

Hendon Students Inspired at London Youth Sustainability Conference

On Thursday 16th April, 14 Year 10 students from Hendon attended the London Youth Sustainability Conference at the London Wetland Centre in Barnes. Set within one of London's most important nature reserves, the conference gave students a powerful opportunity to learn about sustainability while being fully immersed in nature.



The day opened with a thought-provoking session on "What is Growth?" which encouraged students to question whether societies need constant economic growth or whether living in balance with nature could offer a better future. This set the tone for the rest of the conference, reminding students that sustainability is not just about science, but about choices, values and long-term thinking.

Throughout the day, students took part in a wide range of hands-on, interactive workshops. One of the most popular was the Wetland Scavenger Hunt, where students explored the wetlands as a biome, learning about native species and the important roles wetlands play in supporting biodiversity. Many students spotted birds and wildlife they had never seen before.



During a poetry workshop, Noticing and Naming, students slowed down, used their senses and reflected on the natural world around them. This creative session showed how noticing small details can help us feel more connected to nature and more motivated to protect it. Another practical workshop, Driving Change: Against Microplastics, explored how tiny plastics enter our bodies and the environment, helping students understand how everyday habits can lead to long-term environmental damage.

Students also took part in The Power of Us: Active Hope and Mapping the Future of Climate Action, where they worked with others to share ideas, build confidence and develop realistic plans for change. At the end of the day, students reflected on what they had learned and created personal and school sustainability goals, showing how the conference encouraged real action, not just discussion.



One of the highlights was Down the Lens: Making Documentaries for Environmental Change, where students helped create short films to communicate strong environmental messages. This allowed them to be creative while learning how media can be used to inspire others and raise awareness.

The conference also featured inspiring speakers and panellists, many of whom began taking action when they were young. Their stories showed students that making a difference does not depend on age, and that early action can lead to lifelong impact.

Students described the trip as eye-opening and calming. Andreas said, "This trip made me connect with nature in a way I never got the chance to. I never realised nature could have such a calming effect." Rayaan added, "I saw species of birds that I've never seen before. We should appreciate nature more."

Others enjoyed sharing ideas with students from different schools. Arix explained, "I enjoyed the fact that I got to show my vision for the school in front of other schools." Ashwin agreed, saying, "I enjoyed the animals such as ducks and I got to present our ideas to other schools."

Overall, the London Youth Sustainability Conference was an inspiring day that helped students appreciate the natural world, understand real environmental challenges and realise that there are many things we can do to support ourselves and the planet. As Manel summed up, "I never knew places like wetlands existed in London - it was a really nice experience."

Miss Lawy - Head of Geography

From Crickets to Scorpions: The Ultimate Test of Nerve!

Our annual “I’m a Teacher... Get Me Out of Here!” event returned for a second year – and it certainly did not disappoint!

Once again, a group of brave Hendon School staff members took on a series of hilarious and stomach-turning challenges in front of an excited audience of students and staff. From eating crickets and mealworms in the early rounds to facing scorpions and giant water bugs in the final challenges. The event was full of laughter and energy from start to finish.



A huge well done to all of the teachers who volunteered to take part and fully embraced the occasion for the enjoyment of our school community. Their willingness to get involved made the event such a memorable success. Special thanks must also go to Mr Gadatara, our fantastic presenter, who kept the crowd entertained throughout the event with his enthusiasm and humour.

Congratulations as well to the 25 students who earned their place in the final round, bravely taking on our bug-filled lollipops challenge!

It was a brilliant event enjoyed by everyone watching, and we are already looking forward to bringing it back again next year.



Ms Downing - Assistant Headteacher

| Diary Dates | |
|---|---|
| ❖ Monday 25 th - Friday 29 th May | Half Term Holiday |
| ❖ Monday 1 st June - Friday 12 th June | KS3 Assessments |
| ❖ Thursday 11 th June | Year 10 Information Evening for Mock Exams |
| ❖ Monday 15 th June - Friday 19 th June | Year 10 MFL Speaking Mock Exams |
| ❖ Wednesday 17 th June | Sport Day at Willesden Sports Centre |
| ❖ Friday 19 th June | Year 11 Prom |
| ❖ Monday 22 nd June | Year 13 Homecoming |
| ❖ Monday 22 nd June - Friday 26 th June | KS3 Enrichment Week |
| ❖ Monday 22 nd June - Friday 26 th June | Year 12 UCAS Exams |
| ❖ Monday 22 nd June - Friday 3 rd July | Year 10 Mock Exams |
| ❖ Monday 29 th June | Year 12 Post 18 Day |
| ❖ Tuesday 30 th June- Wednesday 1 st July | Year 12 Transition Day |
| ❖ Friday 10 th July | Sports Award Evening 5.30 - 8.00 pm |
| ❖ Monday 13 th July - Tuesday 15 th July | Year 7 & 8 House Rewards |
| ❖ Tuesday 14 th July | Dance Summer Showcase |
| ❖ Thursday 16 th July | Year 10 & 12 Trips Day |
| ❖ Friday 17 th July | Last day of Summer Term - Students dismissed at 12.05 pm Non Uniform Day |
| ❖ Monday 20 th July | INSET Day |

