

Sixth Form discuss history with Mayor of London



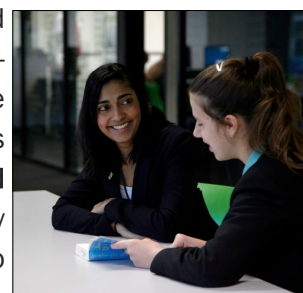
At the end of term 1, Sixth Form history students were invited to City Hall by the Mayor of London for a Black History Month event. The evening started off with a meet-and-greet session with Boris Johnson, at which Sebastian Nucinkis managed to get a handshake from our favourite mayor! We then moved on to the academic part of the evening, where we were treated to talks by two prominent historians on the contributions of black Britons to the war effort during the great war. All the students found both talks enlightening and engaging. At the follow up Q & A, Sebastian managed to again distinguish himself with a timely and purposeful question about contributions of minorities to the other side in the great war. Finally, the Year 12s did some mingling among students from other schools and academics, where Sebastian and the other Sixth Form students demonstrated natural and easy going networking skills and drew compliments from other attendees for contributions to the Q & A.

The students all enjoyed the trip and wanted to thank the school and Mr Johnson for providing them with such a rare opportunity.

By Mr Chartorizhsky, Head of History

Message from the Principal, Ms Bora

Yet again, I was incredibly proud to read the extended newsletter. I think the articles illustrate our priorities very clearly. As well as **reading, revising and practising questions** every night, we expect students to embrace the 7 character traits, follow systems, make the most of our personalised approaches, think carefully about their progression pathways and finally improve their literacy through accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar. I look forward to seeing you all at Progress Review Day.



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Rugby squad tackles second ever tournament

I took a brave team of Year 7 and 8 students along to WA's second ever rugby tournament organised by the RFU (English Rugby Football Union). We came up against Lampton Academy and played a hard fought end-to-end 50 minute match. Because rugby at WA is still in its infancy, we struggled to contain some of the opposition's more experienced players. However, we managed to score tries at an impressive rate with Dion (Year 7) and Kurt (Year 8) dotting down on a number of occasions. Meshary (Year 7), Amir (Year 8) and Yasir (Year 7) were powering forward and putting into practice all they had learnt during our regular Tuesday night practice sessions. Ms Elias and I were immensely proud of the entire team and the spirit they showed through the trip. There is another tournament which will take place in a few weeks' time and, with a few more training sessions, I am sure we will keep improving at this impressive rate! Many thanks to all who took part! **Remember Rugby is available EVERY Friday lunchtime and Tuesday P5. See me for more information.**



other tournament which will take place in a few weeks' time and, with a few more training sessions, I am sure we will keep improving at this impressive rate! Many thanks to all who took part! **Remember Rugby is available EVERY Friday lunchtime and Tuesday P5. See me for more information.**

By Mr Walker, Teacher of maths

A great excuse for a tea and cake break!

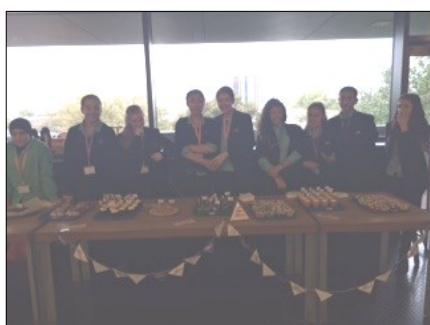
At the end of term, WA participated in the National Tea and Cake break for Epilepsy Action. This was a great success, raising £132.90. A massive thank you goes to all those who contributed their cakes and/or time, especially the following students: Amora Ahmed, Ayah Benkacem, Aya Seghrouchni, Victoria McGregor, Christi Mofidi, Taunita Sylejmani, Kareem Benkacem, Nada in Year 8, Fiona Hashani and Nekhena



Mullin, who brought in cakes or helped sell throughout break time.

Hopefully we will hold our next fundraising event in December!

By Ms Lopez, Student Welfare Officer



Caribbean catering proves delicious success

The catering event that took place at Maida Hill Place on 22nd of October was a success. This was part of a Caribbean pop up lunch, which was promoting the value of Caribbean food during Black History Month, with the support of Vital Regeneration and Grace Foods.

