

On Tuesday, pupils in Years 3-8 stepped away from their usual timetables to engage in Academic Extension (AcE) Day – a highlight of the term designed to enrich learning beyond the traditional curriculum.

The Pre Prep pupils have been reflecting on their work to date this year. Year 1 pupils took great pride in sharing their favourite pieces of creative writing with Mrs Wakefield. Their enthusiasm for storytelling was infectious, and it was a pleasure to hear about their imaginative worlds. Meanwhile, Year 3 pupils began their day by exploring a local church to deepen their understanding of Christian worship. They then brought their learning to life by designing 'shoebox churches' in class. The afternoon introduced them to new sports, with pupils enjoying the opportunity to try their hand at netball and touch rugby.

For Year 4, the focus was on Latino Day, where pupils expanded their Spanish vocabulary bringing the vibrant music, food, and culture of Spain to life. One of the highlights of the day was making (and eating) their own Arepas, and the children especially enjoyed learning and singing Spanish songs. Building on their Humanities lessons, Year 5 explored Middle Eastern culture, starting with a visit to Cambridge Central Mosque, which offered insight into Islamic traditions, art and architecture. Back at school, they experimented with intricate geometric designs, and took the opportunity to reflect on the relationship between faith and art across cultures.

Year 6 pupils took to the stage, refining their performances for *Shrek Jr*. Their dedication and energy promise an unmissable show! Meanwhile, Year 7 delved into Cambridge's history, with expert-led sessions on the Fenlands and an interactive exploration of local artefacts. Year 8 pupils took their first steps in career exploration, listening to inspiring talks from parents in different professions and engaging in workshops on teamwork, problem-solving, and the evolving role of technology in the workplace. The afternoon saw them honing their debating and public speaking skills, developing confidence and critical thinking.

These experiences are central to our commitment to a broad and stimulating education, ensuring pupils are challenged, engaged, and inspired. As well as building experience in teamwork and leadership skills, AcE days also provide an exciting preview of our full Enrichment week (E-week) in the summer term.