

Well done: Waez with CEO Mr Elliott and Head of School Mr Deria

## Waez sets sights on career in research

ETON-bound student Waez says he hopes the college will help catapult him towards his dream career in scientific medical research.

Waez will head to the elite Berkshire private school to study A-Levels in Maths, Computer Science, Biology and Physics in September.

And just like family friend Maheraj, Waez will walk the hallowed corridors trodden by Princes William and Harry as well as Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

He said: "I have been very determined from a young age to go into the field of scientific medical research, so I can help people who are sick."

"It was just a dream as a child – certainly it is for someone from my background – but now, thanks to my school, I am going to Eton. I can maybe achieve that dream."

On his school, he added: "It really is hard to say what the school has done for me, it is hard to put into words. My life has changed now, in an instant."

"Everything I ever dreamed about is no longer a dream, it can happen. Eton opens up so many opportunities and I just have to take them."

On the difference between Eton and the East End, he said:

"They are teenagers just like me. I was surprised when I went there because the music they were all listening to was grime, which is what we listen to here."

"I got on very well with everyone and I am looking forward to making new friends. Plus, I also have Maheraj, so that will help me settle in."

# Scholarships for six of the best

THE Cumberland School is sending SIX students to top independent schools including Prime Minister Boris Johnson's old school Eton College.

The students will get the life-changing opportunities thanks to the Prestigious Colleges scholarship programme, which helps students win places at top fee-paying schools.

Last year student Maheraj Ahmed won a place at Eton and this year the school has repeated the incredible feat with Waez set to join the elite on a £84,000 scholarship.

Five other successful graduates from the scheme are also heading to leading fee-paying schools, including King's College School, Wimbledon.

The successful students came through a tough selection process that included entrance exams, interviews and public debates after receiving one-to-one support from teacher mentors.

Head of School Mr Deria said: "This is a remarkable achievement for our students and the incredibly dedicated and hard-working



teachers who have supported the process. The students at this school have limitless potential, which thanks to sweeping changes being made, is starting to be recognised.

"We are still at the beginning of our journey to turn this into one of the top-performing schools in the country but it is clear rapid progress is now being made."

CEO of The Cumberland School, Simon Elliott, said: "Last year I said Maheraj had set the bar for others to follow – I did not realise some students would take my comments quite so literally."

"These are truly inspirational stories of young people who have faced challenge in their lives rising above them to create life-changing opportunities for themselves."

**SCHOLARSHIP SPECIAL**  
P2-3

# Top schools queue up to join mentor programme

THE Cumberland School has been inundated with offers from top independent schools keen to join our Prestigious Colleges programme.

Fee-paying schools from across the country have been in contact after reading about the success of the innovative programme in the national press.

This year, a record-breaking six students were offered scholarships after receiving one-to-one mentoring with teachers.

In the weeks that followed, headteachers from private schools across the country visited Cumberland to discuss how they can support the project.

Mount Kelly headteacher, Guy Ayling, has pledged to offer scholarship places to Cumberland students every year for the foreseeable future.

There are also plans to set up an exchange programme that will see Cumberland students visit Devon and Mount Kelly students come to East London.

Mr Ayling said: "Having met students and

**Top Tweet**

 **Laura Cottrell**  
@notanother typo

Fantastic to see the philanthropy of the @KCSWimbledon community in action, supporting bursaries and enabling pupils from @CumberlandE13 to come to King's. Thank you and bravo @johnshorting

staff, it is clear this is a school that matches our own in terms of its ambitions and aspirations for young people.

"While we operate in very different circumstances, there is much that we share as school leaders and much that we can learn from one another.

"Equally, it will be of significant benefit

for both sets of students to develop a greater understanding and friendships with those that do not share their own backgrounds."

King's College, Wimbledon, offered two bursary places this year, having already taken a Cumberland student last year.

King's Head of Sixth Form, Jody Lawton Cook, visited the school in March. She said: "I was so, so impressed with the students at Cumberland.

