



Year 11 GCSE Citizenship students raise awareness and £786 for Crisis

By Genita Gjinovci

My Year 11 Citizenship class decided to run a campaign about homelessness as part of our GCSE coursework. We investigated a number of charities and decided we wanted to raise money for Crisis.

Crisis is a charity which is working to end homelessness by delivering life-changing services and campaigning for change. They particularly focus on single homeless people.

We learned how easy it was for someone to become homeless, particularly if their relationship breaks down or they lose their job.

We ran a non-uniform day in partnership with Purple House to raise awareness of Crisis's campaign to the whole school. Every member of the class had to plan a presentation to give to a different House Assembly. We recorded a radio announcement which was played to



Tanvir Hussain, Yasemen Gokce(behind poster) and Rajab El-Ali prepare their presentations

ever tutor group the day before our assembly and made displays. We also made Crisis t-shirts to wear on non-uniform day.

We raised £786 which was paid to the charity Crisis the same week. We want to thank everyone who donated and Ms Zubaida for her support.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Principal Smita Bora

It gives me great pleasure to finally end this term with so many more successful activities to report to you

in this newsletter.

We have all been participating in the new behaviour trial and I will be feeding back on this next term. One of the most important pieces of feedback will be about the number of students arriving late to school and the number of students who are failing to check their Connetix records and home pages daily—please encourage your child to take more responsibility for this next term.

Also next term, we will be announcing

Phase 2 in our journey of improvement which will involve students learning more independently and both students and parents helping us more to make progress.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Students return to school on:
Wednesday 5th January 2011

As always, please support us with this in order to maintain our improved attendance record.

WISE Interns invited to attend the WISE Awards ceremony at the Savoy Hotel

Four special students from Westminster Academy were invited to attend the WISE (Women into Science, Engineering and Construction) Awards last month.

All four students were chosen because they had completed an internship at the WISE head office in central London.

Vesa, Donika, Reyhan and Ubah networked with women engineers, scientists, aeronautical engineers and civil engineers at a posh reception attended by HRH Princess Anne. They also attended the awards ceremony where they heard about young women in university who were making great achievements in science and engineering. These included Kiran Kaur (pictured) who is studying aeronautical engineering at Sheffield University. She built a plane and flew it, and Sarah Haslem who works for the Ford Motor Company in Dagenham designing and building a



Vesa Kahramani, Donika Berjani, Reyhan Nas, and Ubah Daahir with WISE Award winner Kiran Kaur from Sheffield University

large variety of engines. Her work takes her to Turkey, South America, Thailand and Japan, and she earns over £80,000 per year. They also met engineers from the RAF and an award winning Loughborough University student who is involved with Formula One racing.

Ubah Daahir said, "Overall this was an inspirational day with the opportunity to meet many fantastic role models. I loved working at WISE and I am going to investigate attending the RAF girls-only engineering residential in July 2011."

Jack Petchey Award Winners

Award winner 1: September-Englandja Fejzullahu: Year 8

Englandja is the quintessential model student. She is already achieving Level 7s in many of her subjects, despite only being in Year 8. Her behaviour and attitude to learning are exemplary. She has been awarded 2440 learning miles (more than any other student in the entire school), and she has yet to receive a single negative comment on Connetix. She is always smiling, and has a calm maturity..

Award winner 2: October- Gentrit Hashani: Year 11

Gentrit is not only a model student, achieving the highest grades in BTEC Sport, but he also represents the Academy team in the Westminster Leagues. He has also been helping out with girls football training.

Award winner 3: November- Steffen Jungwirth: Year 7

Steffen has outstanding attendance and numerous positives (42) over the last 7 weeks with very few negatives. When asked to help a new student settle he was willing and approachable, showing her the ropes in German- making her feel very welcome. Also special mention for praise by the Principal for an impressive, polite, respectful and courteous attitude. within the Academy.

Sana makes a great impression at her Avondale Park Primary School internship

Since September, Sana Karaoui has been doing her first Year 10 internship placement at Avondale Park primary school. She was placed in the nursery class working with Nursery Nurse Suzanne Rowan who is very impressed with her performance.

Suzanne says, “Sana has a very good work ethic and she always arrived to the school on time. She is very good with the children as she is mature and aware of the children’s needs.

I was particularly impressed when she used Google Translate to communicate with a child from Czech who understood no English. She also uses her first language to communicate with some children in the nursery who speak the same first language. She helped a child who was having difficulties understanding numbers, but who understood the concepts once she had explained it in his first language.