The event was led by a qualified chef, who has had 40 years of cooking experience and worked with famous chefs, such as Jamie Oliver. The professional chef, who goes by the name "Sam", helped students at Westminster Academy learn skills and gave inspirational advice that managed to get the students to work together as a team to create a three course meal.

One of the skills gained in the process was that of cutting techniques that worked best when applied to vegetables. We also learned how to present food on the plates; the chef quoted "people eat with their mouth, as well their eyes".

The catering was admired by the guests who were invited to eat free of charge; they commented not only on the food but the hospitality and outstanding behaviour of our team.

I would definitely like to be a part of something like this again but would like to be able to host it at a time and place so that more people can join in. I was really pleased with the results and would have liked more people to have had the opportunity to enjoy the experience we had created.

By Rhesa Lombe, Year 11



Year 7s present science magic at Imperial College

I went to Imperial College with my Year 7 class last



term. We visited to learn new things about science and to carry out exciting new experiments.

When we got there we were taken to

laboratories which had lots of science equipment in them. Our workspace was really organised with everything neatly placed and prepared for us. We learned that we can make light with just a plasma ball, light bulbs, 2 volunteers and a wire; it worked and was amazing! The volunteers had to hold the light bulbs, one of them had to put their hand on the plasma ball, the other one had to hold the wire and it worked perfectly.

Afterwards, we were shown more experiments. They gave us each a paper that explained an experiment which we had to show to some Imperial College students. I had to do an experiment with a balloon, pepper, salt and a plate. To do this experiment, the first thing to do is to mix the pepper and salt together on a plate, then inflate the balloon. Next, rub the balloon on a piece of negatively charged fabric or in your hair and put the balloon above the plate without it touching the positively charged plate. Finally the pepper will rise and stick to the balloon; only the pepper will be attracted to it because it is lighter. It seems impossible but it is possible!



The three things I most enjoyed were showing our experiment to the Imperial College students, the students judging our performance and I also enjoyed making a poster about our experiments. We stayed for 5-6 hours but the time passed

so, so quickly because it was a hoot. At the end of the day I thought it was good to learn at the Reach Out Lab because I feel we progressed. If you are ever given an opportunity to go to the Reach Out Lab at Imperial, don't think twice; it's fantastic.

By Mariam Mahdaoui, Year 7

WA students have been given these fabulous Reach Out Lab sessions at Imperial thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, the Dangoor family. Thank you!

WA Chair of Governors becomes Chair of MOSAIC!

The WA community is delighted to congratulate our very own Chair of Governors, Shabir Randeree CBE, on his appointment as Chair of Mosaic.

"It's a real privilege to have been asked by HRH Prince Charles to Chair MOSAIC."

MOSAIC very much depends upon its volunteers of young mentors from all walks of life.

I am particularly pleased that Westminster Academy is also a Mosaic partner and benefits from the positive impact of mentors coming to our school, serving as positive role models for many of our students.

MOSAIC was founded by HRH The Prince of Wales in 2007, with mentoring programmes aiming to create opportunities for young people. Mosaic's vision is for all young people to be supported to realise their potential and with the help of volunteer mentors acting as role models, we aim to bridge the aspirations - attainment gap. Mosaic currently operates in five regions of the UK : London, North West, South East, West Midlands and Yorkshire. In the academic year 2013/14, Mosaic directly supported **6,000 young people** in 200 schools and other UK institutions, supported by over **1100 mentor-volunteers.**

Shabir Randeree CBE

Chair of Governors, Westminster Academy

Chair of MOSAIC, Advisory Board

WA is looking forward to its continued partnership with MOSAIC this year. More details coming soon...



Debatemate 2014 is launched!

Last week, Mr Hogarth and I took 13 students to the Debate-mate Launch Event 2014 at The Emmanuel Centre in Westminster. After a stirring walk past the houses of parliament, the students were quickly riled up by pumping music and an impressive show debate from internationally renowned debaters. They were all keen to offer points of information to the motion which was "this house would name and shame bullies" and, although none of them were selected to contribute, they



continued their discussion on the journey home. Their behaviour was exemplary and we look forward to another excellent and excellently successful year of debating!