Year 13 Leavers' Day - 7th May 2026

Leavers' Day was such a special and emotional day for all of us at Hendon School. We started the day in the hall, spending time together eating, taking pictures and giving gifts to our beloved teachers and Sixth Form coordinators. The assembly was both fun and heartfelt and it truly made me realise how much Hendon felt like home and how much I felt like I belonged there, which made leaving even harder.



The barbecue was also amazing and a huge thank you goes to all the teachers who helped organise and run everything. Finally, thank you to Mr Harper, Mrs Qyqalla, Ms Tuac and Ms Saunders for all the hard work they put into Sixth Form and for making our experience so enjoyable and memorable for everyone.

Sama - 13.3

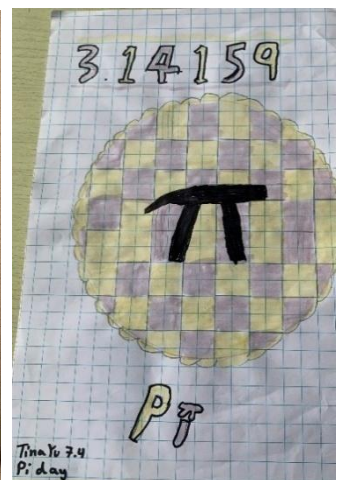
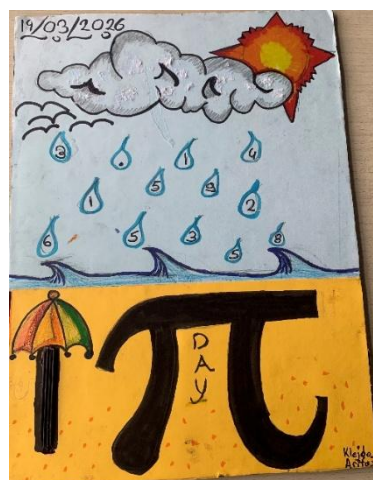
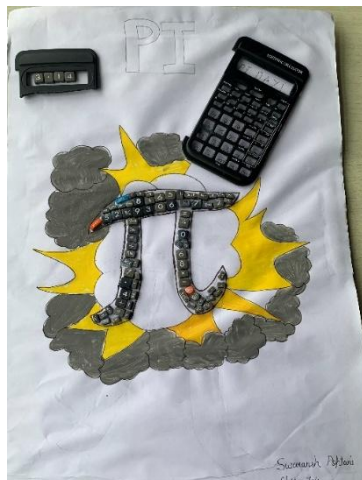


The Power of π : Art Meets Mathematics

As part of our exciting Pi Day celebration, we are thrilled to announce the results of our Pi Day Competition! This year, students showcased their creativity and enthusiasm by designing incredible posters inspired by the magic of π (3.14).

From colourful designs to clever mathematical themes, the effort and imagination on display were truly impressive. We are proud to congratulate the students who secured the top three positions for their outstanding work. Their posters not only reflected artistic talent but also a deep appreciation for the beauty of mathematics.

- **First place:**
Swaransh Poptani
- **Second place:**
Klejdo Arifaj
- **Third place:**
Tina Yu



A big thank you to everyone who participated and made this Pi Day celebration memorable. Keep exploring, creating, and enjoying the wonders of maths!

Ms Hoxha - Maths Department

Year 9 Creative Practice Visit to London Screen Academy

On Wednesday 15th April a selected group of Year 9 "Creative Practice" students were invited to attend the London Screen Academy. While there they had a tour around their incredible facilities and workshops, followed by workshops on lighting and camera techniques led by Hendon Governor Ali Nazari, as well as discussions about careers in Film and Television industry.



Former Hendon students who now attend the LSA were there to answer questions and offer guidance to our students and it was wonderful to see how much they are thriving in their new creative freedom.