Sana has also completed very impressive written observations of the learning in the nursery and she extended herself, for example by volunteering to come in on a day we were doing INSET training



Sana Karaoui at Avondale Park Primary School

and participated fully in the day, relating well to all members of staff and making a great contribution to the training. Sana is a credit to Westminster Academy, and she would do very well if she choose to pursue a career in education.”

Sana commented, “I really loved my internship at Avondale Park Primary School. The Nursery Nurse gave me guidance and I felt comfortable with the children. I also enjoyed learning about theories of education such as how to apply Bloom’s taxonomy when questioning the children and it was fun putting this into practice.

Meet the Staff– Mr Talha Khan, Management Accountant



Mr Khan

Mr. Talha Azam Khan is Westminster Academy’s key finance person. His

role of Management Accountant exists to ensure the school’s finances are always in order, invoices paid and any monies collected from students properly accounted.

What students might not know is that Mr Khan was an outstanding sportsman in his early life, representing Pakistan on the Juniors National cricket level, playing all over Pakistan and abroad. Mr Khan was also

awarded gold athletics medals and trophies for the 100 metres and 200 metres at the Asian Championships and was declared the best athlete of the championship.

His achievement in athletics did not mean that he abandoned academic studies. He has achieved BA (Hons) in Accounting and holds Part Qualified Accountant’s status with ongoing progress. Recently he was able to gain a place at the University of Leicester for an MSc in Educational Leadership. He is pleased to be meeting his educational ambitions with the support of his colleagues and Westminster Academy.

Miss Fox and Mr Cosgrove's Gifted and Talented Page

By Miss Fox and Mr Cosgrove

This term, Gifted and Talented clubs started and many students have been enjoying the benefits of getting involved in extra-curricular activities.

Key Stage 3 students have been joining debating club on a Friday lunch time, run by Miss Fox and two of our 6th form students. Participants have been learning how to think of both sides of an argument, how to express ideas in a constructive way, and the key skills needed for debating. During the club the students have been debating amongst themselves, leading to an inter-schools competition next term. Other students have been taking part in the UCS club on Friday where they have been meeting 6th form students from other schools and completing challenges, activities and games run by the UCS 6th formers to help with thinking skills.

Key Stage 4 students have been busy with debating after school on a Thursday, having started the national programme 'debate mate', where they learn how to debate and take part in national competitions. Some of the experienced debaters visited the Houses of Parliament on Friday to take part in a live debate – they did very well! If anyone would like to give debating a try, come to room 122 on a Thursday after school to see if you like it.

Mentors from top London Universities have also been giving up their time to work with Key Stage 4 students. Many students are currently benefiting from a mentor during 1:1 lunchtime sessions, or group after school sessions. If you want to know more about this please see Miss Fox, or come to room 122 on a Tuesday after school.

We have had many opportunities this term for Key

Stage 4 students, including a trip to Cambridge University to find out what life is like as a student and to learn about the University application process. Some students started the prestigious UCL 'Saturday School' scheme, where they have been learning a variety of things from archaeology and medicine to drama skills. There will be more opportunities next term to take part in events, so watch this space!

We have clubs running for Key Stage 3 students on Friday lunch times and from 1.40-2.40.

Clubs for Key Stage 4 students take place on various afternoons after school. If you would like to take part in a club to help you gain new skills, have fun and meet new people then have a look at the list of clubs and come along. Remember – there's no harm in having a go. You never know if you will like something until you try!

See list of Gifted and Talented Clubs on page 5

Parents' Surgery

There will be a surgery for parents every Monday between 4-6pm. This is an opportunity for parents to come in and see Mr Barnes, Senior Vice Principal, face-to-face about any matters of concern, or to pass on their compliments about an aspect of their child's education.

Parents can book an appointment by telephoning 020 7121 0636.

We look forward to seeing you !

