

## Downing Street, Baroness Grey-Thompson and Mr Speaker - all in a day's work for WA students



The Naz Legacy Foundation's Diversity Day started with a visit to Clarence House, where we were introduced to Jamie Bowden, Deputy Private Secretary to Prince

Charles. Many of us had been quite sceptical about the Monarchy's role in society, but he really opened our eyes in explaining how much philanthropic work Prince Charles and other members of the Royal Family do. We were then whisked off for lunch at the Royal Overseas Club, where we were introduced to Hitan Mehta, who is the most senior member of staff from an ethnic minority who works for the Prince of Wales. He gave a very pertinent talk about the contributions we can all make to Britain, regardless of where we come from.

After this came perhaps the most exciting part of the trip, as we visited Downing Street. It's not every day that you have the chance to take a selfie in front of David Cameron's house, but now we have some great photos and memories to share with our friends!

The tour around Parliament was a true spectacle, as we had only seen it on TV before. As people who are interested in politics, the tour around Parliament really benefited our knowledge of the political system. The building had been maintained really well over the years while hosting all the debates we see at home and the architecture was superb. Later on, we got to meet Baroness Grey-Thompson, a former Paralympic athlete who won 11 gold medals, and listened to her giving a talk on politics and why young people should vote. The talk was really inspir-

ing with the chance to ask questions at the end, and she gave thoughtful (and honest!) answers in return.

Finally, we were invit-

ed to the Speaker's House, where we were introduced to Mr Speaker, John Bercow. He was very amusing, and spoke passionately about the need for Parliament and politicians to work with young people. He did a lot to counter the view that many MPs are not especially interested in young people.

Overall, it was a fascinating and inspirational day. We all felt extremely privileged to attend, and it was wonderful to go with other schools and get to meet other young people who were also interested in politics. We look forward to sharing what we have learned back at school, and would like to extend Westminster Academy's thanks to Harris Bokhari and the Naz Legacy Foundation for organising such a wonderful day out.

By Rinna Isufi (Year 12), Uliks Sekiraqa and Xhemile Kojicic Year 10

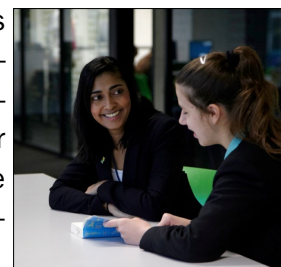
Ahead of Diversity Day, Vishva got the chance to be involved in the promotion of the event by being interviewed



by the BBC Asian Network. After the interview, he was given an exclusive tour which included BBC Radio One and the furiously busy desks of the BBC News.

## Message from the Principal, Ms Bora

I am always really proud of the Westminster Academy bumper newsletter because it reminds me that, although **reading, revising and practising questions** will help with students' academic potential, there are also so many opportunities for developing spiritual, moral, social, cultural and physical potential within the extra-curricular programme we offer. The newsletter includes just a small sample of the thousands of wonderful experiences our students have participated in so far, and there are even more in the pipeline! Parents can help by encouraging their child to watch out for opportunities in Tutor Touch Base (TTB).



## So London

*London.*

*My disgust for this place*

*Can barely be expressed by mere words.*

*It's pretty ugly*

*And positively negative.*

*Delusion after delusion*

*May be poured into your brain,*

*Like liquid wax in a candle mould.*

*But the truth of the matter is,*

*The city picks its victims,*

*One by one.*

*A childhood ruined.*

*A youth hood jaded.*

*An adulthood cut short.*

*The stress of life*

*Eats at your bones,*

*Eroding your very essence*

*Into oblivion.*

*So quiet,*

*Yet so loud.*

*So slow,*

*Yet so fast.*

*So sly,*

*Yet so honest.*

*So wrong,*

*Yet so right.*

*So awkward,*

*Yet so comforting.*

*And one thing,*

*So London.*

**By Mercy Ekwuta, Year 7**

## Reading and writing excellence



In Term 4 and Term 5 the English Department held two competitions that all students were invited to enter: the first required students to write a review of their favourite books; the second allowed students to write an inspiring text on any topic.