The trip was a great success with students opening their minds to the possibilities of the UK's extraordinary and thriving film industry. Creative Practice students are now entering the filming phase of their projects here in schools so from here, it's Lights, Camera, Action!!

Ms Morland - Head of Creative Arts

Hendon Breakin' Crew Shines at Step Live Competition

On Tuesday 28th April, Hendon's very own Breakin' crew attended the Royal Academy of Dance's Step Live dance competition at Grey Coats Hospital School in Westminster. The all-boys crew truly wowed the audience and took full advantage of the opportunity to network with other schools from across London, while also enjoying a range of impressive dance performances.



If the boys are successful in securing a place in the final showcase, they will perform at Cadogan Hall in June alongside some of the very best dance groups from across London. We are still awaiting the results, but regardless of the outcome, please join us in congratulating the boys on a fantastic performance and for representing the school so brilliantly.

Ms Goodman - Dance Department

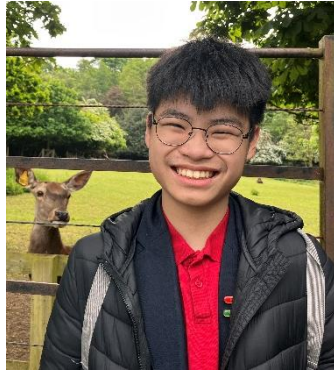
Reach Students Discover the World Beyond the Classroom

This half term, Reach students have taken part in a range of enriching trips which have helped to develop their independence and confidence outside of the classroom.



As part of Reach's Preparation for Adulthood Curriculum, students enjoyed weekly visits to Golders Hill Park, where they practised using public transport safely and confidently whilst exploring the local community. Students also visited the headquarters of Mercedes-Benz and took part in an employability workshop, where they learned more about careers and the workplace whilst exploring a range of vehicle models.

Reach students also took part in a number of cultural visits this half term. At St Paul's Cathedral, students attended the 'Ashes to Architecture' workshop, funded by the Schools Visit Fund. The workshop focused on the Great Fire of London and the rebuilding of the city afterwards. Students also attended a SEND day at London Museum Docklands, where they explored a range of sensory activities, including interactive workshops and craft activities themed around London animals.



A particular highlight of the half term was the reward trip to Zippos Circus in Colindale. Students thoroughly enjoyed the performances and lively atmosphere. We would also like to thank Mr Spicer for joining us on the trip!



We are extremely proud of the maturity, enthusiasm and positive behaviour Reach students have shown during all of these experiences and look forward to many more exciting opportunities next half term.

Ms O'Connor - Reach Department

On the Wednesday 29th April, Hendon School proudly hosted the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge in the school canteen, where 30 enthusiastic students from Years 7 and 8 came together to put their mathematical skills to the test.

The Junior Maths Challenge is a wonderful opportunity for students to explore problem-solving beyond the classroom and to enjoy the challenge of creative thinking in mathematics. All participants showed excellent focus, resilience and determination throughout.

Our results this year includes 1 Gold, 4 Silver and 10 Bronze Certificates. We would like to warmly congratulate every student who took part for their effort and positive attitude. Well done to all involved!

Mr Roman - Head of Maths/Assistant Headteacher

Art & Photography News

Year 7 Plant Portrait Collages

Well done to 7.2 for their creative self portrait plant collages inspired by artists Frida Kahlo, Henri Rosseau and Kudzanai-Violet Hwami. They will develop them into paintings in the coming weeks.



Year 8 Pop Art Paintings

Students created their own arrangements using sweets and then scaled up the photographs to create realistic drawings of 3D form using their knowledge of perspective. The final outcomes show expressive paintings with strong colour tones in the style of Pop Art.

