our students will have access to over 7000 digital books and curated news articles all year round. Almost all of these books are also quizzable on Accelerated Reader, so Year 7-9 students can also be working towards their home learning reading goal of 15-20 minutes every day.

MyON also features an audio function, so words, sentences, or pages can be read to them. Also, the MyOn daily news can be translated into French or Spanish, to support students with English as an additional language and those studying Languages at GCSE. Let's get reading!

Ms Ward
Director of Literacy & EAL

Science Week competition winners

Congratulations to the two competition winners who entered the library's Science Week competition earlier this year.

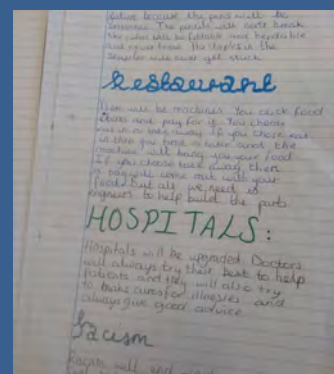
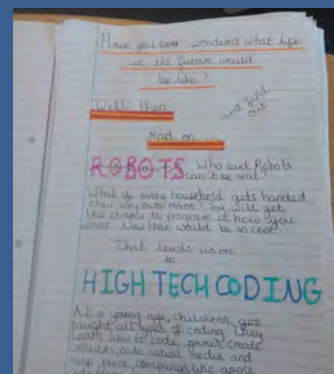
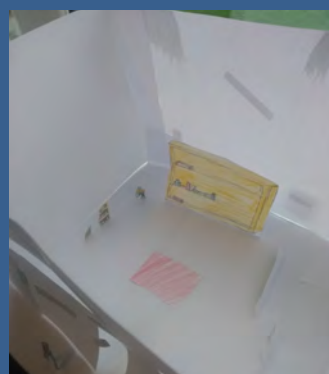
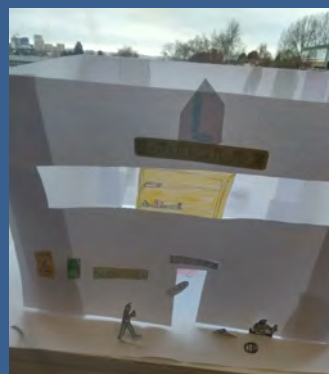
The competition was to:

1. Create an illustration of the library of the future in 2030
2. Write a piece of fiction (500 words) on what the future will look like.

Boaz in Year 7 won the illustration prize after he created a fantastic pop up model of the library of the future.

A group effort between Ayesha, Kyra, Keira, Fatima and Ellie-May won the fiction category after they expressed how they believed Robots, Cars, Teaching and Hospitals will change in the future.

Mr Somerville
LRC Coordinator



Novelists at The Halley

We would like to celebrate the astonishing achievements of two students who have written and published books available to buy online. Firstly, Gabriella in Year 10 decided to use her spare time in lockdown to her advantage by writing and publishing a gripping action thriller. Her novel follows the story of former A-student Addison whose 'encounter with a stranger sets off a dangerous chain of events, plunging her into a much darker world.'

Secondly, Rocco in Year 8, impressively published a book at the age of seven! His [entertaining graphic novel](#) takes its reader on a journey through the 50 states as they 'wonder at the land of dreams'.

Miss Gurley
Teacher of English

Numeracy News

Every year The Halley Academy participates in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge, and this year 50 of our best mathematicians from Year 9 to Year 11 took part.



The UKMT individual Maths Challenges are exciting multiple choice question papers, which are designed to encourage mathematical reasoning,

precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. There are three levels of challenge covering the secondary school range - 11-18 - and together they attract thousands of entries from several schools and colleges in the UK.

Once again our students' achievements speak for themselves; 3 of our students qualified for the follow-on round. We also achieved 11 bronze, 5 silver and 2 gold certificates, as well as 3 best in year group and 1 best in school certificate.

