



*N*estminster **Academy**



Value of the week: Enterprise

Term 1 Extended Edition

11 September 2014



Eye-opening medical convention sparks curiosity at UCL



vention. the science search

ing place. I especially liked the presentation about research that happened on Mount Everest and learning note that students who do not attend detention will be about the similarities between people in intensive care excluded. Velcro, trainer-style shoes are not permitted. and people at high altitudes struggling for oxygen.

By Gentiana Hashani, Year 11

Message from the **Principal, Ms Bora**

I really en- What an amazing newsletter! The joyed attend- celebrations summarised here ing the UCL are truly exceptional and I look Hospital forward to continuing our track Medical Con- record into 2015. Our priorities It this year are: CHARACTER, SYSwas an eye- TEMS, PERSONALISATION, PRO-



opener to all GRESSION AND LITERACY. Students must continue to various read, revise and practise questions every night. Grit, self re- -control and curiosity are needed. I urge parents to tak- email in any queries or concerns about our systems; please study our behaviour policy on our website and As exams and career progression become tougher, I hope we can work together to ensure success for all.

Contents: Business and Enterprise - page 6; DofE - page 8; Expressive Arts - page 4, 7; Exam Results - 2, 3; Higher Education - pages 1, 5, 6; Internships / Work Experience - pages6; Media - page 7; Open Days - page 7; Opportunity - 1, 4, 5, 6, 7; Parent information pages 9, 10; PE - page 7; Prom - 5; Science - pages 1, 5; Sixth Form - pages 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.

41% A*-A at WA Sixth Form



Westminster Academy Sixth Form have a lot to celebrate, given that, at 41%, the percentage of A*-A grades equivalence was the highest of all state schools in the borough. Results included the best ever IBDP result at WA; Kevin De Wit's score of 39 points - a score which only 6% of IBDP students in the world can better.

Excellent IBCC and BTEC results also contributed to the Sixth Form's strong performance. Congratulations to Hanan Noor and Dounia Rashid (pictured), who are now looking forward to starting their degrees at the University of Birkbeck. Hanan will be studying Biomedicine, whilst Dounia will be taking up Politics and German.

Good luck!

GCSE Results 2014 in pictures



Nayef Salaam: "It's a big relief and means I am on track to study medicine. I'm looking forward to celebrating!"



Kelly Matos: "I'm really proud that all the hard work paid off."

Ibrahim Bedier: "I'm very happy. Thank you to all the teachers who helped me."



Yutao Kuang: "The teachers here are very good - I only came here a year ago and still got good grades."













GCSE results mark continued academic excellence at WA





Liiban Cabulle: "I thought I'd do badly but I'm really happy. I'm going to keep revising hard!"



At the end of the holidays, a summer of nerves and anticipation for Year 11s was brought to a close with happiness and relief as Westminster Academy students received their GCSE results. The Academy is delighted to see results demonstrating continued strength in core subjects as well as students' talents across a range of subjects, resulting in 70% achieving the benchmark A*-C grades including English and maths. Furthermore, several students tasted exam success early, with 18 Year 10 students achieving A and A* grades in their GCSE core and additional science examinations.

An exceptional number of students received outstanding individual results, including top achiever, Momoko Kawase Kennedy, who achieved 10 A* and 1 A. Momoko was enjoying a holiday at Tokyo Disneyland this summer, so tasked her father with collecting her results. Mr Kennedy said "I'm thrilled at these results and incredibly proud of our daughter - who achieved these grades in one year after an unexpected change in her previous school system. This fantastic outcome is a reward for her hard work and a reflection of the superb teaching environment offered by Westminster Academy."

Rawad Hamade achieved 4 A* and 6 As and is looking forward to going into dentistry in the future. He said "The nerves get to you so when you finally get there you feel a really big sense of relief." Fellow student, Fjolla Ramadani was overwhelmed to achieve 4 A*, 5 As and 1 B. She said "After getting my results, I am looking forward to studying the IBDP even more." The strength of this year's results has earned many other students places on the rigorous International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) offered by the Sixth Form at Westminster Academy, a qualification which continues to establish itself among universities as the preferred route to better prepare students for higher education. Ali Fatahipoor is also taking up the IBDP this year and beforehand looked forward to celebrating his grades, saying "There will probably be a big smile on my face for the rest of the year!"

