

Showcasing space settlement design at Houses of Parliament

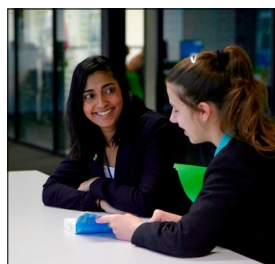
During a staff inset day in November, Nabil, Gentiana and I went to the Houses of Parliament, with Miss Dwyer, to take part in the Big Bang Fair. The event is the largest celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths for young people in the UK. For our stand, we showcased our design for the UK Space Design competition which was a plan for a space settlement on the asteroid Psyche 16. As well as seeing other designs and projects from other schools, we got to meet members of the Houses of Parliament and representatives of major science and engineering companies. It was a great experience as we had the chance to explain and show off our design, which took hours to put together, to many important people.



by Rina Osmani, Year 11

Message from the Principal, Ms Bora

I have just returned from a wonderful event at HSBC in which nine of our students made me so proud with their presentations at the Canary Wharf building. There will be a newsletter article to follow but another reason for mentioning the event was the importance all the managers at HSBC placed on not only academic standards, achieved through **reading, revising and practising questions**, but also the invaluable nature of character traits such as **Grit, Curiosity, Self-Control, Optimism, Zest, Gratitude and Social Intelligence**. HSBC was very impressed that the students chose their values to spell **HERO - Honesty, Enterprise, Responsibility, Opportunity**. More to follow... On another note, I look forward to seeing you all at the Christmas Show this evening.



Grammar Objective of the Week: the accurate use of commas

One of the most common mistakes in the writing of WA students is in the use of the comma. Our school grammar focus for the final two weeks of term is therefore the accurate and effective use of commas to structure sentences. While there are several straightforward rules for using commas, which we will explore next week, this week we are beginning with a slightly more complicated idea: namely, avoiding the use of the **comma splice**. A comma splice occurs when a writer incorrectly joins two independent ideas with a comma. The ideas are 'spliced' together rather than clearly joined or clearly separated as in the following example: "*Jim usually gets on with everyone, he is an understanding person.*" Please ask your child to explain to you how this inaccurate sentence *should* be written.

The inaccurate use of the comma demonstrated in this example often reveals a lack of clarity in the student's thought processes. Here you can see the very close link between clear, logical thought – which is of course essential in all subjects – and the precise, organised expression of these ideas in writing (also crucial in all subjects). It is through the close analysis and practice of seemingly 'simple' grammatical features, such as the comma, that students can really begin to express themselves effectively.



By Mr Harris, English Curriculum Coordinator

Table tennis talent

In November, the second annual Westminster Sixth Form Table Tennis tournament was held at St Marylebone school. Congratulations to WA's Banzragch Tulga for showcasing excellent table tennis skills and contesting a number of close games to become winner of his pool.



The tournament demonstrated the rising popularity of the sport, the number of participants more than doubling since last year.

Sixth Form engage in environmental issues at Royal Geographical Society

On Friday 21st November, the Year 12 geographers attended the "Your Century" event at the Royal Geographical Society. It was aiming to promote awareness for current and future issues facing the planet as a whole. They listened to a range of exciting speakers including wildlife photographers, Greenpeace representatives, arctic explorers and adventurers, then were able to take part in practical workshops. Students were able to express their thoughts and feelings about the environment through T-shirt designing, creating renewable energy sources, as



well as writing and performing poetry to highlight the danger to threatened species around the world. The event was designed to inspire, and it was well received by the Year 12 students who attended. Michelle Goldfelde, Year 12, said: 'It was a truly wonderful event which has

opened my eyes to all the environmental problems occurring worldwide, which has also caused me to become more drawn into geography as a whole'.

By Mr Walters, Geography Coordinator

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

Expressive Arts Christmas Show - Thursday 11 December

Parent Christmas Party - Wednesday 17 December

Enrichment Day - Thursday 18 December

End of term 2 (students finish at 1pm) - Friday 19 December



Parent Christmas Party

Wednesday 17 December 5pm

Join other parents and staff for food, performances and end of year fun.

Bring your favourite festive dish to share!

All welcome!

The Tale of Football: part one



Last term we told you how victory was won

The staff clinched the volleyball by two games to one

The Sixth Form were beaten, but came back for more

Now Mr Payne tells the story, of a game of football.

We took to the pitch with a nonchalant gait

Safe in the knowledge there was not much at stake.

A few passes to warm up, a few shots in the net,

We knew this wasn't the real big match yet.

No Compton, no Windmill, Howard: no fear!

This match was a warm up! That much was clear.

Gothard was ill and couldn't be there

But it was only a friendly so the staff didn't care.

The students liked winning and had lots of fun:

Operation "False Hope" was successfully begun.

Mr Phillips, in goal, let one through his grip.

He passed it off with a laugh and pretended he'd "slipped".

Mr Payne, from a free kick, smashed it up in the sky.

The students all laughed and the teachers all cried.

When half time came, we were facing defeat:

Our deception was nearly complete.

The second half saw quite a scrappy midfield,

But, to the students, the teachers did yield.

But don't rest on your laurels, for that was a test!

A warm up, a practice: we didn't give it our best.

Heed this warning, Year twelves and thirteens:

We'll see you again on the pitch in term three.

By Mr Payne, Teacher of English (who would rather not talk about it)

TONIGHT!

**The Expressive Arts
Christmas Show**

Thursday 11 December 5pm

