

## The year of Science



This year, science has taken a giant leap at WA. Following the announcement of the Academy's partnership with the Royal Society of Medicine, Term 6 saw the arrival of the WA Science Fair and we even had a guest lecture from Professor Robert Winston. This summer, 18 Year 10 students gained A\* and A grades in their GCSE Core and Additional Science exams a year early. This year we are particularly excited by the Reach Out Lab sessions at Imperial College that WA's sponsors, the Dangoor family, have funded. These sessions will benefit not only students across the whole Academy, but also Year 5 students at our feeder primary schools. The Reach Out Lab programme kicked off with the dissection days below and we're looking forward to a 'science busking' opportunity coming soon for Year 7s! Another science venture to keep an eye out for this year is 'Stem Saturdays' which we have been invited to by Latymer School.

### Dissection Day at Imperial College's Reach Out Lab

### Inspiring excitement for medicine: WA's link with RSM



The KS4 and KS5 Dissection Days were a huge success. The students each dissected a mouse, which is the most studied organism in Science – 76% of

studies that use animals in Science use mice – so learning about their physiology is important to anyone interested in a career in medicine or pharmacology-related areas. From the moment the students arrived they acted in a professional and respectful manner. They all showed great skill and manual dexterity as they carefully dissected their mice; all the staff at Imperial College were very impressed! The day concluded with a question and answer session with Imperial College medical students, when our students asked intelligent and insightful questions, followed by a tour of the university medical training facilities. We all learnt a huge amount on the trip, and some of the medical students even said they would come into school to help our students prepare for medicine interviews!

By Mr Leach, Teacher of Science

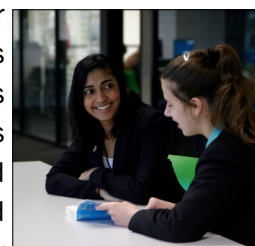


Thanks to the generosity of the Dangoor family, WA is the only school to be partnered with the Royal Society of Medicine. This gives WA science students access to invaluable opportunities that money can't buy, such as the Malala Yousafzai Q&A that 75 students were invited to earlier this year.

To celebrate our partnership and develop curiosity in this area of science, WA now has a brand new Medicine Club. The club is for students from Years 7 to 11 who think they might want to become a doctor, dentist or vet in the future, or even students who just want to know a bit more about health and science! For more details, please speak to Mr Leach.

## Message from the Principal, Ms Bora

Welcome to our special edition newsletter to help some of our prospective students understand the wealth of opportunities provided at Westminster Academy. It helps explain our Outstanding Ofsted status and our national awards from Lord Adonis and the Deputy Prime Minister as well as our TES Secondary School of the Year and Gold Club Award. We have had some extremely successful primary school Open Mornings and I am looking forward to our Sixth Form Evening soon.



## Celebration of history, infrastructure and architecture at Stonehenge, Salisbury and Bath

At WA one of our priorities is literacy, with a particular focus on practising extended writing to prepare for the tough new exams that lie ahead. Here is a fantastic example from a Year 7 student. Could your child have written this article?

Over the period of September 17th-19th, I went on a journey to Bath and back with my family. On the way we visited Stonehenge, Old Sarum, Salisbury Cathedral, The Roman Baths at Bath, and Bath Abbey. It all began with us getting a coach that would eventually take us to Bath.

### Day 1, part 1: Stonehenge



The sheer enormity of the stones amazed and enthralled me; how do you move 50 ton stones from the Marlborough hills to the site of Stonehenge? Stonehenge

began as a large circular ditch and rampart, within which a forest of wooden poles was set up. Later the Bluestones were erected where the poles once were. The Bluestones are thought to be from Wales, about 250 miles away, and weigh 2-4 tons. Later the Aarsen stones, which weigh 40-50 tons, were set up in the way we think of Stonehenge, the outer circle with a lintel and the inner 5 trilithons, set in a horse shoe shape. All the lintels are mortise and tenoned to the uprights and adjacent lintels. The sarsen stones are from the Marlborough hills area.

### Day 1, part 2: Old Sarum

It's quite striking how steep and sharp the slopes of the ramparts and ditches are, given the fact that they are



from the 16th century or earlier. There is also the ruin of a castle and cathedral at the site. The site was abandoned in 1514 when Henry VIII made over the 'stones called the castle or tower of Old Sarum' to Thomas Compton, together with the right to carry away the materials.