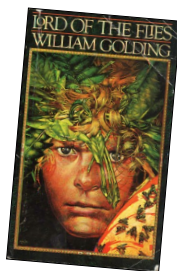
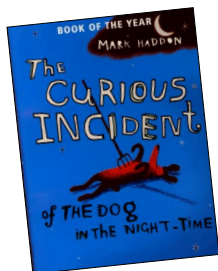
By Mr Payne, Teacher of English

Teaching and learning: an update from the English department

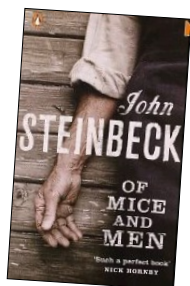
We have had a really exciting and innovative first term with the introduction of the new KS3 curriculum, which will help prepare pupils for the GCSE changes in 2015.

Year 7 have really enjoyed studying short stories from around the world, and have learnt a lot about a range of different cultures. Year 8 have developed an understanding of autism through their study of

'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time' - a book they found both thought-provoking and entertaining. In Year 9, students took on the role of a journalist when they wrote a newspaper report about the events in the novel 'The Lord of the Flies'.



Year 10 got off to a flying start writing two of their six Controlled Assessments with a focus on volunteer work, while Year 11 have got stuck into their first GCSE text, 'Of Mice and Men', demonstrating impressive levels of focus and enthusiasm.



The English department are proud of all the students who worked so hard last term and

we look forward to an excellent term 2!

By Ms King and Ms Dunn, English department

Students share culture for Black History Month



We were impressed to see such a wide variety of traditional dress and famous figures from black history as part of our Black History Month celebrations in October. The humanities department raised over £700 which will be used to bring in an inspirational speaker later this term.



WA Sixth Form crowned volleyball champions



We're happy to report that at the end of term 1, our Sixth Form volleyball team were crowned Westminster champions.

They beat Harris Westminster (who had an England Volleyball player, and a coach who had played in the premier league for seven years!) and WCS comfortably. Paddington turned up with a team of six hulking, basketball-playing boys (despite it being a mixed tournament) so were disqualified, but our team showed great spirit in agreeing to play them anyway, still with our full complement of three girls and three boys. They narrowly lost that game 15-13, but won a clear moral victory and took the tournament on points.

We are delighted to provide photographic evidence (right) that Ameer hit the ball during the tournament, albeit just the one time.



By Mr Farmbrough, Head of Sixth Form



Jeans for Genes Day
Changing the world for children with genetic disorders



Last term the fundraising efforts continued at WA with our participation in Jeans for Genes Day to raise money to provide care and support for young people affected by genetic disorders. WA staff and students raised just over £420 to contribute towards this hard-working charity. Thank you!

Grit, zest and 5am starts pay off in the pool

Congratulations to Elizabeth Alavidze, whose passion and commitment to swimming has earned her several awards at the Middlesex County Meet. Not only did Elizabeth win awards in the 200m backstroke, 100 free-style and 50m fly, but she also got 'speeding tickets' in the 100m individual medley, 200m freestyle, 50m free-style, 50m backstroke and 200m breaststroke. Speeding tickets are 'better than gold' as they represent a ticket to compete for the county at the gala.



Elizabeth has been swimming since she was 8 and competes for Hackney Aquatics. She trains **14 hours per week, 6 days per week** and on Tuesdays and Thursdays she trains both before and after school, getting up at **5am!** Despite the amount of time and energy that goes into her training, Elizabeth still managed to get **over 70 positives** in her first term at WA: pretty inspiring!

Elizabeth says "It would be impossible to leave swimming. I like racing – I like the fact that you can win medals; this inspires you to keep going." Now that Elizabeth has just turned 12, her next challenge is to get qualifying times in this new age group. Good luck!