Ms Bora congratulated students on their success; "I am proud that the hard work of these students throughout their time at Westminster Academy has now rewarded them with exceptional grades and experiences that can be added to their already exciting CVs, enabling them to compete with their peers nationally and globally. Their success is shared with a dedicated staff body and would not have been achievable without the fantastic level of support we receive from parents, sponsors and governors and the many community and business partners working with Westminster Academy."

'Mind-boggling' performance art at the Serpentine Gallery



Year 10 sum up their Marina Abramovic experience

"It was quite awkward at first, not knowing what the people were doing, but when we saw people participating we had fun."

Munawar Khamdun

"Strange."
Yassir Al Mhana

"It was a strange and mindboggling experience but it was all in the name of art. That's not always a good thing..."

Ridwana Khanom

"Walking slowly with my headphones, standing in the middle without anything else; it was strange at first, since I've never experienced this kind of art before. Now I understand it though and I think it's unique and interesting."

Irene Nabila Prasetyo

"It was weird but interesting at the same time! It makes the viewer think about how life can control you and vice-versa."

Amanda De Mayrinck Malvazzo

"The experience was completely different to what we'd normally do. It was also a different atmosphere."

Sarah El-Haj

"Awkwardly Amazing!"

Aureta Jashari and Sarra Kennou

It was an experience like no other. Marina Abramovic played with our minds and hypnotised us."

Nabil Allaoui

On Wednesday 9th July the Year 12 Art students had an opportunity to visit the Serpentine gallery to attend a performance art show called "512 Hours" by Marina Abramovic. Marina is a Serbian born artist who is based in New York. She has been in the performance art industry for 30 years, and has a well earned reputation as the "grandmother of performance art" .

Before the visit to the 'exhibition' the Year 12 students had a very vague idea of what exactly performance art is, and we were not quite sure what it would involve. As soon as we got there we were welcomed by Emily, who told us a little bit about what our day involved. She mentioned that we would be inside the gallery for an hour, that no phones were allowed, no watches, or any other objects that could distract you from the experience. One strict rule for this performance was that everyone had to be extremely quiet in order to keep the energies flowing.

Once we walked into the room we could sense a whole different world completely isolated from the outside. All the walls were white and - having visited the serpentine before - felt really odd. Marina's assistants and herself were all dressed in black and white, and were dragging people slowly to get involved with the activities. There was a podium for meditation and 16 chairs around that podium with noise cancelling headphones. There were two other rooms, one with a few tables that had rice and grain on them and the other was an empty room with people walking at an extremely slow pace.

Everyone there was instantly confused; it felt very uncomfortable at the beginning. But once we started getting involved we quickly understood the idea behind the performance. We weren't an audience, or observers, we were the act itself. It was our performance, and we had full control of ourselves as long as we followed a set of rules.

Although it felt weird it was very liberating; we took part in something we had never done before. The activities helped me personally to clear my mind from all the overflowing ideas and feelings, narrowing it down to the most important things in my life. Everyone agreed that the activities brought back memories, and also made them think about their futures.

After that we went on to a workshop with performing artist Jenny, who taught us many things about the art, and allowed us to do different activities in order to understand the performance in the gallery even more. Everyone came out of their comfort zones, and we had to disrupt the norm in different places. First we went to

the doughnut shaped café where we hummed a tune and stamped on the floor, then we had a meditation performance at the entrance of the gallery where we had a member of the audience participate.

This really helped us to understand our next art project which is titled "endurance" and to start thinking ahead of things to complete during the summer break.

A big thanks to Miss. Coleman on behalf of the Year 12 art group, as we all enjoyed the day.

