

Lebanese artist and curator poses questions of culture and identity

On Thursday October 22nd, Aya Haidar, a professional artist and curator took part in a Q&A session with Year 12 and Year 13 IB Visual Art Students.

She discussed how her culture has greatly influenced her art practice and what it is like to be a successful artist and curator.

Here are a couple of Year 12 students' responses to the conversation they had with Aya Haidar...



Aya Haidar

I learnt a lot from Aya Haidar. I learnt that art is the way you look at it, not just about another person's opinion, for example when she told us about how her two curator friends could not understand the theme she had chosen for her show - 'Archive' - but she persevered and was really pleased with the results. She kept true to herself and I admire this. I think that the Aya Haidar talk was great and I think that her work must be great because it represents her. I look forward to exploring Aya's work with Miss Coleman next term.

Salim Salim

Aya's work is about identity and culture. Aya was raised in London but her parents are from Lebanon.

Aya mentioned how people ask the question 'where do you come from?'

Aya: 'I'm from London.'

Random People: 'No, where are you really from?'

Even though she does not have a Lebanese passport nor has she ever lived in Lebanon, she feels Lebanese and therefore she is. It is her culture, her community, the food she eats and the music she listens to that enables her to make this decision. It is who she is. She never thought about this issue but the word 'really' made her think and question herself: 'where do I really come from?' In the end she said 'it doesn't matter where you come from, it is all about how you identify with yourself, it is about how you feel about where you come from, not how other people feel.' I come from Malaysia; I was born in Malaysia and raised in Malaysia. But I really come from China, my great grandparents come from China.

Yu Ying Chan

Art and science head to head in science poetry slam showdown

At the end of term, our Year 8 science class held a poetry slam competition in which all the students showcased a creative way to explain topics from throughout this term. Students had one lesson to prepare a piece to show to the class. The next lesson they performed them to the whole class. We had poetry readings, raps, sketches, plays, charades... a myriad of different explanations of topics we have covered this term. It really was a pleasure to see the high standard of work that was produced.

Although all students did amazingly, some groups really showed exceptional effort:

1st Place: Rana and Salma

2nd Place: Anna-Rose, Binish, Nada, Toni, Rahma

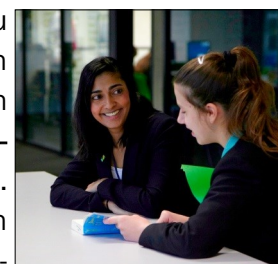
3rd Place: Saad, Jesse, Kamerun (and special props to Saad's showmanship!)

It was a really good way to end the term and many of the students showed that they can work collaboratively and research a level above and beyond what we cover in the classroom. I was very pleased with every group in the class.

By Mr Brodie, Teacher of Science

Message from the Principal, Ms Bora

Welcome Back! I hope you managed to get some rest in between helping your children **read, revise and practise questions** over the holiday period. Please remember to look on the policies section of our website for our **new behaviour rules** — it is especially useful to go through the appendices with your child. Finally, I look forward to yet another term of **grit, zest, optimism, self-control, curiosity, social intelligence and gratitude** i.e. the character traits we promote.



Subsidised music tuition

WA students have the opportunity to take part in subsidised music lessons onsite. If you are interested in learning the following instruments, please see Ms Tsoi or Ms Reid for a letter.



- ◆ Bass Guitar
- ◆ Electric Guitar
- ◆ Acoustic Guitar
- ◆ Piano
- ◆ Violin
- ◆ Viola
- ◆ Singing

The lessons are £5 for half an hour and will take place during lesson time. If you are interested in this opportunity, it will be your responsibility to make sure you catch up on any missing work.

By the Music department

WA Stands Up to Cancer

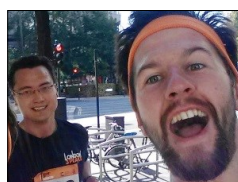
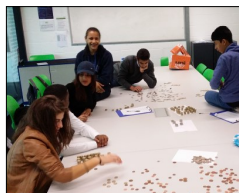
Last term WA got into the community spirit to support two of our teachers on their quest to complete the London 3 Peaks and raise money for Cancer Research UK.



The playground was a sea of pink, blue and purple as Mr Dodd and Mr Coates organised a non-uniform day in the colours of Cancer Research UK. A total of £722.02 was raised at WA, so thank you to all who contributed! Mr Coates would like to add a particular thanks to the Year 10 and Year 11 Citizenship students who helped with the door collection and the count; an invaluable experience for them as

they will soon embark on their own active campaigns.

Inspired by this effort, Mr Coates and Mr Dodd went on to complete the gruelling challenge of the London 3 Peaks. This endurance event combined a 2000+ stair run up the Gherkin, Salesforce Tower and 200 Aldersgate; a 5k run, and an abseil. Mr Dodd said *"The event itself was tough on the thighs but there was a great atmosphere around where we were running and the views were amazing on top of each of*



the buildings. Also, we featured on TV as part of the Stand Up to Cancer fundraising evening on Channel 4! We think all in all our team probably raised in the region of £2,100." Congratulations!

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 1-3pm

To express interest in any of the above, please email Mr Gothard: AGothard@westminsteracademy.biz

Progress Review Day - Thursday 13 November

Sixth Form Open Evening - Wednesday 26 November

Year 7 Parents' Evening - Wednesday 3 December



Children who enjoy a loving healthy relationship with their parents:

- ✦ Enjoy more happiness with their parents
- ✦ Get along well with friends
- ✦ Have high self-esteem
- ✦ Are able to handle their feelings
- ✦ Trust the people they love

The best start in life is free

All parents want to give their children the very best start in life. The great news is that your relationship with your child is all that is needed to give your child a great start in life. Research shows that parents who are able to meet their child's emotional needs in a loving & consistent way give their children an amazing start in life

A new and exciting Parenting Group begins on:


Dates: Thursdays 6th November - Thursday 18th December


Time: 10am – 12pm


Place: 21 Dart Street, London W10 4NA

The Group meets for seven weeks & will be lead by an experienced facilitator.
The Group is ideal for parents of Nursery and Reception aged children

What Parents have said?







Light refreshments provided
Limited spaces – BOOK NOW

For more info call Angela: 07813 793 424

E: tellitparentsactiongroup@hotmail.co.uk

Struggling with homework?

Get your homework done with a qualified professional! Homework Club is available as a drop in or regular session if you are free period 5.



Day	Teacher	Room
Monday	Ms Kibbler	109
Tuesday	Mr Isaacs	111
Wednesday	Ms Cooper	104
Thursday	Dr Walton Jordan & Ms Bawuah	109
Friday	Mr Isaacs	111