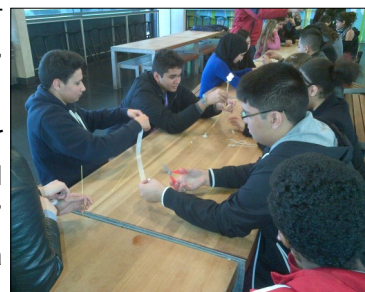
Year 12 tackle treasure hunt of wild winds, history of London and marshmallow towers

On Wednesday 22nd October we embarked on a journey of team work, team building and fun in London. The Year 12 Enrichment Day consisted of a treasure hunt into central London where we developed our teamwork, communication, organisation and leadership skills to solve riddles and puzzles. We were given maps and set loose from school into the world of big buildings and sharply-dressed people in suits (not entirely unlike WA!). Our challenge: 4 hours, 23 clues and 1 winner. We were placed into interesting mixes of new people, where we bonded with students from different programmes and classes, making new friends and having fun.

We began our quest as the wild winds of London battled with our hair, but we bravely created a team of master-minds designating a position to each member of our respective teams. We learned much about the history of the city we live in (but found comfort in some subways during lunch time!). Plagues, bridges and stores - our clues seemed randomly appropriate for the extraordinary history of kings, queens and knights. Having had a productive, yet somewhat tiring, day we walked back to the bus stop to see how many WA Sixth Formers can fit on a bus (32, apparently).

Arriving at WA we made our way to sky dining and battled the 'marshmallow challenge,' which consisted of building a tower out of just spaghetti, string and a yard of masking tape. A rush of adrenaline fought its way through our veins as we made prototypes to be sure the marshmallow was supported by our towering spires. After an agonising (yet educational!) 18 minutes, the towers and bridges were measured and the winners were announced. An enjoyable day was had by all.

By Rafah Mohammed, Year 12



Coming soon...



Sixth Form @ Westminster Academy Open Evening

Wednesday 26th November

Year 11s: From 3.30pm

External visitors: From 5pm

WA Sixth Form warmly invites you to meet our staff and students and find out more about studying the IBDP, IBCC and vocational courses at WA Sixth Form.

For more information, contact: Sixthformteam@westminsteracademy.biz



"IB students do better at university." - Higher Education Statistics Agency

Thank you, Sixth Formers!

Thank you to the wonderful active citizens in the Sixth Form who gave up time during their half term holidays to assist the Community Fun and Consultation Day at St Mary Magdalene Church and the Family Fun Day at Regent's Park Mosque. WA had great feedback on the helpfulness and professionalism of all student volunteers and your presence enabled the success of these events.



On Thursday 16th October 2014, a selection of Year 12 and Year 13 IB Visual Art Students met with Simon Franks, the founder and non-executive chairman of Redbus Group, co-founder of Lovefilm and board member of numerous businesses, to discuss the Frieze in its context and the big question – What is Art? Here are some of Year 12's responses...

"The Frieze Art Fair was the best art fair I have ever been to. I learnt a lot about art as a way of expression but also - thanks to Simon Franks - as a business.

Walking around the Frieze Fair and looking at different pieces, I noticed that artists nowadays are not afraid to express anything they wish to. I came to the realisation that there are no boundaries of self-expression as long as the artist intends to express his/her feelings or thoughts through a piece.

There were numerous pieces that I liked and engaged with but there were also pieces that I did not quite understand. Admiring them and appreciating their artistic techniques or aesthetics, I tried to reflect on what Simon Frank's curator told us. I took into consideration the way the pieces have been exposed and presented as well as how they portrayed a specific theme.

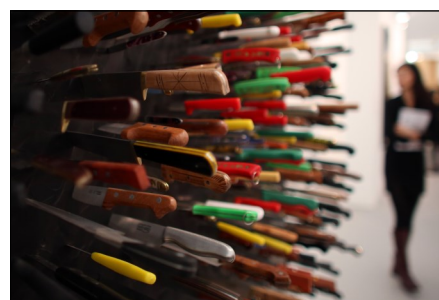
I was very pleased to meet Simon Franks, a philanthropist with a vast art collection that he sensitively invests in. He explained to us the differences between experiencing art in an art fair, in a business context, in comparison to art presented in a museum or a gallery. This helped me understand what curating is and how important it is as it really does affect the way we interpret it. Listening to Simon and responding to the question he asked - "What is Art?" - I reflected on my ability and understanding of art as a concept but also realised that I am entitled to an opinion. However, this does not mean I can criticise it if I do not understand it. I should always appreciate even though I cannot relate to it. Overall I strongly believe I expanded my knowledge but also challenged my comprehension of art as an artist myself. Everything I learnt about curating will further help me apply these skills in my future exhibitions. Finally I would like to thank Miss Coleman for this opportunity!