"They were respectful, polite and beautifully dressed but also incredibly socially mature, articulate and above all ambitious for themselves.

"King's is not like many private schools. You cannot just buy your way in; you have to prove that you work hard and have the right mindset. I found a similar character in the students at Cumberland.

"In September, we will have two students from Cumberland at King's. It is a relationship that is already clearly bearing fruit and one we are keen to continue."

## Devon delight for talented Kira

INSPIRATIONAL student Kira has been offered a place a £66,000 scholarship after the story of her disappointment at missing out on a bursary reached the headteacher of a top fee-paying school in Devon.

The Year 11 thought her dream of a scholarship was over when she was not offered one of four £22,000-a-year bursaries to Highgate School, North London, despite impressing tutors.

Her failure to gain the place was made all the more crushing when five of her peers were offered scholarship places via The Cumberland School's mentoring programme.

Assistant Headteacher Amy Brown set up a Go Fund Me page to try to raise money for the tuition, which caught the eye of the headteacher at Mount Kelly fee-paying school in Devon.

Headteacher Guy Ayling at Mount Kelly was so keen to meet Kira, he travelled to East London to interview her personally, before offering her an all-expenses-paid place at his school.

She will now swap East London for sleepy countryside town Tavistock, situated on the edge of Dartmoor National Park in Devon.

He said: "We have been following the

story in the press about the incredible work being done at Cumberland when I came across the fundraising story in the Newham Recorder.

"After five minutes I had made my mind up about Kira – she is exactly the sort of student we want at Mount Kelly."

Kira said: "I feel incredibly lucky – despite working really hard, I truly thought my chance had gone.

"I was really demoralised and started looking for colleges in Newham but then this offer from Mount Kelly came completely out of the blue. It honestly feels like a dream.

"I cannot thank the school – and in particular Ms Brown – enough for their support.

"Since the beginning of this process she has helped to raise my aspiration and belief"

Head of School Omar Deria added: "We are very grateful to Guy and Mount Kelly for offering Kira a place.

"As you can imagine, coming so close to gaining a scholarship was incredibly disappointing for her. We knew we had to do something to help her.

"Now thanks to this incredible generosity, Kira has a life-changing opportunity to attend a first-rate independent school."



Devon-bound: Lucky student Kira with Assistant Headteacher Amy Brown

## Alexia's on right path for a top career in criminal law



STUDENT Alexia will study A-Levels in Politics, English Literature and Philosophy at King's College School, Wimbledon, on a £43,000 scholarship.

She hopes King's will be the stepping stone towards getting into Oxford or Cambridge and becoming a criminal barrister.

Alexia (left) said: "This is just

a dream come true for me. This school has the most incredible resources and the students get so many opportunities.

"It is going to change my life, there can be no doubt about that. My family are so proud of me, I am proud of myself. I have done something incredible."

She added: "I watch all the legal dramas and follow court

cases in the news a lot.

"It fascinates me that even if a person is guilty, they can walk free because of the strength of a legal argument."

Alexis was also interviewed by Riverside Radio, based in West London, about her scholarship place: <https://m.mixcloud.com/riversideradio/riverside-reports-14th-february-2020/>



## Opportunity for Swatiya

STUDENT Swatiya will walk in the footsteps of a host of household names when she joins King's College School, Wimbledon, thanks to the Prestigious Colleges programme.

She will study A-Levels in Maths, Further Maths and Economics on a £43,000 scholarship, starting in September.

She admits to being a bit intimidated by her new environment. She said: "When I visited the school it was like nothing I had seen before; it was like something out of a film.

"I am a bit surprised to have got this scholarship. Yes, I worked hard but sometimes you feel like you don't deserve it because it such a massive opportunity.

"It is such a big thing for my family. We come from a poor background. My mum could not stop crying, it such a huge moment for all of us."

"I can't say enough good things about my school, in particular Ms Moore, who was my mentor. Without her I don't think I would have got the scholarship."