### Day 1, part 3: Salisbury Cathedral and Magna Carta



This cathedral still has the tallest spire in England, at 123m (404 ft), even though it was started in 1299. The cathedral is a good example of early English gothic architecture, characterised by flying buttresses and pointed arches. It has the largest close in England, and a beautiful flowing wa-

ter font designed by William Pye. The Magna Carta is housed in the chapter house of the cathedral and details your right to jury trials, and standard weights and measures, among other things.

### Day 2, Part 1: Walking Tour of Bath

It's funny to think that the Georgian buildings in Bath are, for the most part, older than the United States. One of my favourite parts of Bath is the Royal Crescent, which



faces a park with an upper and lower section. There was a sunken wall dividing the halves, to stop the grazing animals of the lower half intruding on the upper half. Another intriguing bit of architecture is the Circus, a perfectly round set of buildings facing onto a central green space, with 3 entrances to the circle.

### Day 2, part 2: Roman Baths

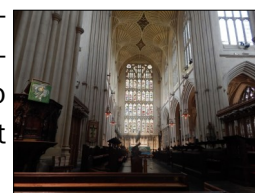


It is amazing that the infrastructure used to run the baths is the same as it was 2000 years ago. The Roman infrastructure used today to run the Roman baths is the same. The original

lead liners for the currently filled pools still work, and the baths are the best preserved in the world. The hot spring at Bath is the only in England and has been thought a place of healing for thousands of years. The Roman buildings on the site would have been very impressive, with a grand roof 20m high, a complex of bathing rooms and a temple complex to Sulis Minerva, goddess of the spring. To curse people the Romans would throw their wish into the sacred spring of Sulis Minerva.

### Day 3: Bath Abbey

This abbey is on the site of an earlier Norman cathedral. It's an example of late gothic architecture, which is also called the perpendicular style, and there's so many windows that it seems as light inside as outside.



Finally, we board a train to London Paddington, and take the tube to Baker Street.

By Cooper Stuntz, Year 7



## The Rothermere American Institute at Oxford University - Elastic in Every Way

My time at The Rothermere American Institute, or as I like to call it, "The Building with Elastic Vents", which is perhaps a metaphor for how "elastic" the people I encountered there were in their thinking - admirably stretched but never broken - was pleasant to say the least.

At the Summer School, I got to encounter writers and other kinds of artists I could have never imagined existed. I certainly would have struggled to understand works as complex as the likes of: Virginia Woolf - the woman who couldn't have written anything that doesn't make one ponder suicide, Hart Crane - the man who makes you see bridges in a new light and Sir Thomas Browne, a man far too intellectual for his own liking.

Not only was I captivated by the sheer awesomeness of these figures together with the others we discussed (which I won't mention due to my inability to summarise them in a clever sentence) but moreover with the tutors who delivered the talks and their profound understanding and expertise on these difficult characters.

Aside from all of the academic mumbo jumbo, what truly inspired me about this summer school was the fact that I was able to gain an insight into what Oxford - a university that has so many myths aligned with it that it's no wonder why even some of the gargoyles mounted on the university's walls hide their faces - is like on the inside.

I can wholeheartedly say that the Summer School at RAI has encouraged me not only to think differently about difficult writers like Virginia Woolf, but also demystified Oxford as a university - it's actually not that scary.

Finally, I'd like to give a huge thanks to Martin Hitchcock from WA's link private school, UCS, for being all too keen on my attending the Summer School as well as Sally Bayley who lead the entire programme. The tutors were amazing and the other students that also attended were a joy to be with.

RAI rocks! (Only because it's the Rothermere AMERICAN Institute.)



By Dylan Kawende, Year 13

## Mentoring and internship in the global finance sector



# HSBC

While I was in Year 9 I participated in an 8-week mentoring programme with HSBC. This was an enlightening experience; it was actually very relaxed which meant you could ask any questions you had, get to know one another, see what your mentor does and speak to them about their career and experience. It served as a good introduction to my internship this year, which I managed to get at HSBC as a result of the mentoring. Although it can be tiring, the internship has been very interesting and I've enjoyed meeting a variety of people and learning about their diverse experiences and ambitions. I would like to go into investment banking so it's particularly advantageous for me to now be able to include experience in the finance sector on my CV.