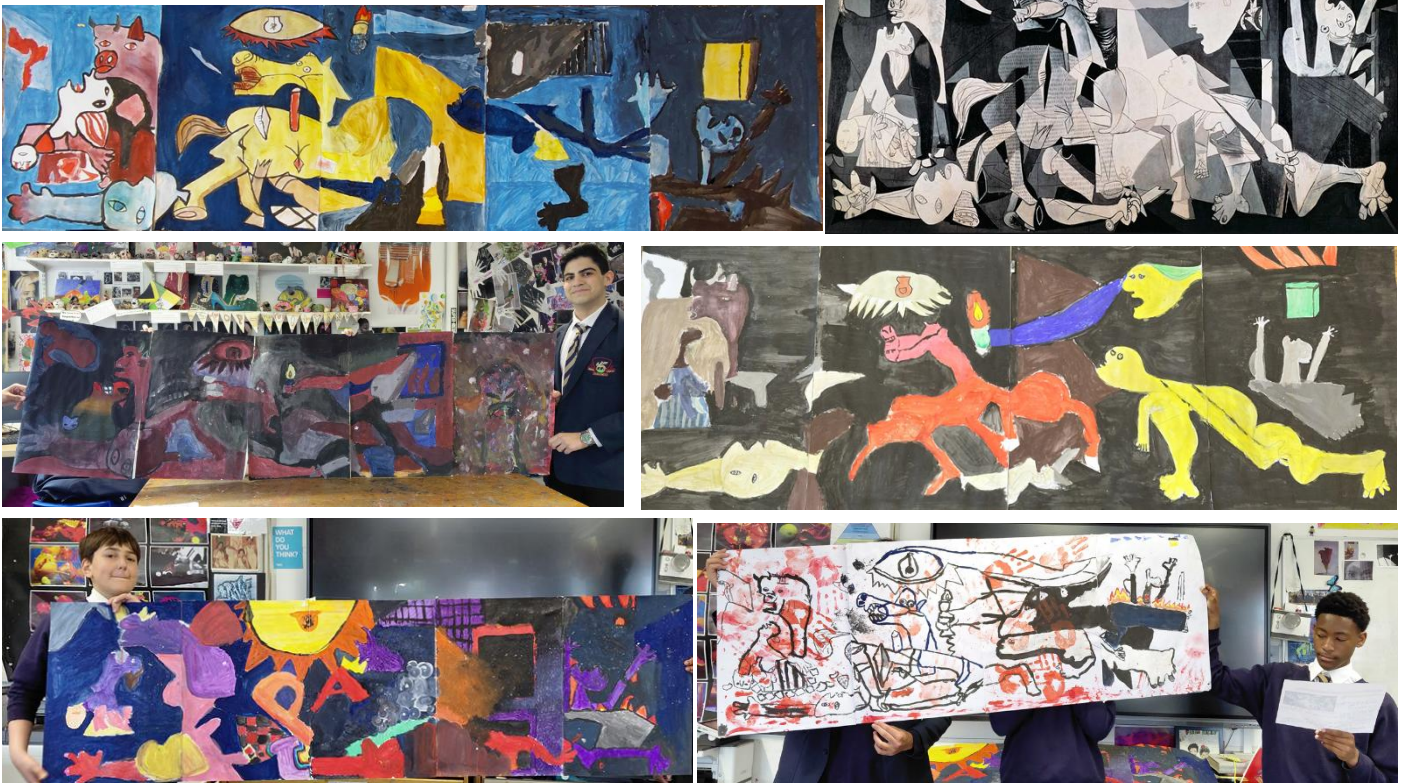
Well done to Mati, Rowan, Eliza, Mehraev and Penelope for their excellent artwork!



Year 9 Guernica Anti-War Paintings

Year 9 Art students have been studying Picasso's Guernica painting within the Spanish Civil war context where in 1936 the Franco/Hitler coalition bombed the town of Guernica in Northern Spain and caused thousands of civilian casualties.