List of Gifted and Talented Clubs

Year Group	G&T Club	Description	Room
Key Stage 3 (Years 7 & 8)	International Book Club	Students study a range of international texts to widen their repertoire and develop their literacy skills.	Library. Friday 1.45-2.45
	Chess/scrabble club	Students have the opportunity to compete against their peers with these games, stretching their lateral thinking and literacy skills.	122. Friday 1.45-2.45
	UCS Activity Group	Students undertake a variety of project work with volunteers from University College School, our partner school.	126. Friday 1.45-2.45
	School Newspaper	Students prepare and write articles reporting on local and current events. They will produce one school newspaper per term.	127. Friday 1.45-2.45
	Debating	Students learn how to prepare and take part in a debate, using and developing communication skills. They will debate over various matters including current affairs. There will also be chance to take part in the Rotary 'Youth Speaks' competition.	122. Friday lunch-time.
	Languages computer club	Students have the opportunity to stretch their languages skills by using online resources. They will also have the opportunity to complete reading and listening exercises with the aid of a computer	104. Monday lunch-time.
Key Stage 4 (years 9, 10 and 11)	English – Public speaking club	Students develop their speech writing and public speaking skills, in preparation for competing in the Rotary Club's <i>Youth Speaks</i> competition	122. Thursday 3.45-4.45
	Citizenship/ English – Debating club	Students learn about current affairs and develop their debating skills, in preparation for participating in a debate with students from other schools. They will be mentored by students from Oxbridge and London universities. Students will also prepare an entry to the BBC's <i>Student Question Time</i> competition	122. Thursday 3.45-4.45
	Citizenship/English – Interact club KEY STAGE 4 AND 3	Students form a charity fundraising committee, and decide on ways in which to raise money for two charities.	Wednesday 3.45-4.45. Room 125
All years	SAM learning	KS3 students use SAM learning to study GCSE modules. KS4 students use SAM learning to study AS modules	Library computers

Welcome to our new Prospects Careers Advisor



Prospects/ Connexions Advisor Maz Mullarkey

Maz Mullarkey is an experienced Prospects Careers Advisor who has worked for Connexions for four and a half year and been a qualified careers advisor for even longer.

Starting in January, Ms Mullarkey will help Ms Simone Paul with meeting every Year 11 student to discuss 6th form options, other options such as apprenticeships and various

career paths. Any Year 9 or 10 student who wants to see Ms Mullarkey can email her on

mmullarey@westminsteracademy.biz

Year 9 and 10 students can see her at break time or lunchtime on Mondays, Tuesday or Wednesday in the peripatetic music room on the third floor.

Teachers can also contact Maz to arrange whole class careers group workshops or sessions to take place

Skillsforce Fundraising Coffee Morning

By John Rugg

The Year 9 Skillsforce group organised a coffee morning on the 8th of December to raise money for Children In Need. The students had to allocate the tasks in order to share the work required to run the entire event themselves. They had to calculate the budget, organise the shopping, decorate the Stowe Centre, make the coffee, serve and collect the money.

The group managed to raise over £30 in two hours and all monies will go to Children In Need. Part of the Skillsforce educational programme is to develop skills for life and the programme allows students to develop these key attributes and characteristics.

Since the students started the two year course in September this year, they have learned to communicate and organise activities in a group situation. Thus for the coffee morning they had to do all the tasks themselves with minimal input from staff plus calculate the timings to plan the smooth running of the event.

Participant Unaysah Bojaj says, "The coffee morning was enjoyable because we raised money for Children



The Skillsforce Team outside the Stowe Centre- Tyrell Joseph-Campbell, Yousif Ali, Granit Berjani and Arblend Gjinovci

In Need and were able to serve coffee and treats to our parents, staff and teachers at Westminster Academy."

Granit Berjani says, "I learned a lot, including how to approach people with the charity bucket"

All accolades should be given solely to the students. Thank you to everyone who supported this event and attended to enjoy coffee, biscuits and music on a cold morning.

Academy Attendance

Regular school attendance is an important part of giving your child the best possible start in life. Talking to your child and their tutor could help to solve any difficulties you have in getting your child to go to school - and there are other forms of support available if you still have problems.

Regular school attendance - why it's so important

- Going to school regularly is important to your child's future. For example, children who miss school frequently can fall behind with their work and do less well in exams. Children with the best GCSE results and the highest levels usually have attendance over 97%.
- Good attendance shows potential employers that your child is reliable.

Research suggests that children who attend school regularly could also be at less risk of getting involved in antisocial behavior or crime.

Preventing your child from missing school - what you can do

You can help prevent your child skipping school by:

- Making sure they understand the importance of good attendance and punctuality
- Taking an interest in their education - ask about school work and encourage them to get involved in school activities.
- Discussing any problems they may have at school - inform their Tutor, Head of House or the Principal about anything serious.
- Not letting them take time off school for minor ailments - particularly those which would not prevent you from going to work.

Arranging appointments and outings after school hours, at weekends or during school holidays will help to prevent disruption to your child's education and to the school. Under normal circumstances, you should not expect the school to agree to your child going on holiday during term time.

This year we have been instructed by School Inspectors (Ofsted) to increase our attendance levels FROM 92% TO AT LEAST 97%.

