



Consistently the highest achiever

Outstanding GCSE results for five years in a row

FOREST Gate Community is the most consistently academically high achieving in the country, according to new data from the Department for Education.

The school is the only non-selective comprehensive in the country to have made the top 50 schools for GCSE results five years in a row.

Not including the Covid years, when teachers assessed grades, the school has consistently outperformed every other in the UK.

The results are better than grammar and private schools, as well as state schools in exclusive neighbourhoods.

Executive headteacher Ms Begum says the secret to success is excellent teachers.

She said: “The key to our success is consistently outstanding teaching. That means recruiting well and providing excellent training so that we have the very best of the best staff.

“It also means recruiting staff and leaders who reflect the communities they serve. Our leadership team is very diverse.

“Our teachers have walked the same path as the children, they understand the challenges, they are relatable, and as consequence the children listen to them.”

“ Our teachers
walked the same
path as the children.
They are relatable
Ms Begum ”



Recruiting well and excellent training are key to success, says Ms Begum

Our approach key to exams success

High academic standards result from method

THE school's success is due to a rigorous approach to academic standards.

It offers free exam tuition every day in Year 11, with children coming into school at 7am and revising past 4:30pm.

There are also weekly classes for students in Year 7 to practise their English and maths revision, to give them a head start for their exams.

Their progress score has been above plus 1 every year since 2017, which means pupils earn on average roughly one grade higher in their GCSEs than those at other schools.

This year the school was also ranked 27th in the country for GCSE exam results for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Progress 8 is the government benchmark for measuring school success, charting pupils' progress from when they start and leave school.

There are only four schools to appear in the top 50 five years in a row – 2017 to 2023. They are either selective or grammar schools.

In 2020 and 2021, grades were assessed by teachers. These have not been included. The school is part of the Community Schools Trust.

CEO Mr Elliott said: "We have always be-

“ They are also motivated. They will run through brick walls for our children

CEO Mr Elliott



CEO Mr Elliott places great store by recruiting teachers who are relatable

lieved that the secret to an outstanding school is consistently excellent teaching.

"Teaching isn't just about subject knowledge, though that is crucial, it is also about the capacity to communicate with young people.

"Anyone who has brought up a teenager will tell you sometimes that is not an easy task. That is why it is crucial to recruit teachers who are relatable.

"They are also motivated. They will run through brick walls for our children."

Activities mark kindness day

THE school has marked World Kindness Day with a range of inspiring activities.

Students created gratitude cards to show appreciation for their teachers.

Students wrote small act of kindness notes on a Kindness Tree which was put on display.

The kindness challenge saw students complete six tasks to win a prize. Mean-

while, staff were treated to cookies.

Librarian Ms Bodhaine said: "We pride ourselves on having an attitude of gratitude at this school, we want to install that in our students.

"I was surprised by how many took part. It was really inspiring to see our students really embrace acting with kindness."



Notes were put on the Kindness Tree



Students savour the Copper Box Arena's atmosphere and the Lions' victory after being selected for the special treat

Cock-a-hoop to see London Lions beat Besiktas

STUDENTS enjoyed a thrilling game of professional basketball at the atmospheric Olympic Park.

London Lions' men's team hosted Istanbul Besiktas in the EuroCup, beating the visitors 93-72 at the Copper Box Arena.

Students were selected for the special treat for good behaviour and excelling in PE.

Hasnain in Year 8 said: "It was a fantastic experience, very excited. I have never been to a live sports game before so it was particularly special. The atmosphere was incredible

with lots of chanting, dancing and cheering for both teams. I am glad the Lions won."

Those who attended were: Iijah, Michael Eze, Ricardo, Benjamin, Ellison, Emmanuel, Kayden, Layla and Hasnain. They were accompanied by Ms Henry and Mr Mann.

Students learning from acting stars

School working with pro actors in competition

THE school has been working alongside professional actors as part of the Rudolph Walker Foundation theatre competition.

Students work with mentors at weekly acting workshops, receiving top tips on stage craft.

Previous mentors include Ricky Norwood, who played Fatboy in EastEnders.

Rudolph Walker is best known for his role as Patrick Trueman in the long-running soap on BBC.