By Joanna Charafeddine-Akar, Year 13



'Humbling and illuminating': Malala at the Royal Society of Medicine



In Term 6, selected to pursue careers in medicine were privileged to be offered spaces at the Malala Yousafzia talk at the Royal Society

Medicine. When Malala was 15 years old, the Taliban stormed her school bus in Pakistan. They shot her in the head in an attempt to silence her and end her campaign for girls' rights to go to school. Malala's Q&A session and tribute to the doctors who saved her life was exceptionally well received by the RSM members and WA students who formed the audience. Mohammed Muhibur Rahman said; "I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to attend the interview with Malala at the Royal Society of Medicine. It was an exciting opportunity for me to see how Malala responded to the difficulties she faced. It was inspiring to see that she challenged her situation rather than allowing them to challenge her; that was quite stimulating." Marwa Benawi added; "I really liked the event because Malala is a very inspirational person to me and I always wanted to see one of her talks live." Summed up by Amina Moussa; "It was an amazing opportunity to hear from a pioneer in the world of education. A true inspiration to the current generation."

At the end of the event, Year 13 student, Sarah Al-Saad,

was given the daunting task of giving the vote of thanks. Sarah did us proud: what follows is a section of her moving contribution:



Vote of Thanks, by Sarah Al-Saad, Year 13

WA students wishing Thank you very much, Malala and Sir Michael, for giving us this invaluable opportunity to be able to understand the story of such an inspiring individual... I can proudly say that I have participated in a remarkable event honouring an exceptional individual, and those who helped save her life.

> As a student from a state school in London, seeing and understanding the grit and fortitude of someone like Malala has been very much a wake-up call. I can honestly say that now, I fully appreciate and am endlessly grateful for being blessed with the privilege of education. I can honestly say that it is something priceless, something people are willing to stand up for, something people are willing to fight for, and something that I should be making the very most of. It may not seem that way at one in the morning, when I'm up to my eyeballs in algebra, surrounded by coffee and incessant sheets of paper, and I can't say I'm averse to complaining quite a bit about schoolwork. However, what I am averse to is being ungrateful, and today, everything that I have to be grateful for has been highlighted. I'm expected to go to school; Malala has risked her life to allow others this luxury. I'm encouraged to stand up for what I believe in; Malala has been targeted for it. I'm a teenage girl studying the International Baccalaureate; Malala is a teenage girl who faced up to the Taliban and won. If I take anything away with me from today, it is that I should take nothing for granted. It was a humbling and illuminating experience, and it's really put things in perspective for me!

> This experience was made possible for WA students as a result of the generosity of our sponsors, the Dangoor family. Thank you.

Smiles and style at the Year 11 Prom



After five years at WA and an intense final year of revision and exams, Year 11 thoroughly deserved to let their hair down. Organised by an exceptional prom committee of stu-

dents, with the support of Mr Rahman, Ms Gold and Ms Dennis, it was great to see students celebrate their achievements and bright futures. We're glad to be keeping in touch with so many students through our alumni with Future First and look forward to seeing the group back together for their graduation later in the year!

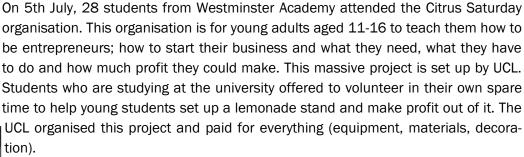






Full of zest: Citrus Saturday







This project ran over three Saturdays. The first two Saturdays, the students planned what they needed, the amount of things they needed and the place they were going to position their lemonade stand. On the day these students had to set up their lemonade stand, design it to make the product stand out to everyone and use their

good communication skills to persuade people to buy the lemonade at the price at which they had set it.

By Miriam Saade, Year 10

Future designs with UCL's Bartlett School of Architecture

At the end of Year 11, Miss Coleman asked me how passionate I was about Architecture and if I wanted to do a year long programme with UCL's Accelerate to University by Open City. The first session was an introduction to everything and anything, creating connections with others with similar aspirations. A former WA student, Arta and I were assigned mentors from an architect firm called David Millers Architects. Our aim was to take three activities that we enjoyed or we did on a regular basis (for me it was gym, music and sleeping) and develop one into an artistic and architectural piece of work.

Over the course of seven weeks, I met up with my mentors weekly to get an understanding of what I wanted to do. Eventually I decided to focus on the gym and my favourite things to do there. My mentors helped me to develop my idea, gave me the space and support to refine skills I had already begun to develop dur-



ing my Art lessons and learn new skills based in Architecture that I have been able to introduce back into my Art projects.