Please help us to achieve this.

Next Year we finish school on the 22nd July 2011 for the Summer Holidays, and return on the 4th September 2011.

We re-open for the Spring Term on Wednesday 5th January 2011

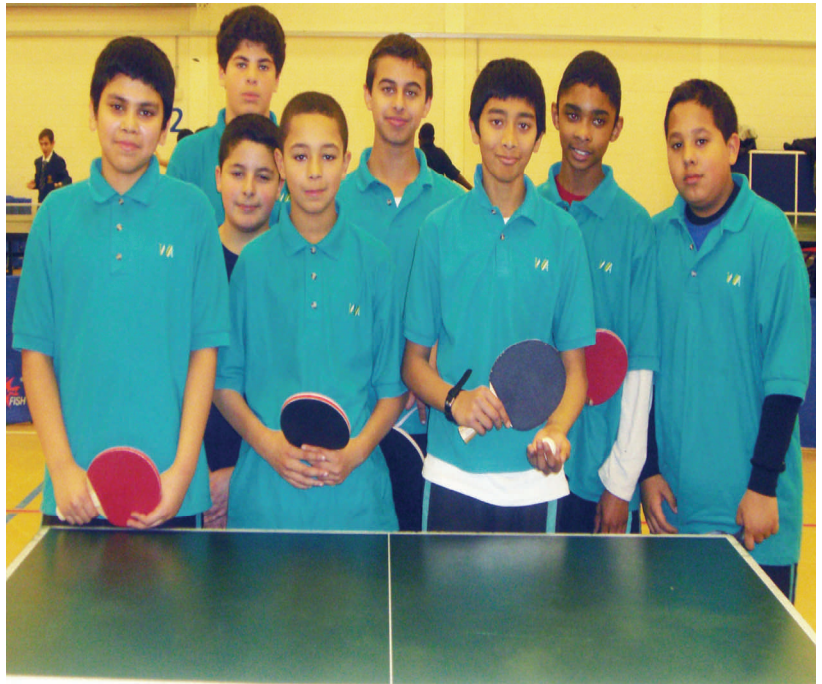
PLEASE DO NOT BOOK ANY FLIGHTS BEFORE THIS TIME, AS THEY WILL NOT BE AUTHORISED.

Westminster Academy win borough final and go on to compete in the Central London Table Tennis finals

By Ms Pond

For the second consecutive year running, Westminster Academy won the local qualification rounds and represented the borough of Westminster in the Central London Finals. This year we are representing the borough for under 13 Boys and also the U16 Boys. After arriving at Ernest Bevin Sports College in Tooting, we were grouped with the host and hot favourites to win. After closely contested group stage games (first to 11 wins or 2 clear points after 11 e.g. 10-12) in both age categories, we narrowly missed out on a top three finish coming fourth in both age groups.

Please congratulate the team members for outstanding effort on the day.



Members of Westminster Academy's table tennis team

And...also win the borough badminton final

By Mr Compton

On Thursday 18th November, thirteen boys and girls from Westminster Academy took part in the Borough of Westminster Badminton Championships.

The Key Stage 4 girls were only represented by two players; Vesa Kahramani and Elena Berisha, but managed a respectable third place. The Key Stage 4 boys were represented by three players; Ali Hassan Mohammed, Khalil Kennou and Zhi Xian Zhang and were narrowly beaten into second place.

Both the Key Stage 3 Boys; Naseebullah Ahmadi, Haseebullah Ahmdai, Fahim Ahmed and Mohammed Afsar Uddin, and Girls; Shermeen Sajjad, Aya Hijazi, Khandsuren Erdenebat and Arta Pacuku, achieved first place and will now have the honour of representing the Borough of Westminster in the Central London Championships.

Special Mention to: Shermeen Sajjad, Zhi Xian Zhang and Mohammed Afsar Uddin, who were all unbeaten throughout the tournament in their individual singles matches

Westminster Academy achieves the Healthy Schools Award

Westminster Academy has achieved the Healthy Schools Award. This is a national scheme run by the Department of Education and the Department of Health that rewards schools taking a proactive approach to encourage students to establish a healthy lifestyle through healthy diet, physical exercise, emotional well-being and understanding of personal social health including

SRE and drugs education.

Each category has strict and challenging criteria that schools must be able to demonstrate they meet before the Award is made. Westminster Academy will now also receive support and guidance to help us maintain our Healthy Schools status as we continually strive to help our students establish healthy lifestyles.