By Leon Lekiqi, Year 10

## Performing and composing with world class musicians

This summer WA students had the chance to experience some outstanding music opportunities with prestigious organisations. Arianne Arcilla (Year 10) took part in a performing and composing workshop with the Royal College of Music at the Royal Albert Hall. This was a 5-day workshop which included a visit to the Proms!

Binish Fatima, Year 8, spent a week at Pimlico Academy to participate in 'Behind the Lines', a performing and composing workshop based on themes from World War 1. Binish said *"This was organised by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. We worked with composers to create and mix our own music using the music from World War 1. I played the guitar but there were many other instruments, such as piano, trumpet and violin. The week culminated in a performance to parents and members of the local community. It was really good and I enjoyed meeting new people. I*



*took this opportunity because I'm interested in music; they will be running this next year too so I would encourage other musicians to take part!"*

## WA develop assessment as national leaders in the field

Westminster Academy is currently working with the Parent Council on ways to improve termly reports for students and their families. This work follows WA achieving national recognition for its innovative data and assessment practice. As part of an initiative from the Department for Education (DfE), the Academy is one of only nine schools in the UK to have been selected to develop and share its new assessment methods. WA now receives funding from the Department for Education to turn the model into a package to be used by other schools across the country.

The idea behind the Department for Education's reforms is to replace the current complicated levels system to provide more useful and precise information for students and parents. At WA, a percentage score system signifies a student's comprehension of the curriculum. The curriculum is divided into approximately 15 topics per year, each of which are independently assessed by an in-class quiz, homework, and an end-of-term exam. Students achieve an overall score in each topic and an average is produced encompassing all topics. Teachers use formative assessment data to coordinate interventions and guide planning.

Having begun in maths, this year we will be trialling the assessment methods in different departments. We would be delighted to have parent feedback on termly reports; if you have any suggestions, please contact the Parent Council via [admin@westminsteracademy.biz](mailto:admin@westminsteracademy.biz).

## Internship students give community support in care home

On Wednesday 10 September, Shaima and I attended our first day at our placement at a care home in Swiss Cottage. We had chosen this for work experience because we like working with old people and helping them out.

When we arrived at the care home we were welcomed and shown around. It was very exciting for us to be experiencing an amazing opportunity like this. We helped out in the care home by giving out tea and biscuits, collecting trays, reading stories and helping the older people move from place to place.

It was really touching to hear all these stories and makes us think about our futures.

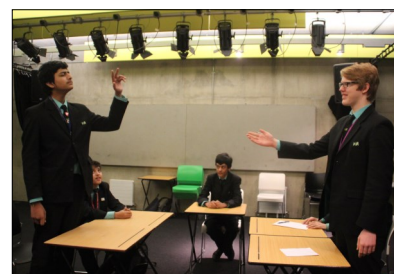
By Miriam Saade and Shaima Munasser, Year 10

## WA enters elite debating circuit

This year debating at WA is stepping up a gear, with an intense programme of debating clubs and fixtures and a dedicated debating team who attend sessions at 8am on a Tuesday and Thursday as well as giving up Saturdays to compete. Last week Elisa, Nada, Mohammed, Murkabh, Vishva and Abdullatif went to the Oxford Access Debating Workshop, run at Greig City Academy. Our workshop was run by a two time World Semi Finalist and served as the perfect workout for our elite team to prepare for a tough schedule of competitions this year at universities across the country. Warwick Schools and Birmingham Schools happen in November with further competitions at Oxford, Cambridge, UCL, Imperial, SOAS, Bristol, Nottingham and Manchester to come.

Please speak to Mr Van Der Hoeven if you are interested in attending.