We got various opportunities to visit

places during this programme such as landmarks like the Gherkin, working with university students at the Bartlett School of Architecture at UCL and being invited to an evening party/exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts.

This experience has helped me see everything in a way I never have before. At the end of it all I completed my project on how I feel during exercise and created a model to represent it. To conclude, I really enjoyed the programme and I thank Miss Coleman for the amazing opportunity.

A dream come true: work experience with the police



My name is Sohaila Ismail. I am a student at Westminster Academy, in Year 11. It was my wish to join the police, and when Ms Bora found out my dream, she

phoned the Academy policeman, who immediately started to talk to me about when I was going to start, helping to organise a five-day work experience placement. Now I am **very** happy because it was my life dream to join the police!

I got to go in a helicopter and the police boat. I also got on a horse and visited the police station!

I truly thank Ms Bora and all of the teachers of Westminster Academy, because they all work very hard to teach me and they always help me.

I also truly thank PC Jon Marsden, who ran the week of work experience.

By Sohaila Ismail, Year 11



Academy Games 2014

In true WA tradition, this summer's Academy Games was no less than spectacular. Over the course of 3hours, 4 year groups competed in 19 sports. There was only a 40 point difference between 1st and 3rd place and a total of **1750** points were accumulated. These were the scores:







Congratulations to all students who got involved in the fun, particularly those who tried something new!











WA Open Days 2014









'Education is Success'

- TES Secondary School of the Year 2013
- Winner of the Deputy Prime Minister's Pupil Premium Award 2013
- Winner of the IAA Honorary President's Award for Academy Transformation 2013
- Only Westminster secondary school to be given a Gold Club Award by the Mayor of London in 2013

Westminster Academy Open Days 2014

Westminster Academy warmly welcomes prospective Year 6 students and their families to meet our students and Principal and to tour our award-winning Academy. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Open Evening: Thursday 2 October 5-7pm

Open Mornings 9.30-10.30am:

Monday 22 September

Friday 26 September

Tuesday 7 October

Thursday 9 October

Westminster Academy The Naim Dangoor Centre

255 Harrow Road London W2 5EZ T: 020 7121 0600

E: admin@westminsteracademy.biz

w.westminsteracademy.biz



Media students try Sky TV careers scheme



The Year 12 BTEC students had a chance to trial a new careers scheme which is being launched by Sky TV for the new academic year. This is run between Sky

and the national schools partnership and aims to introduce students to the wide range of careers which exist within the media and the expectations of these jobs.

The students worked on a number of projects including planning the viewing schedule for Sky One, hosting a current affairs show (including calculating the budget for this) and working out how to put together a piece for the Sky Sports. The students gave detailed feedback to both Sky and the national schools partnerships on which elements they enjoyed and how they felt the course could be developed. The hosts were really impressed with the feedback they gave and took plenty of notes. As a result of this we have been invited back for when the course is up and running formally to be some of the first students to participate in the full version next year.

By Mr Rahman, Curriculum Coordinator Media

Celebration of summer at the Expressive Arts Show

Expressive Arts students provided a fabulous evening of entertainment at the end of the summer term, showcasing their talents in art, drama, dance, music and graphics. Here are some of the highlights, with photography by Ameer Malik, Year 13, and his Sixth Form assistants.











Sixth Form go for gold in the Peak District

wrong!



Group Two Eating breakfast while watching the sunrise at 6am, Day Three

a lot steeper. And there was no path up it.

town of Greenfield. The first day was relatively gentle, walking through forests and a beautiful hillside covered A big thank you has to go to the staff who came with us We got into camp at about 8pm, fairly tired. The teachers peak, and proved that they did, after all, know what they gleefully informed us that that was a gentle warm up were talking about! day.

The second day was a lot tougher. We had to cover fish and chips at the 25km, with around 700m ascent. It was blazingly hot, so finish! we set out from camp at 8:30am to try and beat the heat Overall, the whole for the climb in the morning. We were walking across expedition was withopen moorland for most of the day, which was complete- out a doubt the best ly exposed - there were no trees and no shade, so man- four days of my lifeaging our water became increasingly difficult. As there time, and I'm sure Looking back over the ascent to Kinder Scout were no roads or buildings either, we couldn't refill at all that's the case for on Day Three during the day. We camped overnight in a field - no luxu- the other students! It was a huge physical and mental a fantastic feeling.

