

Grammar Objective of the Week: Silent letters

Silent letters are letters that can't be heard when the word is spoken. This makes words with silent letters particularly tricky to spell, but also fascinating when it comes to discovering their roots. There are silent letters in English because the way we pronounce words has changed over many hundreds of years. The silent letters show how the word used to be pronounced. For example, in medieval times people would sound out the letter 'k' in the word 'knock'.

There are numerous examples of words with silent letters: *ghost, write, know, listen, guess, calm* and *sign* are just a small sample. (Can you read through that list again and say to yourself which letter in each word is silent?) Sometimes we can forget to include letters if they can't be heard in words. One way to remember the spelling of these words is to stress the silent letter when saying the word to yourself. In fact, you can break up the word into different parts: in the word 'Wednesday' there is a silent 'd', but when saying it to yourself, you can say **Wed-nes-day** to remind yourself of the correct spelling. (Much of this advice comes from a *BBC Skillswise Factsheet* that I discovered online - it's always worth a simple Google search when checking your spelling!)

We have touched in this article on an area of study that I personally find fascinating: etymology. Etymology is the study of the origin of words and the way in which their meanings have changed throughout history. It's a field of study that I hope to return to in these articles, as a good understanding of a word's etymology really helps in learning how to spell.

By Mr Harris, Assistant Senior Leader - English

Active Citizenship: Year 7 fights for community library

A month ago, I went to hand out leaflets to invite people to the public consultation about the Kensal Rise Library development. It was lovely to see how many people knew about it and were so engaged. In fact, most of the people had already received a leaflet and put it by their front window.

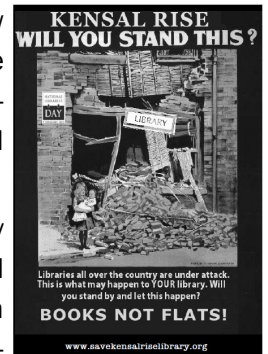
After a long battle to get the library back, they had successfully managed to get most of the ground floor, which was a great accomplishment. I wanted to volunteer again but unfortunately the leafleting was only for the consultation which has now taken place, however sometime next year there will be plenty of volunteering spaces as well as many other different opportunities!

If you don't know much about Kensal Rise Library; it was founded in 1900 by Mark Twain and has been a part of Kensal Rise's history for over 100 years! It has had many high-profile visitors such as Jacqueline Wilson, Alan Bennett and Zadie Smith.

Finally, if anyone is interested in volunteering with Kensal Rise Library, that would be great; even if you're not interested, you could still help by putting up one of the *Save Kensal Rise Library* posters by your front window to help us build a bigger and stronger campaign. You can print it off from www.savekensalriselibrary.org which should have a poster link along with lots of other information about the campaign.

I hope you will get involved, even if you don't live in Brent, Kensal Rise or Kensal Green!

By Tejah-Leah Henningham-Dezoysa, Year 7



Message from the Principal, Ms Bora

This week, as well as my usual message to promote **reading, revising and practising questions**, I would also like to remind parents of our five priorities for the year:

1. ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP including internships and volunteering
2. SYSTEMS including following WA10, our behaviour system
3. PERSONALISATION including making the best use of 1:1 time with tutors
4. PROGRESSION including the "4Rs" - Reading, Revision, Ranking and Realism
5. SPELLING, PUNCTUATION and GRAMMAR to improve reading, writing and speaking



Year 7 football report: WA 4-2 WC

On Wednesday 4 March the Year 7 football team came up against a big, strong Westminster City side at the rec. After yet another shaky start WA were down by 1-0. However, this did not phase WA as they hurred themselves back into the game by some exceptional forward play, masterminded by the front three to take it to 1-1. Westminster City were then gifted a goal by a mix up between the WA players on a goal kick and had their tails up at half time.



WA immediately bombarded the Westminster City defence after the break and were rewarded with a second goal to bring the game level to 2-2. WA did not stop here; after some patient football, the ball was rifled into the WC net again, taking the game to 3-2. There was no way back from here for WC as WA blitzed their defence yet again to score another, ending a cold Wednesday evening game in style. 4-2 to the WA boys! Good win boys!

Team: Saaim Ahmed (GK) Maykon Bortoletto (GK), Jahmai Desir-Oti, Levi Desir-Oti, Taha Abdirizak, Dion Malollari, Rumel Miah, Edward Sesay, Nosa Ogiemudia, Kevin Hyseni, Zacarias Khenachar, Edon Mustafi and Ismail Mimoune.

By Mr Troupe, Teacher of PE

Onesie Day raises over £1000 for young people

Last term, WA staff and students held a 'onesie / non-uniform day' for the James Ahern Foundation and raised a huge £1069.93. The money will go towards grants to help young people achieve their potential. Mr Connick said "A massive thank you from everyone involved with the James Ahern Foundation - it really will make such a huge difference!"



Can Westminster Academy produce the next Wimbledon champion??

For the remainder of the academic year, there will be several opportunities to participate in tennis. Lunchtime tennis activities are available every lunch time with the PE team. On Fridays, Westminster Academy has a specialist tennis coach in school to assist in the development of this fantastic sport! All students of any ability are welcome, so come along!

For further opportunities, every Tuesday at Paddington Recreation ground between 5 and 6pm, Westminster Sports Unit provides a FREE tennis coaching session. Tennis rackets will be provided, so all you need to do is turn up. If you're interested and have any further questions, please see Miss Denis in the PE department.



By Miss Denis, Teacher of PE, Year 7 Coordinator

What's on

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

IB exams begin - Monday 4 May

May Day Bank Holiday - Monday 4 May

Year 9 Parents' Evening - Wednesday 6 May

GCSE exams begin - Monday 11 May

Year 6 Induction Evening - Tuesday 19 May

E-safety advice for parents and carers

WA students live in a digital age; the internet is an incredible resource, but is always changing, so it can be a challenge to keep up with your child's use of technology. London Grid for Learning has produced an excellent leaflet with e-safety advice and guidance for parents/carers. The link can be found online on the E-safety page of our website here: <http://westminsteracademy.net/E-Safety.php>