“It's fantastic for the students. They work with professional actors that are well known

Mr Victory

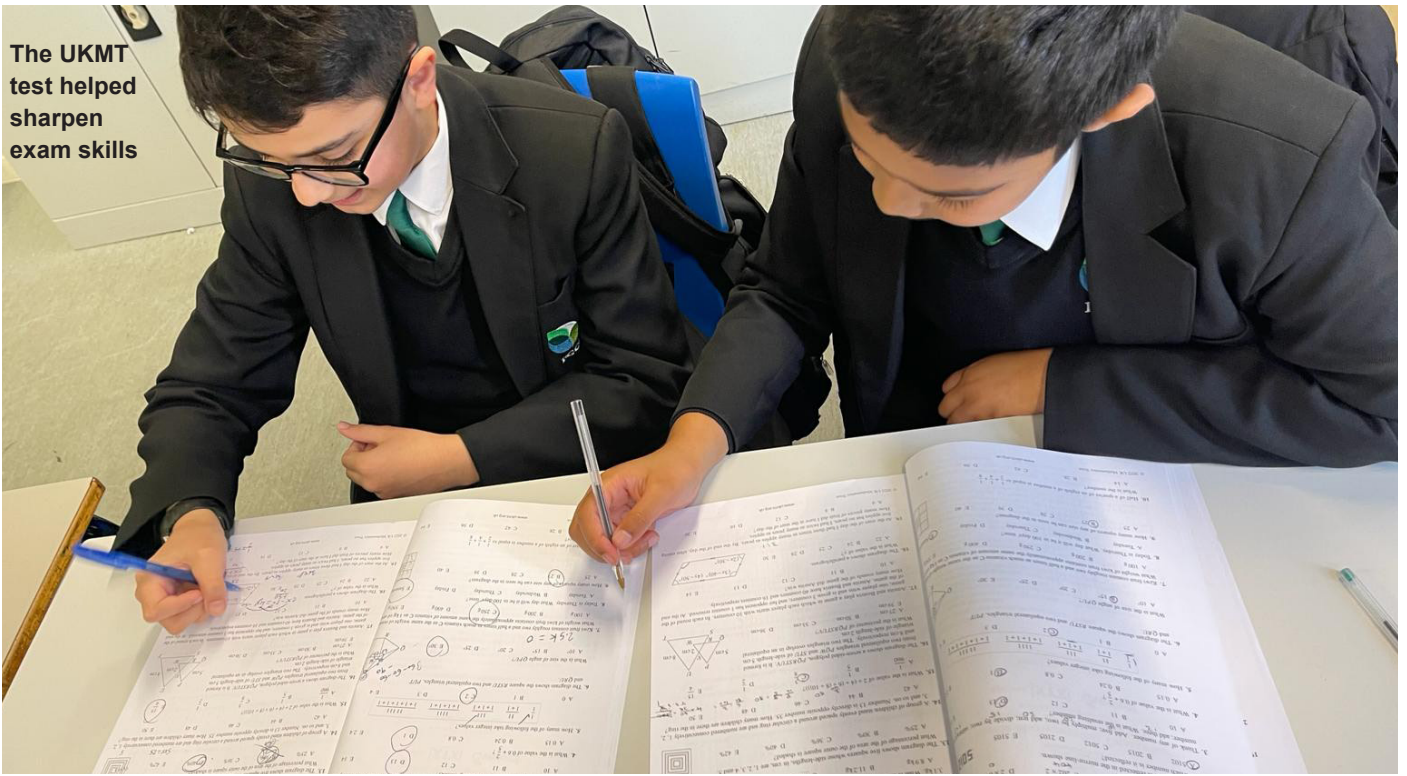
He set up the charity to provide acting opportunities for young people.

Our students have submitted their entry for the competition and now have an anxious wait to see if they have made it to the final.

Drama teacher Mr Victory said: "We have been involved with this for a few years now and it's fantastic for the students. They work with professional actors that are well known.

"We are waiting to hear if they have made the final. This is usually held at the Shaw Theatre and the students return in a complete daze as they are treated like stars."

The UKMT test helped sharpen exam skills



Students excel in maths competition

School among the top performers in nation

BRAINY students have received top marks in a prestigious national maths competition - making Forest Gate Community among the best performing in the country.

Organised by charity UK Maths Trust, schools enter their brightest students to take part in an exam that offers challenging questions.

The different levels of attainment are

bronze, silver and gold and are designed to inspire students.

Year 10 scored a host of golds, meaning the school was one of the highest scoring across the UK.

To prepare them for the competition the school held lunchtime revision sessions.

Mr Butt, Assistant Headteacher, said: "It's a great competition, as it not only helps them

with their maths but sharpens their exam skills.

"The questions are all about problem solving. For example, how would engineers and architects apply maths concepts to a work situation. It's great for students who want the edge over competitors when applying to Russell Group universities or quality apprenticeships."