At this point we had already covered the distance of a the Assessed Expedition! Silver Expedition in two days - so we were exhausted. By Tyef Rahman, Year 13

While everyone else was enjoying the start of the sum- We had struggled in the heat the previous day, so we mer holidays, 14 Sixth Formers headed up to the Peak woke up at 5:00 and were out of the camp by 06:30. District for our Gold DofE Practice Expedition. This was This did mean we caught a stunning sunrise, and it the first time the school has run a Gold expedition, so we made the climb easier too. We'd been going up for about didn't really know what to expect. Some of us thought it two hours when Mr Farmbrough appeared to inform us would be like Silver with an extra day. We were very the path had collapsed ahead, and that we'd have to do a "spot of climbing". This turned out to be 30 minutes of clambering up a steep slope on our hands and knees. and was probably the hardest bit of the expedition, but the summit was worth it. We were on Kinder Scout, often described as "the bleakest place in England". We felt really exposed, as we were miles and miles from any real civilization, but the views were amazing- being at the highest point in the Peak District we could see stunning hills and valleys for miles in all directions. We spent most of the day circling round the moor, and by the time we descended into Edale for the night, we were absolutely knackered. Some food, a shower, and the birthday cake Sophie had somehow smuggled along for Corina, helped though!

The first hint we had was when Mr Farmbrough pointed The final day was a bit gentler. The navigation was a lot out what he called a "small hill" from the train window. It harder as we stayed down in the valley and had to run was four times higher than the biggest hill on Silver. And around finding lots of landmarks, but we eventually finished, 75km away from our start point. We all slept pret-Despite this, we started in good spirits in the historic ty well on the train back down to London, and I think when I got home I had the best night's sleep of my life!

in wild heather. I only fell off the path five times, so it - Mr Puffett, Ms Langdon-Davies, Mr Chadwick and our was a good day. After walking uphill for about three group leader, Mr Farmbrough. They walked at least as hours we reached a stunning lake which we stopped by. far as we did to get to the checkpoints on top of each

And they brought us

ry campsites for us! But waking up in the wilderness was challenge, which pushed our friendships and endurance to the limits, but all of which led to an incredible sense of The third day was the toughest, but the most rewarding. satisfaction, which we will forever remember. Bring on

Dear parents and carers...



Welcome to all our new students and their families! The WA newsletter is distributed to students during Tutor Touch Base every Thursday and contains important in-

formation for parents and carers. If your child does not bring home a newsletter, please contact Miss Pitt: SPitt@WestminsterAcademy.biz

You can also find an archive of newsletters on the Westminster Academy website news pages:

http://westminsteracademy.net/WA-News.php

Don't forget to check the weekly newsletter for opportunities for parents and the community, such as the free classes below!





Free IT Lessons for Parents

Sessions will include:

- WA Portal: parent portal training
- Emails, web safety, parental security
- Introduction to Microsoft Office Suite
- Excel: formulas, graphs, charts and more
- PowerPoint: slides, transitions, animations and more
- Word: mail merge, labels, tables, graphs and more
- Outlook: configuring emails, calendars and more

To register, or for more information, contact Alan Gothard:

Email: AGothard@WestminsterAcademy.biz

Phone: 0207 121 0600 ext: 3009



Adult English classes at Westminster Academy

Gothard: 020 7121 0600



Join us **every Wednesday 1pm-3pm**For more information, contact Alan

agothard@westminsteracademy.biz

Limited spaces left!!



Parents: What's on in the community

Health and wellbeing news from North Westminster Community network

Westminster Health Trainers - The Westminster Health Trainer service is funded by Public Health and run by the Rain Trust and Living Well to provide support to Westminster residents with concerns about mental health, alcohol, drugs, poor diet, inactivity and emotional wellbeing to guide, motivate and empower them to change their behaviour and achieve a healthier lifestyle. For more details, visit westminsterhealthtrainers.com

Patient.co.uk - Patient.co.uk is a useful resource for both health professionals and patients. The site contains over 4000 health information leaflets, a wellbeing centre, a free health check and thousands of discussion forums.

