

Kings College sets bar high for IB research

On 25th November 2014, our Year 12 IB Diploma students were treated to an excellent Research Skills presentation by Vimal Shah of Kings College London Libraries.

The presentation was thought-provoking and got students critically thinking about the research process. Vimal Shah introduced sites with academic credibility, which should empower our students to research and reference their work with confidence. The information presented to them should enable all our students to take research for their Internal Assessments/Extended Essays to a new level. Mr Butler and I also gained a lot from this too! It was encouraging to learn that there are many free, high quality resources out there, which can help our students move beyond searching on Google and Wikipedia.

We were extremely grateful to have Kings College come to WA and present to us.

As a follow-up to the Research presentation, Mr Butler and I accompanied the Year 12 IBDP students for a visit to Kings College Maughan Library for Enrichment day on 18th December 2014.

We received a warm welcome, had a tour of the building and were shown how to use the library catalogue. Staff were very surprised at how quickly the WA students learnt to use the catalogue and even said they picked it up faster than some of the Kings College students! During the tour, our students were made aware of some of the historical facts about the Maughan Library. They found out that it is a listed building, formerly a Public Records Office and featured in the Harry Potter films. After the tour, students were given the opportunity to conduct their own independent research. They enjoyed having access to such wonderful facilities/resources and felt privileged to have their own dedicated study space. The information they gathered will help them enormously with their Extended Essays.

After this experience, our students were extremely impressed and many of them would like to apply to Kings College London next year.

Miss Sealy, Sixth Form Administrator



'Comedy and adventure' for English students at pantomime

On 17th December, we went to the theatre to watch the play 'Dick Whittington and his Cat'. We left the Academy at 12.30pm, not knowing that an amazing experience was awaiting us...



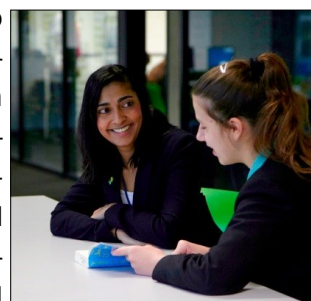
As we travelled by train from Royal Oak to Hammer-smith on the Circle Line, we tried to make predictions about what was going to happen. However, none of our predictions matched how awesome the play was. It was a mixture of comedy and adventure, which made it even better. Furthermore, I am sure that every single person who went on this trip enjoyed it and would want to go at least once again.

On behalf of everyone, I would like to thank all the teachers who took us to what was even better than Wonderland; I hope they had a fabulous time.

By Maram Al-Dandal, Year 7

Message from the Principal, Ms Bora

This week, I would like to thank parents who have given me individual feedback on improving some of our systems at the Academy. A reminder that Parent Council meetings are regularly advertised; you will have additional



opportunities to make suggestions for improvements here. Of course, I am always delighted to hear that every parent always agrees with me on the importance of **reading, revising and practising questions!** Year 11 Mock Results Day is next Thursday and holiday homework for Years 7–10 is to prepare for their mock examinations after the February break.

Opportunity: become a Volunteer Police Cadet!

Are you aged between 13 and 18 years of age? Would you like to join the Westminster Voluntary Police Cadets? Cadets will be coming to North Westminster in March, every Tuesday evening at Quinten Kynaston School.

If you're up for a challenge, find out how the VPC can offer you a world of adventure and new opportunities. Volunteer Police Cadets offers an inspiring and challenging environment in which you can make new friends, work as part of a team, get involved in exciting activities, gain valuable knowledge and skills and ultimately enjoy yourself!

What activities do Cadets undertake?

The Cadet Unit meets regularly and takes part in many activities, including visits to Police Units / establishments, listening to speakers on a range of specialist subjects, annual sporting competitions with other VPC Units and youth groups, outward-bound activities (including Duke of Edinburgh), and camps. Cadets can also take part in non-confrontational policing, community events



and local crime reduction initiatives.

What's in it for you?

As well as weekend camping trips, visits and completing outward bound courses, Ca-

detts also have the opportunity to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, and those who are already taking part in DofE at WA can use the experience for the volunteering section of their award. Cadets will also provide you with excellent experience you can include on your CV and job applications.

To show your interest in joining the Cadets or to find out more, please speak to PC Sinclair at Westminster Academy or alternatively speak to a member of staff who will pass your details on.

Small changes, big differences.



Day time Arabic Parenting Group for Parents with Teenagers

Contact
Simon Mayo
0207 641 4185
smayo@westminster.gov.uk

/
Mona Deyab
07957184601

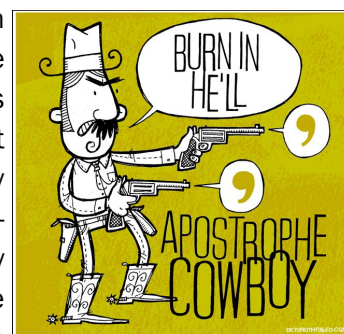
/
Westminster Academy
Parent Council
parentcouncil@westminsteracademy.biz

Understanding teenagers and why they behave as they do! - The best way to develop your children - Looking at positive goals for change - How to deal with teenage emotions - How to get teenagers to problem solve and to take more responsibility - How to manage behaviour - How to deal with risky situations and behaviour - Implementing parent routines and strategies

Certificated Course at WA

Grammar Objective of the Week: apostrophes

Many people are uncertain about how and when to use apostrophes. The difficulty is worsened by the fact that apostrophes used incorrectly can be seen everywhere. Indeed, it would be fair to say that the inaccurate use of the apostrophe is ubiquitous in the UK (*ubiquitous* means 'everywhere' and is a sophisticated word that some Year 11 pupils have been using in their writing).



This week, students at WA will be practising using apostrophes to shorten words. For example, when we write "don't" the apostrophe shows that the "o" of "not" is missing. Another example would be "could've". Here the apostrophe shows that the letters "ha" from "have" are missing. This factsheet from the BBC provides the best explanation I can find of this use of apostrophes: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/factsheet/en29punc-l1-f-apostrophes>.

One of the most common mistakes in this area of grammar is in the use of "it's" and "its". When we write "it's" the apostrophe shows that the letter "i" is missing: this is the shortened form of "it is". Therefore, it is true to say that *it's always* means "it is". On the other hand, when we write "its" - as in "the USA reduced the size of *its* navy" - we are showing ownership (the navy in this sentence belongs to the USA). In short, then, there's no need to be alarmed by apostrophes. They might be tricky to use accurately, but with practice you'll soon be confident!

By Mr Harris, Assistant Senior Leader KS4 English

What's on for parents

FREE IT classes for parents Thursdays 4 - 6pm

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

Year 11 Mock Results Evening - Thursday 12th February
History Day - Friday 13th February (End of Term 3)