We are very proud to announce that the Book Review Competitions were won by Sabeha Begum (Year 8) with an awesome analysis of 'Dear Scarlett' by Fleur Hitchcock, and Meissa Haouari (Year 8) with an excellent study of 'Dreams from the Endz' by Faiza Guene. The Creative Writing Competitions were won by Fancisca Zangu (Year 8), Inara Babmir (Year 8), Clelia Vigorelli (Year 8) and Nada El-Hammoud (Year 8) with a mix of stunning poetry, speeches, blogs and stories. All winning students were able to select any novel of their choice as a prize!

Both of these competitions will be running again this term. Entries can be submitted either handwritten, or by email, to Mr Kearns ([jkearns@westminsteracademy.biz](mailto:jkearns@westminsteracademy.biz)) with the closing date of Monday 13th July. To give you an idea of what we are looking for, here is a short extract from Francisca's winning story:

*It was 24 years ago when I destroyed my whole life. I still can't remember why I got myself into that kind of mess.*

*It all started when I started skipping classes and messing around in lessons. I began to become influenced by other friends. I began to fight, and cause trouble everywhere. I was not me.*

*After a while, I got to Year 11 and found out that I was not prepared for my GCSEs. So I stole a copy of a GCSE exam. One of my friends found out and began threatening me because he wanted the test.*

*I didn't give it to him, but on the day of the test...*

**Article by Mr Kearns, Teacher of English**

## Westminster School Summer school launch

Last week, a group of Year 11s attended the Westminster School summer school launch ahead of this year's summer programme at the prestigious independent school. We are delighted that as many as eight Westminster Academy Year 11s have been successful in their applications for this programme.

At the launch, one of the organisers spoke at length about the importance of extra curricular activities, studying a broad range of subjects, volunteering and reflecting about learning and knowledge. We noted that these are all significant reasons why universities - and WA - favour the IB to prepare students for further education and life beyond! In the meantime, we are happy to see that many of our younger students already have a head start on this, through their Period 5 activities, Knowledge curriculum and Active Citizenship - keep it up!



## Liaising with Home Office and utilising Primary school students try science language skills at law firm internship at Imperial and meet Lord Winston!

My name is Nazia; I am a dedicated student in Year 10. My work experience is at MA Consultants, a law firm in East London. I have been working there since January 2015. At my work place, I assist clients with various issues: dealing with immigration cases, handling divorce cases and claiming for people's injuries. On Wednesdays, I have to call the Home Office for clients about their cases (urgently), type letters for courts and for the Home Office, discuss cases with existing and non-existing clients and take care of highly important documents, documents which need to be sent off to other countries as well.

Recently, a client's Visa expired; that meant she could no longer stay in the UK. This was a new experience for me but in two weeks I had solved this case and as a result, that client can stay in the UK for another five years, following the limits of the law.

I have struggled with my mother tongue language (Bengali), as I am not fluent in it. This has taught me how essential any language is with regards to the outside world as well as in school. I have built confidence, communication and stress management at my work place already, and I expect by the end of June 2015 to have gained even more experience. Remember that anyone who works hard consistently at school or in the outside world will gain success - no matter what it is.

By Nazia Meah, Year 10



WA Science department has been busy this year providing taster sessions for primary school students to show them what school is like when they move up to secondary. As well as lab sessions at WA, Reach Out Lab

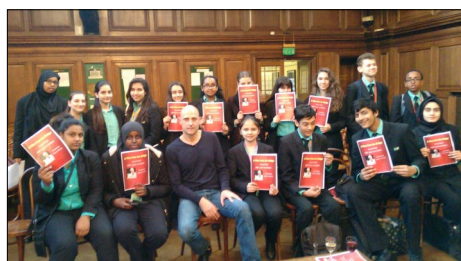
sessions at Imperial have been attended by local primary feeder schools, St Mary Magdelene, Edward Wilson and Hallfield Primary. The children dug for fossils in rocks, then did a carousel of reaction activities which included exploding film canisters with dry ice!