Carol walks to raise funds for the Samaritans

DEDICATED support officer Carol put her best foot forward during a gruelling walking challenge.

The school's Pastoral Care Admin Officer (pictured) walked 70 miles throughout March to raise funds and awareness for the Samaritans.

She said: "I have already beaten the

£150 target suggested by the charity thanks to the support of the school. I was getting my steps in by leaving the car at home on my journey to work."

She added: "I am passionate about this charity, there is a huge stigma surrounding mental

health, especially with men.

"The school have been very encouraging and offered sponsorship. Our school offers a counselling service, which is good to know."

Ms Cunningham has currently raised £170.



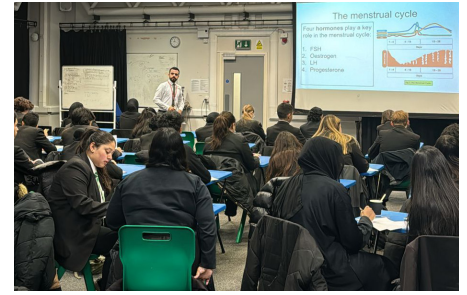
Year 11 primed for exam success

YEAR 11 students will be primed for exams after attending university-style lectures covering core subjects.

The Excellent Club lectures take place every morning and are open to the entire year.

The free sessions are the equivalent of receiving extra tuition and could be the key to exam success.

The sessions cover the toughest questions in exams and they also look at the ones that come up most frequently. Lead practitioner in science Mr Israr said: “We have been doing this for a while and go through popular misconceptions in exam questions. It provides the opportunity for all our staff to build their expertise. It’s like receiving free tutorship.”



Students attend a morning lecture

Students snap up scholarships

Fully funded places at top sixth forms secured

OUR students have secured fully funded scholarships to top private schools.

They have been offered places in the sixth form at the most prestigious institutions in the country.

On average fees for the two years covering sixth form are around £85,000 per year, all paid for by the private schools.

Students came through a rigorous selection process to be offered a place, including multiple interviews and entrance exams.

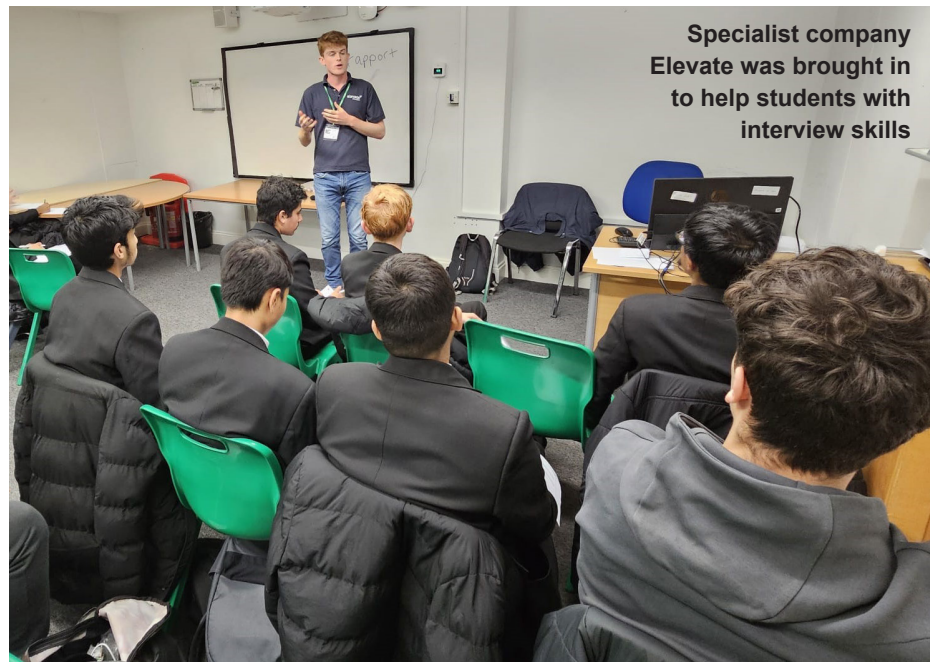
All students won places through our prestigious colleges programme, which has set up connections with independent schools throughout the UK.

They include Eton College, Wellington School, King’s College School in Wimbledon, Latymer, and many more.

The programme helps students with application funding, personal statements, interview preparation and studying for entrance exams.

The school brought in company Elevate to help students with interview skills.

Headteacher Ms Begum said: “We are incredibly proud of our students. They have put themselves on a path towards success.