Free Health Events

Event	Date & time	Library
Health Trainer checks	Tuesday & Wednesday	Church Street NW8 8EU
	Thursday all day	Charing Cross WC2H 0HF
	Friday all day	Paddington W2 5DU
Stop smoking stall Kick it!	Thursday, 12.00 noon to 2.00pm	Paddington W2 5DU
	Monday, 2.00pm – 4.00pm from 1 st September	Queens Park W10 4NE
Stop smoking stall Kick it!	Monday, 11.00am – 2.00pm Thursday, 3.30 – 7.30pm	Hammersmith W6 7AT
WCC Wellbeing service Open Access health information	Last three Thursdays of the month	Paddington W2 5DU Victoria
	First Thursday of the month	SW1V 9UD

Exploring Self Employment - A workshop for women

Portobello Business Centre is running a series of introductory workshops and training courses over the coming 12 months for women who are considering or want to find out more about self-employment.

One-day workshops 9.30-2.30:

Friday 5th December

Friday 27th March

Visit http://womensworkshop9sept.eventbrite.co.uk call 020 7460 5050 or email info@pbc.co.uk

Key dates for parents / carers at Westminster Academy

The Academy's key 2014-2015 dates for you to add to your diaries are on page 10. We look forward to seeing you at all Progress Review Days and your A child's Parents' Evening.



Westminster Academy Key Dates 2014-2015



Term	Term	Term	Term	Term	Term
6	5	4	3	2	1
Monday 1 June — Tuesday 21 July Staff INSET: 1 and 2 June	Monday 20 April – Friday 22 May Staff INSET: 20 and 21 April Public Holiday: Monday 4 May Half-term break: 25 May – 29 May	Monday 23 February – Thursday 02 April Staff INSET: 23 and 24 February Easter break: 3 April – 17 April	Monday 5 January— Friday 13 February Staff INSET: 5 and 6 January Half-term break: 16 February — 20 February	Monday 3 November – Friday 19 December Staff INSET: 3 and 4 November Christmas break: 22 December – 02 January	

Parents' Evenings

Wednesday 8 July	Wednesday 24 June	Wednesday 6 May	Wednesday 25 March	Thursday 29 January	Tuesday 9 December	Wednesday 3 December	Wednesday 8 October	Wednesday 24 September
Year 8 Parents' Evening	Year 12 Parents' Evening	Year 9 Parents' Evening	Year 8 Parents' Evening	Year 10 Parents' Evening	Year 13 Parents' Evening	Year 7 Parents' Evening	Year 12 Parents' Evening	Year 11 Parents' Evening

Events

Friday 5 – Sunday 7 September	Sixth Form Residential
Monday 22 September	Year 6 Open Morning
Friday 26 September	Year 6 Open Morning
Thursday 2 October	Year 6 Open Evening
Tuesday 7 October	Year 6 Open Morning
Thursday 9 October	Year 6 Open Morning
Wednesday 15 October	Year 6 Open Morning
Wednesday 26 November	Sixth Form Open
	Evening
Monday 19 – Friday 23	Science Residential
January	(Sixth Form)
Friday 26 June	Year 6 Induction Day
Tuesday 21 July	Sports Day

Exams

Wednesday 1 October	WA deadline for
	completion of UCAS
	applications(Oxbridge,
	medicine, dentistry and
	veterinary medicine
Wednesday 15 October	UCAS application
	deadline (Oxbridge,
	medicine, dentistry and
	veterinary medicine)
Wednesday 3 December	WA deadline for
	completion of UCAS
	applications
Thursday 15 January	UCAS application
	deadline
Monday 4 May	IB exams begin
Wednesday 6 May	UCAS deadline for
	replying to offers
Monday 11 May	GCSE exams begin
Friday 22 May	IB exams end
Wednesday 24 June	GCSE exams end
Monday 6 July	IB results day
Thursday 13 August	A Level results day
Thursday 20 August	GCSE results day