The Reach Out Lab sessions were kindly sponsored by the Dangoor family and the final session was attended by members of the House of Lords, including Lord Robert Winston, one of the founding members of the Reach Out Lab. Lord Winston visited especially to see in action the inaugural primary sessions that had been organised by Westminster Academy.

We have had great fun working with Primary schools on this and would like to thank their wonderful student participants plus the Dangoor family for making this possible.

By Ms King, Teacher of Science

## English students meet Olivier Award winner



On Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April we went on a trip to see Mark Strong at UCS. When we arrived there were so many people there, but he came over especially to see us. We had the chance to ask him lots of questions; my friend Fatima asked him a question - she was so

excited and nervous! As well as this, we had photos taken with him, and he let us hold his Lawrence Olivier award. It was surprisingly heavy!

Afterwards, we watched him perform scenes from the play 'A View From the Bridge', which we studied in school. It was really interesting watching the play we had read being acted out, especially because some of the students from UCS joined in.

There was then a chance to ask questions, and Vishva in Year 10 asked a brilliant one. Afterwards, Mark Strong agreed to sign our programmes - and one for Ms Bora as well!

It was the best day, and I was so happy we had been taken on the trip.

By Sarrah Chinolea, Year 10



**Westminster Academy**

**'Education is Success'**

- Top of Westminster state school Sixth Form performance tables 2015
- 100% of students achieve university offers
- 70% A\*-C grades including English and Maths at GCSE
- International Baccalaureate World school with 41% Sixth Form grades A\*-A in 2014
- Ranked in top 1% of UK schools for progress measures in 'Best 8' score including English and Maths
- Partnered with the Royal Society of Medicine

**Year 5 Open Mornings 2015**

**9.30-10.30am**

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July

Meet our Principal and students, view our state-of-the-art academic and sporting facilities and see what classes are really like at our Open Mornings for Year 5s and their families.

All welcome; we look forward to seeing you soon!

For more information, contact Sally Pitt: [SPitt@WestminsterAcademy.biz](mailto:SPitt@WestminsterAcademy.biz)

Westminster Academy - The Naim Dangoor Centre - 255 Harrow Road, London W2 5EZ  
Tel: 020 7121 0400 - Web: [www.westminsteracademy.net](http://www.westminsteracademy.net) - Twitter: @WestminsterAco

## The Sixth Form vs staff challenge continues with

# The Tale of Hockey

*"Sticks?! What's this?" the students all cried,  
Bemused by the tools the teachers supplied.  
They began passing and running and started to frown  
Then, on his arrival, Hamza fell down.*

*Mr Curran was cunning and soon made his mark  
When he swung with a stick and broke it in half.  
Farmbrough marshalled the staff running around  
And, afraid of his presence, Hamza fell down.*

*The students lined up, all nerves and scared glances,  
The staff exchanged looks: they quite fancied their chances.  
Magan, wearing chinos, ran about like a clown  
And, tripping and slipping, Hamza fell down.*

*Despite the staff's evident game domination  
A moment of excellence caused humiliation.  
With foiled defenders the attack went to town:  
It was three against one until Hamza fell down.*

*Nevertheless, two attackers remained  
And scored for an early lead in the game.  
In the midst of the cheering and high-fives all round,  
Overcome with excitement, Hamza fell down.*

*The second half started with some change to formation,  
A sweeper in place and more determination,  
The teachers capitalised, like a strong proper noun,  
And, with grammatical accuracy, Hamza fell down.*

*The students were flaky like a pain-au-raisin  
And Farmbrough swiftly made it one-one  
It was the first of a hat-trick of endless renown  
And, naturally, Hamza fell down.*

*They kids weren't exactly light on their feet,  
Not exactly adept, not exactly elite,  
A veritable clumsiness triple-crown  
Made manifest when Hamza fell down.*

