

## IBCP student wins national award!

Following last week's news of our best Sixth Form results ever, we are delighted to announce that Year 13 student, Labinot Krasniqi has won Outstanding BTEC IT Student of



the Year 2015 at the National BTEC Awards. The awards celebrate achievement in the country's most widely taken vocational qualification, recognising the nearly one million students around the country who are studying BTEC qualifications this year.

Labinot swapped from A levels to the International Baccalaureate Career-related Certificate (IBCP) because he felt the course better suited his learning style. The IBCP consists of two IB Diploma courses as well as a BTEC Extended Diploma. Labinot is on track to achieve a triple-starred distinction in his BTEC in ICT and has been accepted by King's College London to study Computer Science in September. A dedicated and hard-working student with a passion for computer programming and video game development, Labinot was runner up in the BAFTA Young Games Creator Awards 2013, where he designed a game with two other students and presented it to gaming industry professionals. He has undertaken work experience at Rocksteady Studios and he has a level of understanding of his subject far beyond the taught content that often prompts his fellow students to seek his help. Outside college, Labinot is teaching himself a number of computer languages in preparation for his degree, and is working with a small team to further develop their BAFTA video game concept. He participates in our 'We Click' Open Age programme to help elderly people in the community to learn ICT skills and also tutors Year 12 and 13 students who need extra support with IT. Mark Anderson, Managing Director, Pearson UK said, *"This year's judges were impressed by the quality and number of nominations we received but Labinot really stood out as a truly exceptional student"*. Award winner, Labinot, said: *"I am thrilled to win this award. My BTEC has helped me understand so much about information technology. It has also given me more self-confidence as well as the determination, motivation and the desire to accomplish my ambition of becoming a*

*programmer."*

Westminster Academy was also proud to see Labinot's peer in the Sixth Form, Mark Jusko, place as runner up in the competition. Through a passion for ICT and consistent hard work, Mark overcame a number of obstacles to exceed the requirements for his course, soon to gain the highest grades possible and accept an offer to study computer science at King's College London. Mark too was a runner up in the BATFA's young video game creator's awards 2013. Kind by nature, Mark is always willing to help his fellow students; he tutors some Year 10 and 11 BTEC students, is helping two others develop a video game and assists Year 12 and 13s in their computer programming. His impressive and advanced programming skills have been gained in his spare time as he has sought to constantly extend his knowledge through extensive reading, taking time to learn new programming techniques.

The Awards are now in their fifth year and were hosted by comedian Rob Beckett at the Royal Horticultural Halls. Ahead of the Awards Ceremony, the winners, their family, friends and nominators attended a Parliamentary reception in the House of Commons. Labinot said, *"The 2015 BTEC Awards were an amazing experience, the journeys the winners had to go on in order to win were inspiring. I feel very proud to be part of that group of fantastic students. I am very grateful to the teachers like Mr Gilbert who helped me throughout my journey to achieve outstanding BTEC IT Student of 2015."*

## Message from the Principal, Ms Bora

Today, I would like to draw your attention to some **key events** for your children. On Friday, students will participate in **Enrichment Day**. There will be no Lesson 5. On Monday and Tuesday, students will sit the final papers of the **examination** season as well as attending **Sports Day**. Next academic year starts on **Thursday 3rd September** at 8.30 for Year 7 and 9.45 for the rest of the school. Relax, **read, revise and practise questions** this holiday!



## WA Book Fair: enthusiasm for reading!



On Wednesday 8th July Westminster Academy hosted a Scholastic Book Fair where all students could browse and buy a wonderful range of exciting novels, high quality revision guides and stationery. From the moment it opened at break time, the Fair was packed with enthusiastic students eager to indulge their curiosity and spark their imaginations in the way only a good book can. Many popular modern titles, such as 'The Maze Runner' by James Dashner, 'Does My Head Look Big in This?' by Randa Abdel-Fattah, and 'The Hunger Games Trilogy' by Suzanne Collins, soon sold out!

Sarah Gjondedaj said, "The range of books was astonishing! All of the students who came were able to find something that intrigued them and that they could relate to."

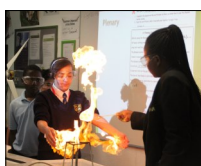
As the demand was so high, a group of students volunteered to support the English Department staff by working as a team of Book Fair Experts who could guide and advise their fellow pupils. These were: Dina Arabi, Samia Charni, Jamie Druce, Sarah Gjondedaj, Anna Raileanu, Fatima Islam, Ramie Aziz, Tamilore Babs, Meissa Haouari, Jordan Steadman, and Adaeze Thomas, all of whom were extremely professional and brought huge amounts of zest to their roles.

At the end of the day, WA students had purchased an amazing 106 books in total, raising over £400! This incredible achievement goes to show that our pupils really understand the importance of continuing to improve their literacy both inside and outside of school. We would like to thank all of the staff who gave up their time to guide, support and make this event such a success!

By Mr Kearns, Teacher of English

## Year 6 Induction

We loved having Year 6s visit for recent induction days and can't wait to properly welcome them in September! Thanks to the Year 10 Behaviour Monitors for their support.



## Grammar Objective of the Week: Forming complex passive sentences

Here we are: the final week of the academic year. Students and staff alike are looking forward to a well-earned break; it has been (as always) a year packed full of rewarding challenges. One of these has been our school-wide and cross-curricular focus on improving our spelling, punctuation and grammar. And what better way to conclude this endeavour than with a final focus on that favourite bugbear of mine, the passive voice? (*Bugbear* is an interesting word: it means "a cause of obsessive fear or anxiety" and is historically an imagined monster or hobgoblin that devours children!)

So, what more is there to learn about the passive voice? Well, this week we're having a detailed look at sentences that have more complex passive structures. For example: *When I woke up in hospital, I remembered being bitten by the snake but nothing else.* This type of passive sentence is formed using **being + the past participle** of a verb (bitten). Here's a second example of an alternative passive structure: *I was left holding the baby while Karen went to answer the phone.* This type of passive sentence is formed using the **verb 'be' (was) + past participle (left) + -ing form** of a verb (hold).

Right, screw your courage to the sticking place (as Lady Macbeth would say) and have a go at forming passive sentences based on these structures. You will find that, in fact, we all express ideas using these forms very naturally many times a day. As with other passive sentences, these structures create a more objective feel and can be seen most often in factual writing. Look, for example, at this excerpt from an imagined police report: *The suspect was observed hiding a suspicious package underneath the seat.* I'm sure that, with your increased awareness of how the passive voice is used, you'll be identifying many examples of these over the next few days!

By Mr Harris - Assistant Senior Leader, English

## What's on:

**Enrichment Day** - Friday 17 July (all day)

**Final exams for all year groups continue** - Week commencing Monday 20th July

**Academy Games and end of term 6** - Tuesday 21st July (half day: lunch and dismissal at 12.30pm)

**GCSE Results Day** - Thursday 20th August

**Back to school 2015** - Thursday 3rd September (Staff INSET Tuesday 1st - Wednesday 2nd September)

**Year 7, 8 and 9 Curriculum Evening** - Thursday 3rd September

**Sixth Form Induction** - Thursday 3rd September

**Year 10 and 11 Curriculum Evening** - Friday 4th September

**Please visit our website for next year's term dates!**