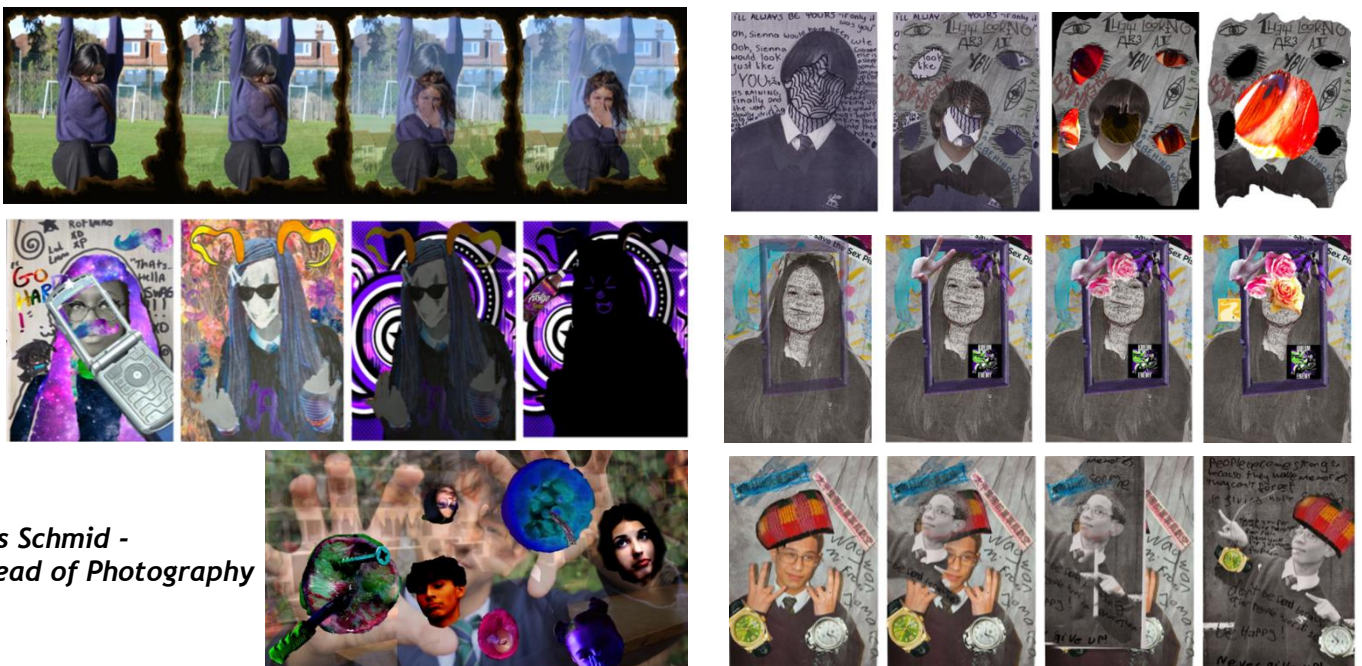
Students were asked to work as a team to create a response that would emphasise the painting's inherent anti-war message. Congratulations for the fantastic outcomes! Students showed an impressive in-depth understanding during their class presentations of how abstraction/surrealism can be used to communicate empathy of difficult subject matter such as conflicts, violence and its aftermaths.



Year 10 GCSE Photography self portrait animations

All students created exciting, stop-motion clips by combining self portraiture with ideas about identity. They were inspired by music videos and portraiture paintings to develop Adobe Photoshop and Moviemaker skills to produce final animations with highly creative ideas and advanced technical expertise.

Well done to the following students for getting the most votes for their animations: Joseph, Joao and Brielle!



Ms Schmid -
Head of Photography

Rewarding Dedication Through the PE Residential

Last term, Miss Downing entered a national competition to name Cuffley Active Learning Centre's new "lamp pods" – and won! The prize was a fully funded residential experience for 40 students to stay in the brand-new pods.

It was incredibly difficult to choose which students would attend, but the 40 selected students were chosen as a thank you for their outstanding commitment to Hendon School's extracurricular PE programme. These students consistently take part in a wide range of sports, represent Hendon School at numerous sporting events throughout the year and are excellent ambassadors for the school. The residential was a fantastic opportunity to reward the effort, positivity and commitment they bring to the PE department and wider school community.



During the residential, students enjoyed an action-packed programme of outdoor activities including high ropes, laser tag, axe throwing, archery, crate stacking and Jacob's Ladder. From braving the heights during crate stacking and Jacob's Ladder, to working together during laser tag and showing impressive focus and accuracy in archery and axe throwing, students embraced every activity with enthusiasm and positivity. The trip provided a brilliant opportunity for students to try new experiences, build confidence and strengthen friendships while having lots of fun together.



We were also delighted to be joined by The Great British School Trip, who filmed parts of the residential as part of a wider research project exploring the importance and impact of school trips on young people. The students involved represented Hendon School exceptionally well and were fantastic ambassadors for our school community throughout the experience. A video created by the filming crew can now be found on the main school and PE department Instagram pages. The video highlights the purpose of the research project, captures students sharing their thoughts about the importance of school trips and includes fantastic action shots of students taking part in the activities throughout the residential.



Running Proud: Hendon's Mini Marathon Stars Shine

A huge well done to all of our Year 7-9 runners and family members who took part in the TCS Mini London Marathon this month! What an incredible experience and an unforgettable opportunity to run down The Mall in such an amazing event.

All of the students represented Hendon brilliantly, showing fantastic determination, resilience and effort every step of the way. It was fantastic to see so many students challenging themselves and enjoying being part of such a special occasion. We are incredibly proud of every runner who took part.

We would love to see our runners continue their running journey and keep improving their fitness and endurance. We have seen this commitment continue with the great attendance to Athletics Club every Wednesday after school. There are also nearby junior park run events available for 4-14 year olds and their families. These events are a brilliant way for students to build confidence, improve fitness and enjoy running outside of school.