*Worse still: a foul led to a penalty hit.  
Mr Curran stepped up and summoned his grit,  
Hitched up his socks like a surgical gown  
And aimed with precision. Then Hamza fell down.*

*With zest, Curran swung and the shot was great  
But, emotionally intelligent, he did not celebrate.  
Dejected, Zulkurnain looked at the ground  
And, stricken by grief, Hamza fell down.*

*Sammy and Ben put up a brave fight  
And fiercely surged forwards with all of their might.  
Ajayi charged on like a huntsman's hound  
And, inspired by him, Hamza fell down.*

*The wings were controlled by Ms. Blackmore and Rice  
Who delivered support that was calm and precise.  
The whistle blew at 3 – 1: such a withering sound  
That Hamza, exhausted, gave up and fell down.*

*The challenge cup stands at three sports to one,  
So although they have football, they've far from won.  
But there is a new challenge, now it's term five,  
And tension is high for the shield has arrived!*

*To give you a chance to get some pride back  
We're challenging you to a basketball match.  
And, let's not forget, it's girls' football, too  
So you've got some recruiting of ladies to do.*

*And remember (whatever the score):  
If you ask not to be named, you'll be named all the more.  
It's not about winning, but  
how you compete.  
And, Hamza, just to try to  
remain on your feet.*

**By Mr Payne, Teacher of English**





## Year 7s and 8s interview BBC Political Correspondent on live TV



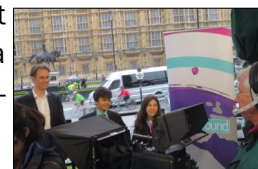
On the day after the General Election, I woke up at 5am and got ready to go on the news! When I got to school, I found my squad (Toni, Fairouz and Anas) waiting near the school entrance. We departed at 6.30am by taxi to Westminster Abbey where we waited for a kind man from BBC Newsround to come and pick us up.

Standing outside behind the cameras was an opportunity for me to take a chance and finally be on TV! It was

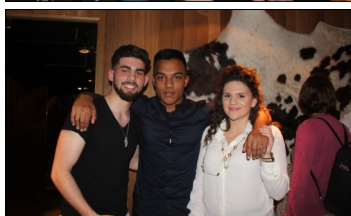
quite nerve-wracking, but I did get used to it. We were part of an interview with the BBC Politics Correspondent, Ross Hawkins. We all had to ask questions about the election and my question was "What do you like about your job, and do you think the voting system is going to change in the future?"

Thanks to Ms Bora, Mr Thomas and Miss Pitt for organising this or we wouldn't have had this experience with Newsround. Although we are not yet old enough to vote, this was also a good chance to be involved in a historical election.

By Dina Arabi, Year 7



## Year 13 students celebrate the end of exams



On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June, Year 13 gathered for the last time at All Star Lanes to celebrate the end of their exams. With IB Diploma students now finished, and IB Career-related Programme students and BTEC students putting the final touches on their coursework and leaving over the next few weeks, it was the last chance for the cohort to come together in one place.

Students enjoyed relaxing in their own private room, which featured its own bowl-

ing lanes, and competition was fierce but friendly throughout the night. Following speeches from Ms Bora and the Sixth Form Team, as well as student contributions from Labinot, Dylan, Francesca and Matinur, the evening stepped up a notch with a world premiere performance from the Sixth Form Team Band, and a set from our very own DJ, Fahad Azeroual.

Many of the Year 13s have been at WA for 7 years, and we will miss each and every one of them. We're delighted, however, that they will be keeping in touch with us through our Future First alumni network, and we look forward to hearing from them over the coming years. Finally, we would like to wish them all the very best of luck for their exam results and coursework submission; whatever the results, we are all exceptionally proud of them.

Mr Farmbrough, Senior Leader – Sixth Form

## Year 12 BTEC Media film-making success!



During the last term we have entered two competitions as part of our Media course.

The first was a competition called "Out Of Your Hands". We had to come up with an idea about identity theft and create a film based around this. Working together we created a short film called 'The Imposter' where a girl had her identity stolen for entering information on a fake website.