## Maleehah in dream world

STUDENT Maleehah will study Maths, Economics and Politics at University College School, Hampstead. The scholarship is worth £40,000.

She said: "I feel like I am in a dream. I have not been able to stop thinking about it since I went for the interview. I was hopeful of getting in but did not think it would actually happen.

"I am interested in the world of finance but that is not something that people in Newham are usually involved in. There are barriers, no matter what anyone says.

"This has opened up a world of opportunity to me and I intend to do everything in my power to make the most of it."

**Top Tweet**

 **Rian Ze**

Wow so proud moment . My kids on the way to join Cumberland school . My house is next to the school . Well done . Now I can feel proud to live in east London .



## Pijus hitting new heights

STUDENT Pijus is thanking his lucky stars that he joined The Cumberland School after winning a scholarship to a top fee-paying school.

The talented student spent the first two years of his life in the UK living with his mum in a family friend's loft, having moved from Lithuania.

He moved over aged seven, having spent the previous two years living with grandparents in Lithuania while his mum Kristina, 38, got settled. She now works in a hairdresser's.

Pijus will now study Maths, Further Maths, Economics and Geography at Bancroft School in Essex on a £38,000 scholarship.

He said: "You could say I have come a long way from my mum's friend's loft. It was very hard growing up because we lived in a foreign country.

"I liken it to the game snakes and ladders. I have just shot all the way up the ladder in one go. I think how lucky I was to join this school. I could have easily gone to another one."

# Teachers deliver free lunches to students

THE Cumberland School's kind-hearted teachers delivered lunches to self-isolating students who normally receive free school meals.

They gave up their time to make and deliver sandwiches to make sure students still eat while they are not attending school.

The food was made in the school canteen before being loaded up on the school minibus and delivered to addresses locally.

The generous gesture was featured on ITV News London as well as

appearing in local and national newspapers

Head of School Omar Deria said: "This is a really personal thing for us. We don't want them to miss a meal just because they cannot attend school.

"We don't know how long measures to prevent the spread of the virus will be in place but we know we are going to be doing everything we can to help our students for the foreseeable future, even if they can't be in school."



# How students will keep on top of their learning

STUDENTS will be able to stay ahead of their learning during the coronavirus crisis thanks to an innovative online resource available to The Cumberland School.

Unlike other online education resources, Dynamic Progress Reporting is linked to the school curriculum, allowing students to continue to learn as they would at school.

The key learning objectives for every subject are all available through the platform. Teachers upload resources linked to a specific key learning objective through the DPR 'resources portal'.

These resources are categorised as 'learning' or 'testing' resources, encouraging students to take ownership of their learning by embracing the processes of 'diagnosis, therapy and testing'.

This is a process students engage with to self-diagnose their misconceptions, re-visit and learn the affected components of learning and finally re-assess their understanding until they get it right. Students can then upload their

work for teachers to assess their learning and give feedback, all in real time, with parents also able to monitor their child's progress.

Teachers can make class announcements, as well as discuss and debate through the DPR Class Chat feature, where resources and media can be uploaded for students to access and facilitate their learning.



Homework expectations remain the same. Students should be logging on to the DPR at least once every day to check and submit homework.

School leaders have access to instant, real-time engagement data that tells them whether or not students and teachers are engaging with the DPR.

Mr Zaman, Deputy CEO of the Community Schools Trust that runs The Cumberland School, created the DPR.

He said: "Obviously, it was not created with this crisis in mind but it does have the benefit

of being the ideal alternative to in-school learning.

"There are many school resource platforms out there but none, like the DPR, are intrinsically linked to a school curriculum. This means students can follow a daily lesson plan as they would in school and teachers being accountable against the high standards set by the school.



"It is so well integrated into the school curriculum that all learning can be accessed and assessed remotely, with the added advantage that parents can monitor the work."

Head of School Mr Deria said: "We are incredibly fortunate to have access to this truly innovative resource.

"It is very important students continue to access their lessons during this time so that they do not fall behind in their learning."

