

Mock exam week after half-term



In the week after half-term there will be mock exams in all subjects for students in Years 7-10. These will be formal exams based on the GCSEs that your child will sit at the end of Year 11. This is an excellent opportunity for students to demonstrate what they have learned this year, and how much progress they have made.

Holiday homework for all students is to read, revise and practise questions in preparation for these exams. We will be giving revision tips in tutor time to help them with this. If your child needs further help or advice on their revision they should speak to their tutor.

By Mr Thomas and Mr Gothard, Assistant Senior Leaders, Maths

Grammar Objective of the Week: Apostrophes of possession

Last week, we looked at the way writers use apostrophes to shorten words, as in "Don't step on the cat!" Here the apostrophe shows that the letter 'o' is missing from the word 'not'. These are called apostrophes of omission (the word "omission" is used to describe something that is missing).

This week students and teachers at WA are paying particular attention to using apostrophes when showing ownership or possession, as in "The boy's books were heavy". Here the writer is talking about books that belong to the boy. These are called apostrophes of possession and they are the source of frequent mistakes – and certainly not only at WA. Once you have understood these rules correctly, you'll spot mistakes on a near-daily basis.

The most common mistake is to use an apostrophe in a plural. The following sentence is incorrect: "The dog's are barking loudly". There should not be an apostrophe here as there is no sense of possession: the sentence just tells us what the dogs – plural - are doing. However, the apostrophe in the following sentence is correct: "The dog's football is old and punctured." Here the writer is telling us about the possession (a football) of one dog. It gets a little trickier if we want to write about footballs that belong to several dogs, as now the apostrophe should come after the 's': "The dogs' footballs are old and punctured."

There's undoubtedly a wide range of advice available about apostrophes of possession, but I'm confident that if you follow the tips above then you'll never go wrong. If you're about to ask what you should do if the noun already ends in an 's', then there is more than one answer. I can assure you that it's correct to add an apostrophe and a further 's', as in "Mr Harris's students never make grammatical errors." But since I suspect you've had enough of apostrophes by now, we won't explore that particular quirk any further...

By Mr Harris, Assistant Senior Leader, English

New award-winning reports for Year 7 and 8

Parents of Year 7 and 8 students will receive a new style of report from this term. Instead of reporting levels, your child's teachers will be giving a percentage score for each topic studied in school. This will help them know what to work on at home, and where they need to improve to do better in their different subjects.

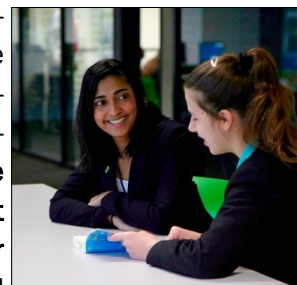
We are doing this instead of giving levels, as levels were not designed for the new GCSE exams your child will be taking. By concentrating on improving the topics they have studied and building on their weaknesses, your child will fulfil their academic potential by the end of school.

If you'd like to get involved in improving reports to make them even more useful for parents then please come along to the next Parent Council meeting. Email Alan Gothard (agothard@westminsteracademy.biz) to sign up.

By Mr Thomas and Mr Gothard, Assistant Senior Leaders, Maths

Message from the Principal, Ms Bora

I look forward to seeing parents at the Year 11 Mock Results Evening tonight. **This is the most important event of the year for Year 11 parents.** I



am also looking forward to the next Parents' Council meeting after the holiday during which I hope we can discuss new assessment, behaviour and homework procedures to be put in place for parents who are unable to give support to the Academy currently and how we can work together to resolve this lack of capacity.

Curious about culture at the Languages Fair

During the last Enrichment Day our Year 7 students participated in the Languages Fair, organised by the Languages Department. The event is an opportunity to celebrate the linguistic and cultural diversity of Westminster Academy.



Throughout the day, students enjoyed learning a variety of languages as well as many interesting facts about different countries and languages of the world, such as



Yoruba, Gaelic or Gujarati.

In addition to language learning, students also took part in a variety of cultural workshops such as



dancing, Russian and Chinese Writing and Origami.

Both staff and students were really enthusiastic about the fair and we even benefited from the VIP support of parents and volunteers who helped make the event a success. We would like to send our special thanks to Mrs Liauska, who taught us some Lithuanian; Mrs Rahimi, who set up an impressive display for her Farsi stall; Ms Elias, who brought typical African hats for her lesson, and everyone who volunteered their valuable time.

Furthermore, our Year 7 students displayed exemplary behaviour, showed a lot of curiosity, and were very open



-minded about all the new cultures they learnt about. Very well done!

Thank you all for your contributions to a successful Languages Fair!

By Miss Portillo, Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages

Small changes, big differences.



Day time Arabic Parenting Group for Parents with Teenagers

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Understanding teenagers and why they behave as they do! - The best way to develop your children - Looking at positive goals for change - How to deal with teenage emotions - How to get teenagers to problem solve and to take more responsibility - How to manage behaviour - How to deal with risky situations and behaviour - Implementing parent routines and strategies

Certificated Course at WA

Laughter is the best medicine at RSM lecture

In December, 18 students including me went to the Royal Society of Medicine. The speaker was Dr Phil Hammond, a former doctor and a comedian. He gave us a very entertaining talk. Luckily, I got a front row seat and remembered my glasses so I could see all the action. It was a fast-paced and eclectic talk as you will see from my account...

Firstly, he showed us masks of people like Nye Bevan, Tony Blair and also a minion from Despicable Me (not sure what that's got to do with the NHS). He also pulled out a £50 note and let me touch it. As soon as I did, he swiped it off me, and said, "No, you can't have it". He made us count from 100 and take away 7 each time and claimed it was what they did to determine dementia. That means I have it pretty bad. He then told us about his favourite TV show when he was a child: Clangers. Clangers was about family of mice that lived on the moon. Then he told us about his own interpretation of Clangers and what he thinks they stand for. We were then shown a photo of Dr Phil in the 80s when he was a trainee (with more red hair). He was holding a baby and was about to drop it. It was a front page picture with the headline 'Doctors in Distress' about when doctors were having to work 100 hours a week. Finally he told us to buy his latest book at only £10, which was on sale at the end.



It was an interesting talk with lots of facts about the NHS and it was great to be able to talk to some doctors afterwards.

By Nadira Kossar, Year 9

With great thanks to our sponsors, the Dangoor family, whose generosity made WA's link with the RSM possible.

What's on for parents

FREE IT classes for parents Thursdays 4 - 6pm in the Library

FREE Art classes for parents and community

FREE Arabic Triple P Parenting Group for parents with teenagers - Mondays until 16 March 10.30am - 12.50 at WA

FREE Adult English classes - every Wednesday

To express interest in any of the above, please email **Mr Gothard: AGothard@westminsteracademy.biz**

Y11 Mock Results Evening - Thursday 12th February

History Day - Friday 13th February (End of Term 3)

INSET days for staff - Monday and Tuesday 23rd-24th February

Term 4 begins - Wednesday 25th February