

Demystifying Cambridge University: Year 10s visit Jesus College

On Thursday 29th January 2015, I had the privilege of accompanying Rowaida Al-Saad, Mustafa Ahmed and Nurfarahin Zulkurnain from Year 10 to Jesus College, University of Cambridge. Ed Penn, the Schools Liaison Officer, talked about the reasons to go to university, reinforcing how important it is for students to **choose a subject they are good at, enjoy, find interesting and have a desire to develop further knowledge**. He pointed out that universities are not all the same and Cambridge is part of the Russell Group, which means it is a world leader in its subjects and the teaching staff are well known for their specialist research. The process of applying to the University of Cambridge was demystified and all misconceptions were challenged. He also informed students that the selection process is designed to be fair and there are no tricks. Students were encouraged to choose subjects that are academically rigorous and a challenge. It was also nice to see how much the University of Cambridge values the IB Diploma. **Students were told to be realistic; however, they should be ambitious, aim high and not feel restricted.**

The students had the opportunity to meet current undergraduates and ask them questions about their courses and university life at Cambridge. They were then taken on a tour of Jesus College, which was followed by a lovely lunch.

In the afternoon, students were treated to a taster lecture on General Relativity by Dr Stephen Silkos. We ended the day with a tour of Queens' College.

Our Year 10 students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and feel extremely privileged to have been introduced to wonderful facilities in such beautiful surroundings. They were made to feel very comfortable there. In addition, our Year 10s were delightful and their participation was excellent. Ed Penn said '*It was great spending the day with such a lively, thoughtful and mature group of young people.*' The visit has certainly made our students start thinking seriously about their future options and it was pleasing to note that they no longer feel intimidated about choosing the University of Cambridge as their first choice.

Miss Sealy, Sixth Form
Administrator



Grammar Objective of the Week: They're, their or there...?

They're, their and there – are these the most devilishly confusing words in English? I've spent my teaching life grappling with students' misconceptions of these words: staring wide-eyed at incredible errors, feeling the nerves as I think somebody's about to get it right and holding my breath in anticipation as I sense – while reading – the approach of one of these little phrases. Since rectifying this misunderstanding is our grammar objective for this week (and will enable me to sleep more easily), I couldn't fight the urge to tell you some important rules. Just listen.

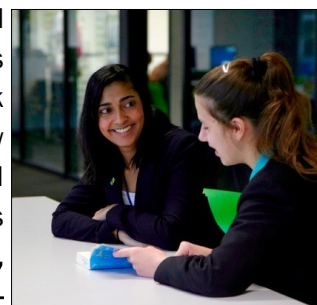
They're is a contraction (short version) of *they are*: "*They're* late today, aren't they?" In contrast, *there* signifies a place, as in "Go over *there*, please." And finally, *their* shows possession: "Where is *their* teacher?" (Of course, you would never normally begin a sentence with "And" – but I am taking a creative liberty here.)

As you can see, *there* is absolutely no need to be nervous about this: after all, *they're* just little words. So, please take great care in using them and make sure your classmates are equally precise in *their* writing too!

By Mr Harris, Assistant Senior Leader English

Message from the Principal, Ms Bora

Welcome back to Term 4! All parents of Year 11 students should have collected mock examination results by now and Years 7 - 10 are involved with important exams. Let's see if their holiday **reading, revising and practising questions** pays off! Yet again, we have been listening to parents and have reviewed our behaviour policy as a result of your comments. We will be **updating Behaviour Policy Appendix B on the website** and students will be informed of the new changes during tutor time and whole school assembly in the meantime.



The Tale of Rugby

The Sixth Form vs. teachers 'Challenge Cup' continues...

The challenge cup was drawn: one all.

The teachers won volleyball, the students won football.

The challenge was decided for the coming term three:

The gauntlet thrown down: touch rugby.

AJ and Sammy assembled a team,

The rabble was roused, their captains were keen.

The students assumed the result would be fixed

But sadly forgot the teams had to be mixed.

Let down by their ladies, the kids were disqualified;

They thought it was over but by mercy were mollified.

The teachers agreed to play out the game

But the moral victory was theirs all the same.

Nonetheless, Farmbrough still felt the need,

With pride on the line, the need to succeed.

The female teachers were the core of the wall:

Elias, Kibbler and Rice gave their all.

The students had pace and tried to run through

But the teachers were solid: their defence was true.

Ryan ran round in strange directions;

Chauhan's presence was sufficient protection.

The students' attacks brought them close to the line

But the impregnable teachers pushed them back every time.

Bonzie, confused, had to check all the rules,

Hamza, quite clumsy, had lots of falls.

The youths scored first but their lead was spring snow:

Nice when it's there but how quickly it goes!

Elias sacrificed her head for a try:

The teachers were even; the score was a tie.

Troupe fired forwards for an interception.

He scored and the students were left in dejection.

AJ surged forwards in a bid to get past

And the students scored again at last.

Ajayi subbed on with his shoulders and pace

But soon found his muscles were quite out of place.

To his credit, Garcia led with some class

But his team mates failed to supply him a pass.

Gothard turned over and passed it out wide

Where Metcalfe received and fainted inside.

He touched the ball down for try number three:

The teachers held on to seal victory.

Payne was tenacious in taking it forward,

Holmes was committed: defensively stalwart.

The students grew desperate: time had run out.

Mr Walker's whistle was met with a shout.

The score: 3 – 2. The teachers had won!

The challenge for term three was dusted and done.

"Two sports to one!" said the teachers with glee.

And now, for term four, the sport is hockey.

By Mr Payne, Teacher of English, Sixth Form Poet Laureate



What's on for parents

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 10.30 – 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

Year 7-10 mock exams - First two weeks of term 4

Progress Review Day - Friday 6th March - please arrange appointments with your child's personal tutors

Year 8 Parents' Evening - Thursday 25th March

Enrichment Day – Wednesday 1st April

End of term 4 - Thursday 2nd April

Free Spring Classes:

Classes available for 19+ Priority for Westminster residents and workers

Class	Dates	Time	Location
Zumba for Women	9 th , 16 th , 23 rd , 30 th March, 13 th , 20 th April	5pm - 6pm	Westminster Sports Academy
Motivation	10 th March	11am - 1pm	Stowe Centre
Self-Branding	14 th April	12.30pm - 2.30pm	Stowe Centre
Rights at Work	8 th April	11am - 1pm	Stowe Centre
CSCS Preparation	19 th March	12pm - 2pm	Stowe Centre
Mock Interview with M&S	12 th March	10.30am - 12pm	Stowe Centre
Learn how to: - Face Paint - Henna Paint	Easter Holidays	TBC TBC	TBC TBC
Introduction to: - IT Training - E-mail Training - Universal Job Match	15 th April 22 nd April 29 th April	TBC 1 hour 30 minute sessions	TO BE CONFIRMED
Intro to a career in: - Retail - Health & Social Care/ - Childcare - Self-Employment	24 th March TBC 13 th April	1pm-3pm TBC 1pm - 3pm	Stowe Centre Stowe Centre Stowe Centre

For more info, contact:

Gethn - gethn@pdt.org.uk or

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