For information on how to use the portal please visit: <https://axle-education.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360035157673-Collaborating>

# Our commitment is absolute

Head of School Mr Deria assures parents that their children's care and learning will not suffer.



"I'm incredibly proud that as we embarked on this most unprecedented of challenges, the teachers, staff, students and families that make this school so special have come together to support one another.

As you will read in this newsletter, our teachers have been supporting students in need by supplying much-needed food. This work has continued.

Our teachers have continued to work both virtually, and coming in to school to teach the children of key workers. Their commitment to your children is absolute.

We are among just two percent of schools in the country that have managed to create a comprehensive virtual learning programme, which means when school life does resume,

there are no gaps in students' learning. We are incredibly fortunate that our DPR portal will allow parents and students to access learning linked to their curriculum and this will mean our students will stay ahead with their studies.

This will make a tremendous difference to our students, particularly to those in Year 10, who will be taking their crucial GCSE exams next year.

We have provided laptops for those

students who do not have access to IT equipment, meaning there are no children left behind, no matter their circumstance.

We have also been working individually with our scholarship students to make sure they will be ready to take up the life-changing offers in the sixth form at top independent schools come September.

Like the rest of the country, we remain in the dark about when schools will reopen. But rest assured, we are working tirelessly so that when the call comes, our staff will be ready.

We look forward to welcoming you back. Meanwhile, please stay safe.

# Humaira's essay earns accolade

A TALENTED student beat thousands of students nationwide to have her essay published in a prestigious annual education magazine.

Year 9 Humaira is among just a dozen or so students from across the country that were featured in the Brilliant Club's The Scholar, which was published in January.

The Cumberland student was chosen after submitting a 1,500-word university-style dissertation discussing the topic of war.

The essay was written as a culmination of an eight-week academic weekly programme which saw her get advanced classes in History from a PhD tutor.

It is part of the Brilliant Club programme that helps bright students prepare for higher education by tackling university-level learning.

As part of the scheme, students visited King's College and Royal Holloway University, where they met undergraduates and toured the grounds.

Humaira (right) said: "When I found out my essay was going to be in The Scholar it was an amazing feeling, I can't explain it, I was so happy all the hard work had paid off.

"The Brilliant Club course is amazing because it gives you the chance to really learn



about things that do not get taught in school. It pushes you to try to achieve higher levels of learning.

"The topic was very interesting to me because I love history and often have discussions with my family about it. My dad is really interested in history."

# Schools in joint musical project

MUSICAL students have joined forces with younger pupils at Tollgate Primary for an orchestra project.

Year 7 and 8 students have been working with Years 4 and 5 at our neighbouring primary in preparation for a school concert.

Students have been praised for showing leadership skills in supporting their young peers ahead of the showcase at Tollgate after Easter. The evening will be Samba-themed, with students due to perform a special rendition of Sam Mendes song Mas Que Nada.

Music teacher Ms Morelle said: "This project is a fantastic way to build strong relationships with our neighbouring primary schools and to help our own students develop key skills such as leadership.

"They have worked excellently together and everyone is now focused on getting in as much practice ahead of the big performance."

# Top law firm in careers scheme

TALENTED students have received mentoring and career advice from staff at one of the world's largest and most prestigious law firms.

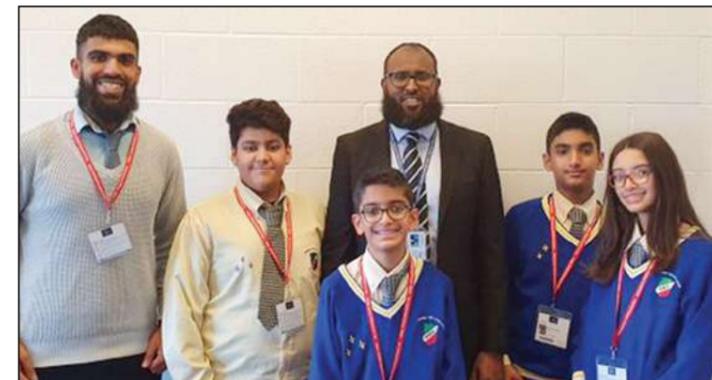
Year 10s were given the opportunity to work with Clifford Chance lawyers as part of a pioneering mentoring programme, which started in November.

