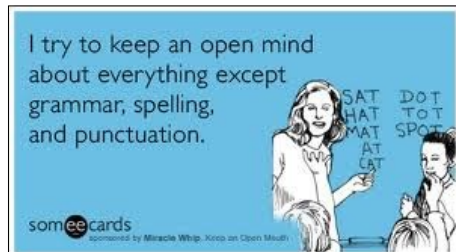


Grammar Objective of the Week: The effective use of brackets

Do you know how many punctuation marks there are in English? Confusingly, different people have different answers to this question, but I would say there are twelve key punctuation marks. (I wonder if you can name them all.) While some of these are fairly complex (such as semi-colons), brackets are one of the easiest forms of punctuation to use effectively, partly because their use is quite limited. Nevertheless, brackets have an important role to play in your writing and using them effectively will be sure to impress your readers (including future examiners).

“So, when do I use brackets?” I hear you cry. The answer is simple: use brackets when you wish to add additional information to a sentence without changing its original meaning. Take this example: “George Washington (the first president of the United States) gave his farewell address in 1796.” In this sentence, the brackets are used to give additional information about George Washington. Even if you took away the brackets and the phrase they contain, the sentence would still make sense.

Parentheses (another word for brackets) can also be used to provide a definition or explanation, as I have just done in this sentence. Here is another example: “NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) launched its first Mars probe (Viking I) back in 1976.” In this sentence, the parentheses are explaining what NASA stands for and giving additional information about the Mars probe. Again, this sentence would still make sense even without the brackets, but the information those brackets contain does enhance and help to clarify the reader’s understanding.



add additional information to your sentences. It’s definitely worthwhile adding them to your repertoire!

By Mr Harris, Assistant Senior Leader English

Citizenship students bring Fair Trade week to WA

As part of Fair Trade Week, our group of Year 11 Citizenship students ran an awareness-raising event during early lunch last Friday. Leaflets were handed



out and posters were put up around Sky Dining with information about Fair Trade and some examples of countries and producers that benefit from Fair Trade. We also told fellow students about the possibility of WA becoming a Fair Trade school, selling Fair Trade products such as bananas and even Ben & Jerry’s ice cream. Students in the lunch line were also surveyed about their knowledge of Fair Trade and their signatures were collected for a petition. This will eventually go to Ms. Bora to convince school authorities at WA to provide Fair Trade goods and help support farmers and producers in the developing world.



By Ketevan Nizharadze, Year 11.

Message from the Principal, Ms Bora

This week, I would like to take the opportunity to remind parents about the importance of **parental engagement**. This is not just about attending Parent Council, participating in adult learning, standing for Parent Governor or helping

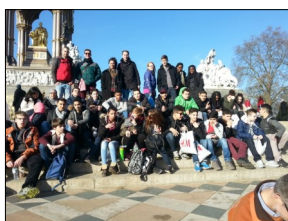


students **read, revise and practise questions** every night. It is also about helping the Academy develop your child as a **broad and balanced** individual to avoid some of the horrific stories about extremism we have heard in the news lately. Monitoring your child’s use of **social media** is paramount but equally important is the promotion of cohesion through **extra-curricular activities** such as those in this newsletter.

MFL students break down language barriers with Liebig Schule

On the Wednesday of half-term, a small group of intrepid German students met Mr. Snowdon on the steps of WA and made their way to South Kensington, and into the unknown. For all of them, it was a first opportunity to meet German school children of their own age. It was a glorious day weather-wise, but, owing to the timing of the visit, only seven WA students were able to attend. This meant that they were outnumbered by 4 to 1 and when the two groups met by the gates to Kensington Palace, the fear factor was palpable. Each of our students was made a group leader and, although some took to their role with greater confidence than others, the experience will have benefitted all of them in different ways (they certainly had to dip into their GRIT and ZEST reserves!). The German visitors were very keen to practise their English and I think that their enthusiasm was initially rather overwhelming for our students. However, during lunch at the Albert Memorial, a trip to the Science Museum (plan B after the queue for the Natural History Museum was deemed too long!) and bowling at Queensway, the conversation began to flow, albeit in fits and starts. Three more Year 10 students came to Queensway after they had finished their Music trip and this seemed to bolster the confidence of the others. Eventually there was quite a lot of talking, laughter and even a touch of German from our Year 10s! Everyone was relaxed, the language barrier was broken and kids were just being kids. For myself and the four teachers from Liebig Schule, the primary goals were for students to meet, talk, have fun and exchange contact details. These success criteria were achieved and on both sides the visit was a success, further strengthening the developing relationship between WA and Liebig Schule in Berlin. This relationship will continue in the classroom through a pen pal scheme and multimedia exchange, but our hope is that international friendships will form that can continue throughout school and beyond.

By Mr Snowdon, Teacher of MFL



Additional science at the Reach Out Lab

On Friday 30th January we travelled to Imperial College, where we took part in two different experiments at the Reach Out Lab: "the iodine clock experiment" and "the chromatography experiment" which we completed in groups of our additional science classes. We are incredibly grateful for the opportunity which Imperial College and our sponsors, the Dangoor family, have given to us; this will help us to do better in our additional science GCSE. Hopefully we will get the chance to take part in another activity at the Imperial College Reach Out Lab.

By Joao Santos, Year 11



Jack Petchey Achievement Awards Presentation Evening



Yunus Julwadi, Ketevan Nizharadze, Awa Ndiaye, Jesse Iwu and Sebastian Nucinkis all received their Jack Petchey Achievement Award medal on stage at Kensington Great Hall. These students were nominated by teachers for their achievements, progress, motivation, inspiration and any outstanding character trait, and were then chosen as winners amongst all nominations.

The Awards evening was loud, colourful, supportive and fun! Performances by students from the surrounding boroughs were outstanding which made for an exciting evening. Well done to all the Jack Petchey Achievement Award winners this Year – keep up the good work!

By Mr Windmill, Teacher of PE

What's on



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

Comic Relief meets Pi Day - Friday 13 March (£1 to wear red or a number; £2 to wear non-uniform. **Don't forget your lanyard!**)

Mock Exam Results Evening (Year 7, 9 and 10) - Tuesday 24th March

Year 8 Parents' and Mock Evening - Thursday 25th March