This was a tough project as it was the first time we all had to work together on filming; we found it difficult but it was a real learning experience. We were delighted to hear that we came third overall for our video, winning a prize for both us and the school!

We followed this up by producing a video for "Lights, Camera, Parliament", another nationwide competition. We created a video about the changes to tuition fees which features a 'day in the life' of a student wanting to go to University but put off by the fees; we cut this with interviews from current Year 13 students and staff with older children. Over 130 schools entered this competition and we came 4<sup>th</sup> overall with our video highly commended by the judging panel.

This was another great achievement for us, it has been great to get such positive feedback when we had never created videos like this before and had to work to such tight deadlines and a detailed brief. The skills we picked up here will no doubt help us produce outstanding coursework in the future!

By Lubna Hussain, Year 12

## Grammar Objective of the Week: the passive ten... I mean VOICE

Eagle-eyed grammarians (there are a number at WA) spotted what I have heard described as “an egregious mistake” in my article last week. In fact, this error even made a colleague “cringe” (understandably) – an effect I had never intended. “What was this mistake?” I hear you ask. Well, it is with slight embarrassment - as I can be rather vain - that I need to reveal that I referred several times last week to the ‘passive tense’. I should, of course, have referred to the passive VOICE, as there is no such thing as the ‘passive tense’! Tense refers – as you will know – to whether a sentence is in the present, past or future and not to whether it is active or passive. I hang my head in shame... Never mind. This really demonstrates the dangers of not having someone proof-read your written work and of not carefully reviewing and improving your writing (gold star, Mr Harris).

In order to clear up this confusion, I have decided that we shall spend a second week exploring the passive voice. Look at this sentence: *People all over the world eat apples.* The word “apples” is the object of this sentence, because it is the thing having something done to it: it’s being eaten. Let’s now transfer the word “apples” to the beginning of our sentence: *Apples are eaten all over the world.* Notice what this does to the verb “eat”. Secondly, notice the more formal and objective tone this sentence acquires as a result of it becoming passive. Finally, notice the removal of the thing (“people”) doing the action. These are all points to consider when choosing whether to express ideas in sentences which are active or passive.

There is no doubt that identifying and understanding the passive voice is one of the more subtle aspects of grammar. It’s exciting when students and teachers alike request this greater challenge. Please do continue to scrutinize both your own, your friends’ and my writing, noticing examples of the passive voice and – of course – pointing out any errors!

By Mr Harris, Assistant Senior Leader - English

## WA Book Fair - coming soon!

This Summer, WA is hosting a Scholastic Book Fair where students and their families will be able to browse and buy a big selection of exciting new books. All of the books on sale will cost half of the price that you would pay in a shop! Keep your eyes open for more information regarding book titles, dates and times in the coming weeks.

By Mr Kearns, Teacher of English

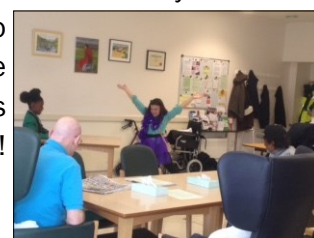


## Drama students entertain at St John's Hospice



This has been one of the best trips I have ever been on! For Enrichment Day, we went to St John's Hospice to act and entertain the patients. Everyone's performances and acting was AMAZING! We

came out of our comfort zones and went all out - everyone is so talented! At first, when my group (me, Tejah and Mariam) was about to perform we got so nervous, but we tried to be brave and do our best. While we were acting, I was putting on an accent and the things I said made the patients laugh. I'm so glad we made them smile! Later we went to St John's Park. We ate and played games. It was fun! All of us got along with each other. At around 2pm we came back to school. We went in the dance studio to end our day with some drama games. I want to thank Miss Crowley because without Miss, none of this would have been possible! MOST AWESOME DAY EVER!