The students were paired with a professional from the firm and have been receiving careers and education advice, as well as taking part in workshop sessions on career skills and university pathways.

Year 10 Fahim said: "It's been an excellent opportunity. The advice about future careers and what we need to do to get where we want to be in life has been very useful."

Fahim added: "I've found the meetings so useful and there have been workshops about what it's like to work at such a large company. I think it will be a great way to gain practical work experience."

Year 9 students are taking part in mentoring sessions with global accounting organisation KPMG ahead of making their GCSE choices next year.



STUDENTS from Kuwait got a taste of life at Cumberland School during an exchange programme visit.

# Council's keen to draw up school improvements

CAMPAIGNING school council students have pledged to make Cumberland a more friendly and efficient place.

They have been ringing the changes after canvassing their peers to discover how the school could be reformed, including redesigning the lunchtime lines to make them better organised.

Year 7 Gishani said: "It's been really fun to be part of the school council. We want to make it a better place to be and are always on the lookout for improvement suggestions. It has built up my confidence."

Gishani added: "I think we would like to be planning more assemblies and introducing an anti-bullying campaign in the future. We have really good discussions with our teachers about what we want to do and are supported through everything."



## Craig on course for Cambridge

A FORMER student is one step closer to his dream of studying at Cambridge University after being selected for a prestigious shadowing scheme.

Craig Bukenya, who was head boy in 2018, will spend three days attending lectures and mixing with undergraduates at the world-famous university.

Craig (right) said: "I am strongly considering applying to Cambridge, which is why I applied to the shadowing scheme to give me a greater insight to what it would be like being an undergraduate."

"I wanted to understand it better and confirm my passion for the course I want to study at university."

"Although we study in a state school, this will not hinder my level of ambition."

While studying at Cumberland, Craig won a place on a classic programme at King's College. He is now currently studying for A-Levels in English Literature, Politics and Sociology at NewVic.



## Week of events helped to concentrate minds

STUDENTS attended workshops and took part in mentoring and revision sessions as Cumberland's celebrated Careers Week.

Students from Years 7 to 10 took part in career-themed events including a GCSE options surgery, a trip to NewVic sixth form and mentoring led by careers ambassadors in March.

Careers and Aspirations Manager Mr Deen also held a careers Q&A drop-in clinic for

the students for any questions they might have about their future.

Year 9 Madeeha said: "It was really useful. It made me think about the career I want to go into and what I will need to do, in A-Levels and at university, to get there."

"I'm really grateful the school put it on. I think everyone enjoyed it and it made us think about our future."



## Testing final as school's best spellers battle it out

STUDENT Abdullah K has been crowned king of the spellers after taking top spot in our Year 7 Spelling Bee.

The best spellers from each house made the final of the competition, which was held in front of packed crowd of their peers.

Every correct word earned the speller a point as the crowd cheered them on during the event at the end of

January. Abdullah K, who took home the £20 gift certificate prize in the tense final, said: "It was really fun but very challenging. I used to be very bad at spelling, so practising for the Spelling Bee made me better."

"It's definitely been a fun way to make me learn."

Runner-up Abdullah S added: "The Spelling Bee was great and it helped me learn more words."

## Brilliant Games effort by troupe

THE Cumberland School's talented dancers were unfortunate to not be crowned London's finest after they recorded an impressive third-place finish at the London Youth Games.

The troupe, including students from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10, wowed judges with contemporary dance to X Ambassadors song Unsteady at the event held in Newham in January.

Year 8 Johanna said: "We were really surprised to come third. It was a great experience and I can't wait to take part in more competitions."

"In the end it wasn't about the place, it was about taking part and gaining the experience. It was great to watch the other dancers and meet the students from other schools."