I enjoyed it so much that I decided to go see it again this weekend!"

Alexandra Yassin

"My view on today's trip to the Frieze Art Fair was absolutely brilliant because I saw amazing artwork from different artists who come from different backgrounds and cultures, which attracted me the most about this trip.

What really got my attention was how they curated all these pieces of artwork together to create such a strong feeling.



The Colored Knives on Black - Farhad Moshiri

One art piece that I was really interested and amazed by was by Farhad Moshiri: The Colored Knives on Black. This work attracted me because it left this really strong message of violence and anger as I was trying to interpret the work.

After we had a few minutes around the fair and looked for things that we can use for our own exhibition, we met this really great intelligent person called Simon Franks who showed us artwork that we had probably looked at and questioned why it was out in an art fair when it was not really art. After he ex-



plained, it completely changed my mind on some of the artwork; as one of my classmates said "maybe if the person intended it to be art, then it's art.."

Simon Franks said something really interesting: centuries ago people used to be employed to produce a piece of art so there was no expression of feeling or meaning to the artwork. Today Art is created for a very different purpose."

Rana Dawoud

Maths terminology made easy

Poor Barry gets a bit bamboozled by algebra. Thankfully, Year 7 are able to clear a few things up for him.

Westminster Academy

October 2014

Dear Barry,

'Terms' stand alone, for example $5n$ or $6c$. 'Expressions' are made of a collection of terms; you can write them like this: $2a+a=3a+1a-1a$ and they both calculate the same answer, that's why we use the equal signs. Here are some examples:

$$2b+5b+1b=3b+5b$$

$$2E+7E-1E=4E+4E$$

BIDMAS is very useful especially for algebraic questions. BIDMAS stands for Brackets, Indices, Division, Multiplication, Adding and Subtraction. It is important because if this wasn't a rule in maths, everybody would get different answers. If for example $(2+3)^2$, you will have to complete what's inside the brackets first according to the rules of BIDMAS. Division and multiplication are the same. So are adding and subtracting. This is how we write BIDMAS:



In algebra we use letters to represent an unknown number, for example:

The whole jar of sweets is represented by the letter (N)



If I was to take 5 sweets out of the jar it would look like this:



(N) equals the jar of sweets. I am taking away 5 of them. This is how it would look if you wrote it as an expression:

Amount of sweets in the jar $N-5$
I am taking away 5 of them.

The diagram is implying that (N) represents the amount of sweets in a jar, and that I am taking away five of the sweets. It also shows how you would write this as an expression.

If you saw an expression that looked like this $(a+a+a+a)$ you could simplify it to make it shorter. To do this you would take the amount of letters which in this case is (4 letters) and then you would place the (a) which represents (4) beside it. It then would look like this $(4a)$ which is a simplified version of $(a+a+a+a)$.



In conclusion, I think I have told you lots about algebra, and I hope you now have a clear understanding of it.

Best wishes,

Nadia and Masouma

By Nadia Jafferberg and Masouma Mohamed Nazar, Year 7

More sport!

Continued from the back page

Football Roundup

The Year 8 team started the Westminster League in fine form registering three wins from three, beating Westminster City, Pimlico and QK whilst playing excellent free flowing football and the goals being shared around the squad. A below par performance in their last game against PA resulted in a loss and leaves us needing to win the remaining games to retain the title we won in Year 7.

In the QPR league, both of our games have been cancelled due to the opposition being unable to play the game. This means we have a 100% win

record without having to kick a ball in anger yet!!

By Mr Howard, Teacher of PE



The Westminster Academy Year 11 football team have started their season well with two wins, two

draws and an unlucky loss. Stand out performances by Mjaltrim Selimi, Abdiaziz Ali Hayle and Mohammed Nasser have been a pleasure to watch. The boys are still in with a chance of their first Westminster League title if they win their last two matches. If you'd like to come down and cheer on the Year 11 boys, all fixtures kick off at 5pm on Monday evenings at Paddington Rec.