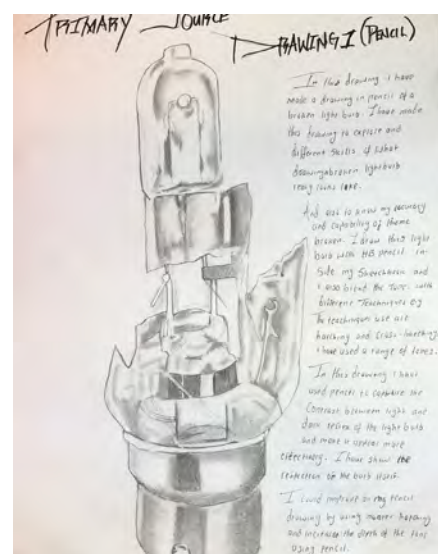
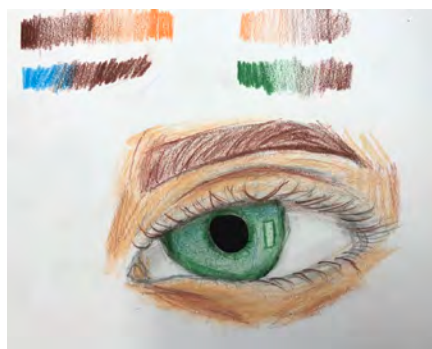
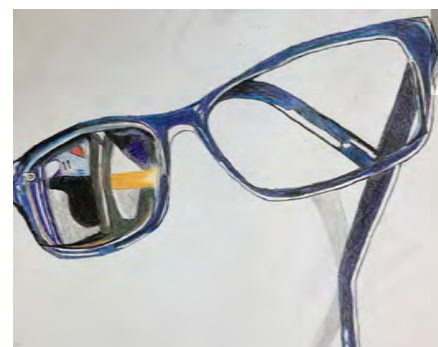
During the lockdown our Year 7 and Year 8 students participated in the Junior Maths Challenge. This was set up and run remotely and our students once again rose to the challenge and did brilliantly in the competition.

Ms Chima-Uchechi
Teacher of Mathematics

Student Artwork at The Halley

Students at The Halley Academy have made a fantastic start in their Art lessons. This module we are focusing on; Year 7, Cultural Eyes, Year 8, Portraiture and Cultural Masks, Year 9, Perspective, Year 10, Identity, Year 11, Broken and Year 12/13, Human Condition. As a new member of staff at The Halley Academy, I have been really impressed with the talent and skills shown by our students so far. Here is just a small selection of the work produced since students have returned.

Mrs Courtley
Coordinator of Learning - Visual & Performance Arts



The Halley Academy Social Action Group's New Campaign to Tackle Climate Change

As you may be aware, The Halley Academy Social Action Group has been standing up for justice and equality on issues that matter most to them. Gender violence and now climate change - The Halley Academy Social Action Group tackles deep rooted inequalities and concerns, with hopes of building a better future for all.



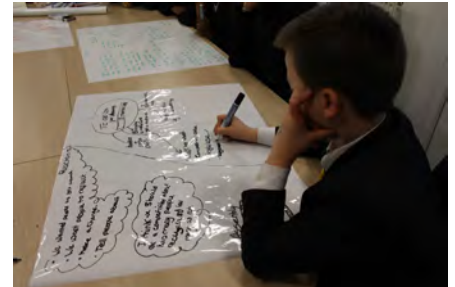
The Social Action Group doesn't stand alone. Next to 200 other Citizens UK organisations across London, The Halley Academy students have been planning to push mayoral candidates to make commitments on the issues

that matter most to them. Housing and homelessness, welcome and integration, living wage, youth violence and safety, and the climate emergency are at the top of our list.

The Halley Academy Social Action Group is made up of 13 students, 5 members of staff and one parent, and meet weekly to identify and discuss ways in which we can tackle climate change at the academy and the wider community.

Once things return to normal, you can become involved by joining the Social Action Group every week where we will be busy developing and planning our campaign, which includes: a Year 7 poetry anthology, details of our manifesto and campaign journey, and The Halley Academy Pledge Tree which will be situated in the reception for students, staff and visitors to write their pledges to tackle climate change on a leaf and attach to the tree.

As soon as we can, we will be sending out information about the dates and times when we are meeting. We look forward to seeing you there!



The Halley Academy Social Action Group - Law Review Update

In January 2018, The Halley Academy Social Action Group embarked on their first campaign to make misogyny and violence towards women and girls a hate crime. Since then, they have shared their stories with members of Citizens UK across London, taken part in accountability assemblies, met and challenged local and city wide politicians, delivered anti-bullying and respect workshops at the Royal Borough of Greenwich anti-bullying conference,

and even facilitated misogyny workshops with the Greenwich Police Cadets.

More recently, their dedication and passion towards this relevant and important campaign has resulted in the group contributing to and winning a law review, and achieving the commissioning of an official and detailed report.

The report loudly and clearly recommends the uniform adoption of misogyny as a hate crime across all police forces in England and Wales, as well as training and greater accountability for institutions responsible for safety in public spaces.

On hearing this news one of the former members of the Social Action Group, Faridah, stated:

'My time as part of the SAG was truly invaluable; it really helped me mature as a person. I really benefited from the time spent with everyone at Citizens UK and the social action group. I made lasting relationships and skills that I still use today. The Halley Academy Social Action Group made me believe that my voice could be heard and has encouraged me to keep speaking out about injustice in the world. For the confidence it gave me, I will forever be thankful.'

Ms Williamson
Director of Inclusion/SENCo