Year 10 Poppie added: "Dancing reduces stress in the mind and body and it was nice that we had members from lots of years in our group."

"We got a chance to meet new people and it boosted my confidence."

"I'm really glad the school supported us and I can't wait to take part in more performances."



STUDENTS have been encouraged to improve their health by ditching their chocolates, fizzy drinks and crisps in favour of alternatives such as water and fruit at the school's snack attack.



STAFF and students dressed up as their favourite literary characters to celebrate World Book Day. Other activities included a Willy Wonka-themed tea party and a characters treasure hunt.

## Making the transition a positive one

By Ms Janes, Head of Transition at The Cumberland School



THE school has been developing positive links with local primary schools to support their transition by hosting literary lessons and taking part in joint activities.

Head of School Mr Deria has also visited local primary schools to talk to students, while Transition Groups have been established with Year 7 focusing on social development and wellbeing.

Joint activities include the orchestra project at Tollgate Primary and STEM lessons delivered by our Science department to Calverton Primary School.

A number of meetings and cross-curricular activities are due to take place, or are planned for the summer term, including Parents' Coffee Mornings, an Enrichment programme for Year 5s and a Summer Transition scheme for Year 6 pupils who will be joining us in September.

Being part of the Transition Project has enabled us to share our teaching methodology and strategies, as well as our English, Maths and Science curriculums in Key Stages 2 and 3.

The project has enabled us, in partnership with Tollgate Primary School, to offer borough-wide training for primary and secondary school English teachers and this will be held at The Cumberland School later this month.

If you have been offered a place at The Cumberland School, or are thinking of applying for a place in 2021, our Head of School is offering guided tours.

Please see our website for further details, or email / telephone the school. We are working tirelessly to support students and their families in making the big step from primary to secondary school and we aim to ensure that every child's transition is a smooth and positive experience.

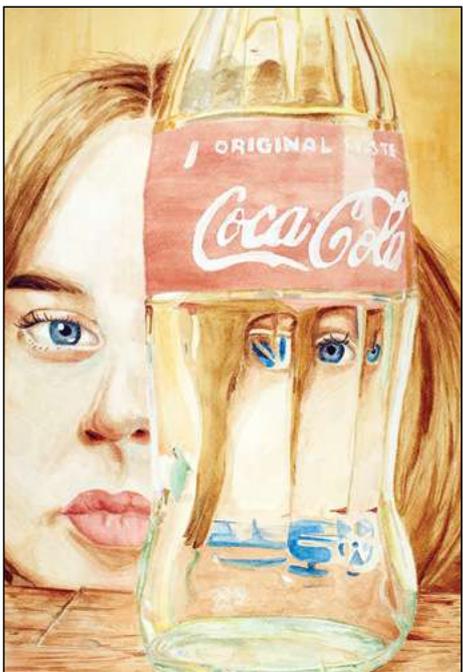


**CUMBERLAND'S girls' volleyball team finished second in their first-ever competitive tournament.**



**THE hard work has paid off for our group of Year 10 boys who made it to the last 16 of the English Schools Handball competition.**

# Fatmata tastes national success



**THERE was some outstanding student art work produced this term.**

A SPORTY student is celebrating after playing a crucial role in helping a Newham basketball team win a national competition.

Year 10 Fatmata, who won a call-up to the GB Under-16 team last year, helped the Newham Youngbloods sweep to victory in the Basketball National Cup Finals in February.

The team beat the Richmond Knights 65-55 to take home the first trophy of the competition.

She hopes the victory will be a stepping stone towards her dream of playing professional basketball in America.

Fatmata (right) said: "It felt amazing to win. We have worked really hard but I was still surprised when we won.

"It was a tough game and I just tried as hard as I could. I play a lot at school and after school – I try to fit in practices wherever I can."

"The school has been really supportive. I'd like to move to the US to continue my training but I'm a bit young at the moment. At the moment I'm just focusing on practising and my school work."



**BUDDING authors will have their work published after taking part in the Young Writer's UK competition.**