By Mr Van Der Hoeven,  
Teacher of maths



## Media students embrace Digital Revolution

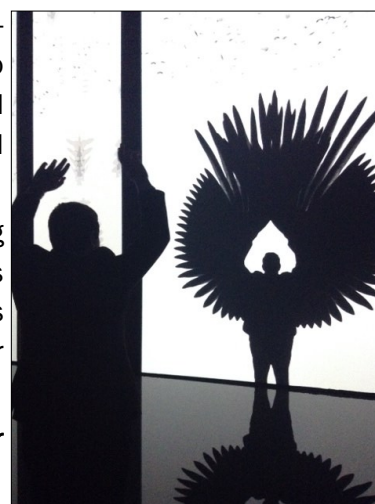


Last week the Sixth Form Media Studies BTEC students attended an exhibit at the Barbican Centre called 'Digital Revolution'. This was about the past, present and future of digital media. There were far too

many amazing things to interact with and do for me to list but some of the highlights were learning about modern film production (Gravity and Inception), playing old computer games consoles and being able to create my own digital creature which followed my actions.

This was a very inspiring trip which I am glad I was able to attend and has given me a lot of ideas for future coursework.

By Matinur Rahman, Year 13





## Art crosses borders with German link school



Westminster Academy was successful in a joint application for an international art project funded by the

UK German Connection. We were very happy to host a group of German Sixth Formers from Muenster's Geschwister Scholl Schule who were in London to explore post-war British art and started producing their own videos of London. This kept them busy but they still found time to play football with our Year 8 students! Together, our schools hope to contribute to a major exhibition on 'Identity' in Muenster, featuring critical comments on artwork as well as videos of what our home towns mean to us today. We hope to crown this experience by travelling to the opening of the exhibition later this year.



By the Year 13 IBDP German Class and Dr Walton-Jordan

## WA Interact Club awarded for outstanding service to families and communities



Last week WA was invited to the Rotary 90th Anniversary dinner.

The evening at the Radisson Blu at Portman Square started with introductions from the current president

of Rotarians from around the world including our own Interactors, Fatima and Yunis. They were celebrated for their contributions including raising over £1226.00 for the end Polio Campaign. The Interactors met a variety of Rotarians working on projects around London and the world. An unexpected (and thoroughly deserved) surprise was Westminster Academy Interactors being awarded a community service award for outstanding service to families and communities for raising awareness of and tackling Polio.

By Mr Ashraf, Senior Leader Humanities



## Period 5 at WA

There are still lots of exciting undiscovered clubs and Period 5 activities out there for you to try, if you have Period 5s available. Computer Science, Glee Club, UK Maths Challenge, Homework Club and Badminton are just the beginning. Throughout this newsletter you'll come across a few more.... Speak to your tutor to make requests for new period 5 sessions.

## POLITICS & PHILOSOPHY CLUB



Wednesday - Period 5 - Year 9  
Speak to Mr Stritter or Mr Thomas

## Box with an ABA boxing coach!

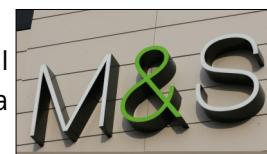


Students who are available during period 5 on Wednesdays have the chance to be coached in boxing by an ABA boxing coach at All Stars Boxing Club. All interested students should speak to Ms Gold for more details.

## Opportunity: Marks & Spencer Mentoring

Do you want to be mentored by a senior manager at M&S? Year 11s and 12s have the opportunity to participate in up to 8 sessions of mentoring at the M&S Head Offices in Paddington. This will give a unique chance to:

- Develop the personal qualities needed for a successful future
- Prepare for interviews
- Get into the best Sixth Form/University/Apprenticeship
- Train for a career in business



To express your interest, please speak to Mr Thomas

## UCL Summer Challenge 2014

Is science always right? Can scientific theories ever be truly proven true? What is science?

These were some of the mind-boggling questions that were addressed at my UCL Summer Challenge course - Science and Society.

But the one that stroke me most and ended up being my research question was whether we should support the human colonisation of Mars. Crazy right?

Now it may seem farfetched to say the least, but if you do your research, you'll find that it's actually not that far off, in fact, a private company named Mars One is set to have it take place within the next decade!

Now imagine what that would mean for humanity; imagine the progress we could potentially make socially, scientifically, economically - you name it!

But the aim of my Summer Challenge at UCL was to address the prospects of such a scientific achievement from an ethical point of view - both the good and bad, and boy was there a lot to say.

How would religions function on Mars?

Should we even be allowed to colonise a planet not that of our own - it's not like we've treated Earth as well as it should.