A fantastic local option is **Sunny Hill park run**:

- A free, fun and friendly weekly 5k community event
- Walk, jog, run - everyone is welcome
- Takes place every Saturday at 9:00am
- Location: Sunny Hill Park, Watford Way, Hendon, London, NW4 4RD
- Students can register for free at parkrun.org to receive a personal barcode so their run can be officially timed and recorded each week.
- Once registered, students simply turn up at the start line on Saturday morning, complete the 5k event and scan their barcode at the finish to log their official time.

We would love students to share their parkrun times with the PE department as this will help us when planning teams for the upcoming Barnet Athletics Championships.

We are also excited to introduce our new **Daily Kilometre House Competition** after half term! Every student will have the opportunity to walk, jog or run 1km each morning in June to earn points for their house.

- Takes place on the school field between 8:00-8:25am starting on Monday 1st June
- Students must sign in before taking part to earn points
- 3 house points awarded for every daily kilometre
- An extra 5 bonus points awarded for completing all 5 days in a week and achieving 5km overall

This is a fantastic opportunity for our long-distance runners to use the sessions as regular time trials and challenge themselves to improve their 1km speed over time while also helping their house in the competition.

Keep Up to Date with PE at Hendon

To stay up to date with all the latest PE news, fixtures, results, and extracurricular opportunities, we encourage students and families to follow our PE department on Instagram.

Follow us at [@hendon_school_pe](https://www.instagram.com/hendon_school_pe) for regular updates and highlights from across the department.

Simply scan the QR code or search for [@hendon_school_pe](https://www.instagram.com/hendon_school_pe) on Instagram.



Unstoppable: Year 8 Crowned Back-to-Back Champions

On Wednesday 29th April, the Year 8 basketball team played yet another play-off final to become back to back Barnet league champions. After conceding 6 points, Hendon really had to find a way to work together, show their resilience and perform well to get back into the game. This Hendon team has not lost a game since starting school here and the positive attitude they display at training and matches is clear proof of their wish to remain undefeated.

Hendon performed exceptionally well in each quarter and ended up winning the game 47-26 against a strong King Alfred side. This now results in 15 games played: 15 wins and 2 league titles in both Year 7 and Year 8. Let's hope that the boys can continue this winning streak into Year 9 and go for our third league title.



Hendon Girls Show Grit and Promise at Junior NBA 3v3 Regional Qualifiers



The Hendon girls basketball squad may have left the Junior NBA 3v3 Regional Qualifiers without a win on the scoreboard, but their performances told a far more inspiring story of resilience, development and undeniable potential.

Facing some of the strongest youth talent in the region, Hendon entered the tournament as underdogs. Their opponents showcased elite-level skill, physicality and experience, making every match a stern test. Yet despite the challenging results, Hendon's players rose to the occasion with determination and teamwork far beyond expectations.

From the opening tip-off, the team demonstrated sharp ball movement and defensive discipline. Although victories proved elusive, each game saw moments of excellent execution, with Hendon consistently pushing more established teams and refusing to be overwhelmed. Coaches and spectators alike noted the squad's composure and willingness to compete until the final buzzer in every outing.

Head coach praise was particularly directed towards the team's collective spirit. "The results don't reflect just how well the girls played," one observer commented. "They were up against very high-quality competition but they never backed down. Their effort and attitude were outstanding."

At the heart of Hendon's campaign was standout performer, Dina, who earned the team's Most Valuable Player recognition. Her relentless work rate, combined with precise and confident shooting, made her a constant threat on the court. Whether driving through defenders or calmly sinking shots under pressure, Dina led by example and provided a spark in every game.

Her performances not only lifted her teammates but also drew attention from neutral onlookers, many of whom praised her composure and technical ability. In tightly contested stretches, Dina's accuracy kept Hendon within reach and highlighted the team's ability to compete at a high level.

Beyond individual accolades, the experience proved invaluable for the squad as a whole. Competing against top-tier opposition offered lessons that cannot be replicated in training, from adapting to faster-paced play to managing high-pressure situations. The tournament served as a benchmark, showing both how far the team has come and what lies ahead in their development journey.

Absence Reporting

If your child is going to be late or absent, please contact 020 8202 9004 and select option 1 then option 1 or email attendance@hendonschool.co.uk

When reporting an absence please include your child's name, form group, the reason for absence and the anticipated day of return. We ask that you also leave your name and your relationship to the child whose absence you are reporting.