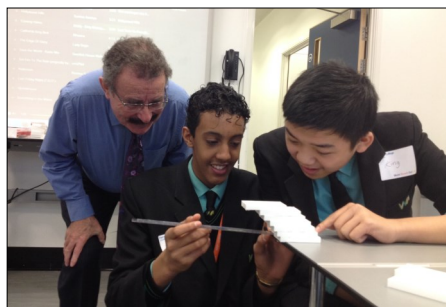


Arkright training at Imperial's Reach Out Lab



During term 2 we went to Imperial College to get engineering training at Robert Winston's Reach Out Lab. The students involved are applying for the Arkwright Scholarship, a prestigious scholarship in engineering that will greatly help their future careers in engineering, should they be successful.

During the day we worked on a number of engineering problems starting with a simple mathematical application allowing us to calculate how many blocks we could balance on the edge of the table and moving on to more complex engineering solutions including a robot that could sort different coloured lego into different piles. Irene Nabila Prasetyo and Zienel Syboune Smith said: "We learnt useful things that will help us in engineering, for example how engines convert different types of energy for different uses." King Tong Choo was particularly inspired by looking at the different ways of generating energy.

Tania Zarin added that it was "eye opening; we learnt the internal mechanism of machines such as the steam engine."



By Ms Langdon-Davies, Teacher of Science

Grammar Objective of the Week: When do we use commas and semi colons?

Recently at WA we have looked at how a semi colon can be used to connect two closely-related independent clauses: *Terry always slept with the light on; he was afraid of the dark.*

However, the semi colon can also be used to sort out a complicated list containing many items, many of which themselves contain commas. *In the meeting today we have Professor Wilson, University of Barnsley, Dr Watson, University of Barrow in Furness, Inspector Bean, Metropolitan Police and Dr Syrup, Chancellor, University of Otago, New Zealand.*

With such a tricky list, only the semi colon can sort out the confusion: *In the meeting today we have Professor Wilson, University of Barnsley; Dr Watson, University of Barrow in Furness; Inspector Bean, Metropolitan Police and Dr Syrup, Chancellor, University of Otago, New Zealand.*

In most lists, of course, a comma is enough to separate the items, but in a complicated list it is impressive to use a semi colon to make the list more understandable. This week students at WA will be noticing how commas and semi colons are used not only to divide up sentences, but also to separate items in a list.

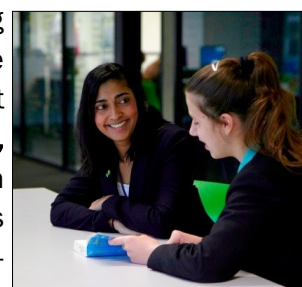
This University of Bristol Faculty of Arts website, which helped me greatly in writing this week's article, contains some excellent practice exercises: http://www.bristol.ac.uk/arts/exercises/grammar/grammar_tutorial/page_01.htm.

Why don't you sit down with your son or daughter and try some together?

By Mr Harris, Assistant Senior Leader KS4 English

Message from the Principal, Ms Bora

This week, I would like to focus on the launch of two new initiatives. The first is something called "NO HELP". All teachers have pledged to devote at least 5 minutes per lesson where students will be asked to figure out a piece of work without asking for help. As you know, at the Academy, we promote character traits such as **grit, curiosity, self-control, optimism, zest, social intelligence and gratitude**. "NO HELP" is a good way to demonstrate traits such as grit, self-control, curiosity, zest and optimism. Another new initiative will be students helping us, through surveys, to improve consistency in our systems, routines and procedures so teachers can concentrate on students' learning and tutors can concentrate on pastoral care. We are looking forward to seeing the results. Enjoy your **reading, revision and practising questions!**



Humaira wins IPAD mini thanks to 100% attendance

On the first day of Term 3, we were delighted to give away the prize for attendance last academic year: a glamorous IPAD mini! All students who finished the year with 100% attendance had the opportunity to have their names drawn from a hat. The winning student was Humaira Khanom, Year 10. She said *"I'd like to say thank you to Mr Majid and Marks and Spencer for the IPAD. I hope we have prizes like this again to encourage people to have 100% attendance."*



It has been a good year for Humaira: she recently had her Paddington Bear design transformed into a statue, taking pride of place in London alongside those of stars such as Emma Watson, Steven Fry, and Liam Gallagher. She was also a runner up in the Faith Exchange art competition. It just goes to show that it is not only your grades that reap the rewards when you attend 100% of school!

This prize was possible thanks to the generosity of WA governor, Maz Majid, and Marks and Spencer. Thank you!

IB Biology students reflect on pain with Professor Rice

On Monday 15th January Professor Andrew Rice came into school to talk to the Year 12 and 13 Biology students about his research. He is Professor of Pain Research at Imperial College and a Consultant in Pain Medicine at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. Professor Rice spoke to us firstly of the medical importance of pain and then a little about his work as a doctor as well as offering some advice for students who want to become doctors. It turns out that pain is really important, even though it's not very nice at the time. It lets you know there's something wrong with you and it can help doctors work out how to treat you. Professor Rice explained how some diseases, like leprosy and HIV/AIDS, affect the amount of pain you feel, and described some of the physical effects these diseases have on the body, like the loss of fingers and toes.

At the end of the talk the students showed excellent curiosity by asking some thought-provoking questions, really impressing Professor Rice. Next term we're going to work with Professor Rice and some of the doctors he works with to help students who want to study Medicine at university, which is a really exciting opportunity.

By Mr Leach, Teacher of Science



Violinist impresses at Westminster Christmas Festival

Congratulations to Ali Kayedpour who received recognition from the Tri-borough Music Hub: *"(We) would like to thank Ali Kaydepour for his wonderful solo performance at the Westminster Christmas Festival... We were very impressed with the standard of his playing."*



The Music Hub encouraged Ali to apply to be involved in next term's large scale performance project 'Seven Seeds', a newly commissioned work that will be performed at the Royal Albert Hall in partnership with the Royal College of Music, the Royal Albert Hall and Aurora Orchestra.

What's on

FREE IT classes for parents

FREE Art classes for parents and community

FREE 'Parent Gym' - Wednesday 21st January 2015

FREE Adult English classes - every Wednesday

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

Year 10 Parents' Evening - Thursday 29 January

Let your curiosity get the better of you...

The 'curiosity box' has been launched in the Science department, which gives all students the opportunity to ask any interesting, science-related questions that they have! Students must write their questions on a 'curious question' sheet and pop it into the curious box, which is located in the Science prep room. Staff will then read through the questions and find suitable professionals within the Scientific field to answer these questions, displaying the best questions on the Curious Questions board. By displaying these curious questions on the board, we expect students to take pride in the curiosity that they display in lessons. Keep the curious questions coming in next term!



By Ms Bhatti, Teacher of Science