Aside from Hollywood's depiction of a war of worlds, is it possible that we could actually be setting ourselves up for a future intergalactic war between martian humans and earth humans?

Sure the latter is a tad unrealistic, but it's still worth noting that if this programme were to succeed and we did manage to colonise Mars, we would change the face of humanity forever.

Besides getting better at asking bizarre but equally relevant questions, I had the opportunity of writing up a thousand-word essay to discuss my findings as well as deliver an oral presentation on the subject.

In the end, the experience proved to be strangely inspiring and I was even awarded Best Participation for my course - I think that's thanks to having bizarre teachers who teach something as bizarre as the IB which promotes this kind of bizarre thinking.

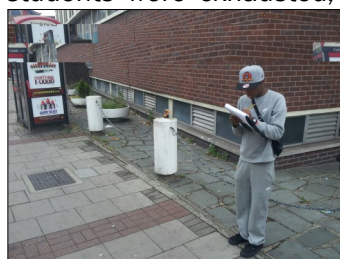
By Dylan Kawende,  
Year 13



## Geography fieldwork takes to streets of Stratford

Year 11 geographers get the chance to go into London and investigate the city around them. They wanted to decide if the rebuilding for the Olympics in Stratford has actually IMPROVED the area for local people? The students were fearless in their pursuit of knowledge, both in Stratford and the comparison area of Bethnal Green. Whether it was interviewing the public to find out about their fear of crime, or working under pressure to count all the different vehicles in 3 mins, the students really rose to the task and came back with some excellent results to use in their fieldwork. The students were exhausted, but happy, and the opportunity to get 2 for 1 subs in Stratford for lunch really cemented it for many as a great day!

By Mr Walters, Head of Geography



## PE and healthy schools: Year 7s take on Wasps for first rugby fixture



As a result of WA's new link with the Rugby Football Union (RFU), on Wednesday 1st October, 9

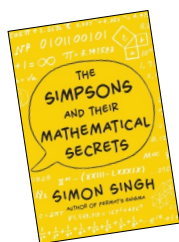
WA students from Year 7 and 8 travelled to Wasps FC to play in the Middlesex Rugby Festival. Not a single member of our team had played in a full game before and we faced some tough opposition from established rugby schools. We played in 2 matches and I could not fault the grit and commitment showed from every member of the team. The referee was so impressed that she sought me out at the end to praise their desire and the obvious progress made. One particular highlight was Maykon scoring our first try whilst running past several hapless defenders! Much fun was had by all involved and, after a few more Tuesday P5 training sessions, we are very much looking forward to our next festival with 2 or maybe even 3 full teams!

By Mr Walker, Teacher of maths





## Simon Singh's lecture on 'The Simpsons and their mathematical secrets'



On Thursday 16th September, our Year 11 Triple Science class took a trip to St. Paul's School. It is located in Hammersmith and we learnt about the famous TV series cartoon, 'The Simpsons' having mathematical codes concealed throughout the show.

Doctor Singh taught us that mathematical geniuses, Al Jean and Mike Reiss, who are two of the producers as well as Harvard University alumni, have encoded mathematical references. However, the TV series doesn't consist of obvious math codes; it has the potential to frighten the audience away. For example, in the episode 'Marge and Homer turn a couple play' (2006) there are triple doses of mathematical references. In the episode both Marge and Homer help to improve the marriage between baseball star 'Buck Mitchell' and 'Tabitha Vixx'. As their problems resolve and Tabitha appears on the Jumbo visual screen at the Springfield stadium, she openly declares her love for Buck. Nonetheless, on the screen it presents a question to which the audience have to guess the attendance of the stadium, the following options revealed are: A) 8,191 B) 8,128 C) 8,208 D) No way to tell. In the mathematical world, 8,128 is known as the 'perfect' number; its divisors add up to the numbers 8,128. This is the case as 6 is the smallest perfect number: 1, 2 and 3 not only amount to 6 but can be divided. Therefore, the fourth perfect number is 8,128. 8,208 is a narcissistic number; it contains 4 digits, and if elevated to the 4<sup>th</sup> power will become:  $8^4 + 2^4 + 0^4 + 8^4 = 8,208$ . The fact that the number can re-form itself from its own components gives an impression that the number is in love with itself. Finally, 8,191 is a prime number and is classified as the Mersenne Prime as it is equal to  $2^{13} - 1$ ; this fits in with the pattern  $2^p - 1$  where p is a prime number.