By Sharmin Begum, Year 7

## What's on for parents

**FREE IT classes for parents** - Thursdays 4-6pm; WA Library

**FREE Art classes for parents and community**

**FREE Adult English classes** - every Wednesday

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

**Progress Review Day** - Friday 12 June

**Year 12 Parents' Evening** - Wednesday 24 June

**Year 6 Induction Day** - Friday 26 June

**Year 8 Parents' Evening** - Wednesday 8 July

**Science Fair** - Wednesday 15 July

**Enrichment Day** - Friday 17 July

Please see page 2 for our Year 5 Open Morning dates!

## Parent Council

The Parent Council is run **by parents for parents!** If you need any support regarding your child at Westminster Academy, or if you would like to get involved with the Parent Council, please contact the team on:

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



## Westminster Academy Term Dates 2015-2016

- Term 1**      **Tuesday 1 September - Friday 23 October 2015**  
**Staff INSET:** 1 and 2 September 2015  
**Half-term break:** Monday 26 October - Friday 30 October 2015
- Term 2**      **Monday 2 November - Friday 18 December 2015**  
**Staff INSET:** 2 and 3 November 2015  
**Christmas break:** Monday 21 December 2015 - Friday 1 January 2016
- Term 3**      **Monday 4 January - Friday 12 February 2016**  
**Staff INSET:** 4 and 5 January 2016  
**Half-term break:** Monday 15 February - Friday 19 February 2016
- Term 4**      **Monday 22 February - Thursday 24 March 2016**  
**Staff INSET:** 22 and 23 February 2016  
**Easter break:** Friday 25 March - Friday 8 April 2016
- Term 5**      **Monday 11 April - Friday 27 May 2016**  
**Staff INSET:** 11 and 12 April 2016  
**Public Holiday:** Monday 2 May 2016  
**Half-term break:** Monday 30 May - Friday 3 June 2016
- Term 6**      **Monday 6 June - Wednesday 20 July 2016**  
**Staff INSET:** 6 and 7 June 2016  
**Summer break:** Thursday 21 July - Wednesday 31 August 2016







## Sports News - Hold the back page!

### Rugby

I took the consistently enthusiastic and committed group of Year 10 rugby players to their first full contact session on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May. We were able to do this because the RFU had provided us with a minibus to take us to the Wasps training ground and high level coach to deliver a two hour master class in how to play contact rugby. The students were impeccably behaved and improved their rugby skill through impressive levels of grit which outlined why they had been chosen to attend this session. With the likely addition of a rugby suitable playing surface at WA next year, this was only a taste of what is to come!



By Mr Walker, Teacher of maths

### Athletics: WA take home medals!



This year at the WSU Athletics Competition that was held at Battersea Park both our Year 7 - Year 10 girls and boys attended. They all put maximum effort into the track and field events which the PE staff are extremely proud of.

Results:

#### Boys

In total the team brought home six golds, one silver and five bronze. Year 7 Boys came 3<sup>rd</sup> overall which is an EXCELLENT achievement!

#### Girls

In total the team brought home two golds and two bronze.

Year 8 girls came 3<sup>rd</sup> overall as a team which is also EXCELLENT!

By Ms Gold, Teacher of PE



Join the Volunteer Police Cadets in Westminster  
*We aim to provide new opportunities and activities for young people and improve relations between Police and youth.*

*Come to a VPC Meeting to find out what we do!  
Open to young people 13-17 years old - intake date may apply.*



Contact us on 07795256759 or email  
[Jon.Marsden@met.police.uk](mailto:Jon.Marsden@met.police.uk) for more information  
[www.met.police.uk/cadets](http://www.met.police.uk/cadets)

### Year 9 sport leaders on fire!

WA Year 9 Sport Leaders helped run and organise the WSU Primary School Tennis Competition at Paddington Recreation ground. They umpired matches, helped coach primary students and ran the event with enthusiasm (especially Ron) resulting in an excellent competition. Good job gents:

Kareem Benkacem; Riyad Ahmed; Mohamed Konte; Ron Kavaja; Momoh Koroma; Hudayfah Boukhari; Mohammed Nayem; Hans Morin; Shamsur Rahman.

By Mr Windmill, Teacher of PE