By Mr Trampnau, Teacher of PE

Term 2: what's on

FREE IT classes for parents

FREE Art classes for parents and community

FREE 'Parent Gym' for parents to support students to learn faster, do better and be happier

FREE Adult English classes - every Wednesday

To express interest in any of the above, please email Mr Gothard:

AGothard@westminsteracademy.biz

Progress Review Day - Thursday 13 Nov

Sixth Form Open Evening - Wednesday 26 Nov

Year 7 Parents' Evening - Wednesday 3 Dec

Year 13 Parents' Evening - Tuesday 9th Dec

Enrichment Day - Thursday 18th Dec



Sports News - Hold the Back Page!



Football

On Wednesday 15th October, Westminster Academy took a team of Year 9 students to the **WSU Girls Football Competition**. Westminster Academy was placed in a group with **Grey Coats, St George's and Queens College**.

Our first match against St George's saw many attacking chances, but unfortunately none clinical enough to score that all important goal. WA went on to draw the match 0-0. Credit must be handed to our defence which stood strong and did not allow the opposition to get through.

Our second match against Queens College, like our first match, saw many attacking chances. Frustration grew as we could not score that all clinical goal. WA went on to draw the second match 0-0.

Tired from the match against Queens College, our final group game saw us play Grey Coats, the reigning champions of the competition! Grey Coats started the game very quickly and through visible fatigue we let in our first goal. Subsequently WA went on to lose the game 3-0.

Even though we were disheartened by the loss, WA had done enough to qualify for play-off stages. We found ourselves playing against St Augustine's. The first half proved stale mate, with many chances for both teams. It was in the second half that we displayed immeasurable resilience and grit. WA went on the attack and with a sight on goal, Alla Rashid managed to find the back of the net: 1-0 WA!! With time ticking away and substitutions, WA managed to hang onto their victory and secure 4th place in the standing for the competition. Nine other teams were entered into the competition. The squad should be extremely proud of their efforts.

Squad members: Beatriz Benatti; Jannat Choudhary; Naomi Francis; Botinah Ibrahim; Aliyah Lassey; Genan Mirza; Hajrije Mustafi; Alla Rashid; Aya Suleiman; Ruzna Noukri

By Ms Denis, Teacher of Sport

Sport continues on page 7!

Rowing



On Friday 10th October, the WA rowing squads for Years 10-13 attended the annual UIRC (University Indoor Rowing Championship). The competition was very fierce, with hundreds of top quality indoor rowers from across London and the South East. All of our rowers put in a good showing across the events, but one participant stood out for special mention. Jack Manning had very little rowing experience before this competition, and actually claimed it was the first time he had sat on a rowing machine! He came in 3rd place overall in Year 10, winning a Bronze medal. The two rowers in Gold and Silver places actually belonged to specialist rowing academies, so this was a superb achievement. Well done to Jack and all the other members of the WA rowing squad.

Year 10 Squad: Pratik Jeantilal; Suweilem Rodriguez; Leon Lekiqi; Oliver Griffiths; Jack Manning; Kirubel Alayu; Murkabh Abdul-Hamid; Filmon Tekle.

Sixth Form Squad: Mohammed Abdul-Jalil; Ahmed Abbas; Hussein Salim; Kamil Mahmoud.

By Mr Compton, Head of PE and Healthy Schools



Badminton

On Friday 24th October, the WA boys badminton squads competed in the Westminster Championships. Both teams performed excellently on their way to winning their respective competitions. The KS3 team deserve special mention as they won every single game on their way to victory, Mohammed Nayem in imperious form as team captain. Both teams will now go through to compete in the Central London round of the competition, representing both the school and the borough of Westminster.

KS3 Squad: Mohammed Nayem; Omar El-Gtaibi; Ron Kavaja; Mohammed Osman Dahir; Hussein Hussain.

KS4 Squad: Bryan Eu; John Farinas; Safwan Rahman; Haseebullah Ahmadi; Fahim Ahmed.



By Mr Compton, Head of PE and Healthy Schools