Specialist company Elevate was brought in to help students with interview skills

“We wish them well as they take their next steps. I would also like to thank our dedicated prestigious colleges team whose hard work makes this success possible.

“We are very fortunate that we have forged strong partnerships with these independent schools, which allows us to offer these life-changing opportunities.”

Sweet way to say thanks strikes the right note

THE school is recognizing the work of diligent staff with a positive note, coffee and sweet treats.

I Heard a Wispa – which is a pun on the famous chocolate bar – lands

in the pigeonholes of teachers who have shown excellence during lessons.

There is also a teacher award for the star of half term, with staff handed

vouchers for coffee shop Querky.

Deputy Headteacher Mr Clark said: “We are very proud of our hard-working staff, who go above and beyond every day for our students.”



Students and staff dressed up as literary characters, baked cakes and designed potato villains as part of World Book Week



Getting in right mood for reading

STUDENTS and staff dressed up as their favourite literary characters as the school celebrated World Book Week.

There was also a host of competitions and quizzes on the theme of villains to get students in the mood for reading.

They included a contest to design

a potato villain, with the best-dressed spud winning a prize.

There was also a door-decorating competition, where students and staff had to choose their favourite baddie to adorn their classroom door.

Catering students made their own villain-inspired cupcakes.

A chance to shine

DoE Award opportunity to gain skills

INTREPID students are gaining new skills and enjoying unique experiences through the Duke of Edinburgh's (DoE) Award.

Launched for the first time at the school last February, it has proved a huge success, with more than 100 students taking part.

To be awarded bronze, students must learn a new skill, volunteer and take part in a physical activity over six months.

They then put their survival skills to the test on a camping expedition to Epping Forest.

Project leader Ms Mahmood said: "The Duke of Edinburgh [Award] is a great chance for students to shine and show their personalities away from the school setting.

"On the camping trip they really looked after each other, helping each other at every



More than 100 students took part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award

opportunity, putting up tents and getting each other's bags."

A smaller team of 25 will progress to

their silver award. The new group of bronze students are undertaking their skills and volunteering tasks.



Brilliant Club members proudly show off their certificates at Goldsmiths after writing a university-style dissertation

A brilliant project

Members given certificates at Goldsmiths

OUR students were given their certificates for completing their Brilliant Club project at a ceremony held at Goldsmiths University.

They also got the chance to meet under-

graduates and tour the campus during the trip earlier this term.

Under the instruction of a PHD tutor, pupils completed a 2,000-word university-style dissertation.

The Brilliant Club is an award-winning university access charity that works with schools to increase the number of pupils from underrepresented backgrounds progressing to top universities.

Executive Headteacher Thahmina Begum

“FOREST Gate Community School is a powerhouse of academic achievement, standing out as the most consistently high-achieving institution in the country.

We are the only non-selective school in the country to have secured a place in the top 50 schools for GCSE results for five consecutive years.

What sets this school apart from the competition is consistently great teaching, a rigorous approach to academic standards and talented, relatable teachers.

You do not become the consistently highest-achieving school in the country without the support of our families and community.

You have put faith in the leaders and teachers and supported your children and this school. We are very grateful.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will read how the prestigious colleges programme has helped our students win all-expenses-paid places at top fee-paying sixth forms.

These are

life-changing opportunities not available to students at most other schools. We are only able to offer this to our students because of the unwavering dedication of our teachers.

This term has also seen our revision and interventions ramp up as Year 11 students took their GCSE mock exams.

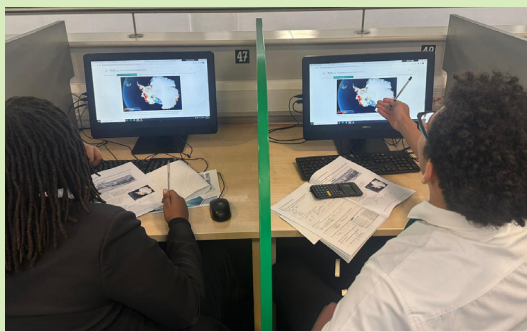
Academic success is our stock-in-trade, and I can assure you there will be no stone left unturned in the pursuit of the top grades.

Have a great Easter. The hard work continues in the new term.”





Pictured, clockwise from above: Chess club in the playground; Students started using software programme Lexia to improve their reading; Pi day; Year 8 students using software to carry out spatial and statistical analysis on the landscapes and climate of Antarctica in geography class; and, Year 8 students making vegetable soup and home-made bread.



Picture GALLERY



Our gardening club selling their home-grown potatoes at lunchtime