I would like to conclude that in everyday life we experience hidden mathematical codes which we are oblivious to.

By Miray Erturk, Y11

## The importance of technology at TCS

I really enjoyed the trip to TCS (Tata Consultancy Services); it allowed me to learn about different computer systems but also how technology is used every day. We took part in a Q&A



on how important technology is and in the afternoon we did group work with another Sixth Form class from Cambridge. All groups had to create an app idea and prepare a presentation to industry professionals displaying how well it would work within today's creative technology sector.



By Ali Mehran Nekkui, Year 12

## Sixth Former wins national award for volunteering

We are proud to announce that a WA Sixth Former has become a recipient of The Diana Award for inspiring the lives of others. Matinur Rahman, in Year 13, won his award as a result of the significant impact he has made on the access to technology for older people in the community. Matinur has become a real pioneer for the work the WA does with Open Age, very much raising its profile within the Academy, which has encouraged more students to get involved. Once a term he organises the 'Silver Sunday' film club for Open Age members.

Matinur has received exceptional feedback from Open Age, who value him for his enthusiasm, patience, hard work and commitment. Matinur enjoys the sessions and feels he benefits from learning from the older people he works with: an impressive advocate for improved social cohesion in Westminster.



Matinur said "I was shocked to be nominated because you don't expect to be praised for something which you enjoy doing, but being recognised for my volunteer work is a rewarding feeling. Volunteering is a step towards yourself; I would very much urge others to try it."

## Parents: What's on

# FREE



## Money Advice Fair

*making more of your money*

Worried about debts, benefits, high energy bills, borrowing, later life planning or budgeting?

Come along to our Money Advice Fair for information, advice and workshops with our experts.

**Wednesday 22nd October 2014**



London Lighthouse  
111-117 Lancaster Road  
Ladbroke Grove  
London W11 1QT

Ladbroke Grove



7, 23, 52, 70, 228, 295, 452



**Drop in between 1.00pm and 6.00pm**

For all residents of Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea and Hammersmith and Fulham



## Westminster Community Crowdfund

We'd like to introduce you to the Westminster Community Crowdfund, which is a great new way to make small donations to projects that support children experiencing hardship in Westminster. Sponsored by the North West Localities Children's Services, the projects that you'll discover on the website below will make a real difference to children and their parents in these difficult times. All projects will receive 100% of funds donated, with PDT providing the management service free of charge.

Do please have a look (and make a small donation as well!) and please, please send the link on to all your contacts. This is a fantastic opportunity to support our local young people and their families as well as building on the wonderful community spirit inspired by all who live and work in Westminster.

You'll find our local projects here:

<http://www.communitycrowdfund.co.uk/>

Thanks so much for your support.

Neil Johnston, CEO, Paddington Development Trust

[neil@pdt.org.uk](mailto:neil@pdt.org.uk)

FREE IT classes for parents

FREE Art classes for parents and community

FREE 'Parent Gym' for parents to support students to learn faster, do better and be happier

FREE Adult English classes - every Wednesday 1-3pm

To express interest in any of the above, please email Mr Gothard: [AGothard@westminsteracademy.biz](mailto:AGothard@westminsteracademy.biz)

Open Morning - Wednesday 15 October 9.30am

Community Food Day - Wednesday 15th October



**Westminster Academy**

**Community Food Day**

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 12pm to 2pm**



**Venue: Westminster Academy main entrance**

**A celebration of food and culture; bring along**

**a dish and share food with others!**



**Parents and members of the community are invited**

Contact **Alan Gothard** on **0207 1210600** or email:

[agothard@westminsteracademy.biz](mailto:agothard@westminsteracademy.biz)

## Westminster Academy Parent Committee

At WA our Parent Committee is run **by parents, for parents**. If you have a concern or any ideas you would like to discuss regarding the Academy, the Parent Committee is there to help and support you. Please contact [admin@westminsteracademy.biz](mailto:admin@westminsteracademy.biz) to make an appointment.

If you are interested in joining the Committee, please contact Mr Gothard:

[AGothard@westminsteracademy.biz](mailto:AGothard@westminsteracademy.biz)