



Westminster Academy
The Naim Dangoor Centre
255 Harrow Road
London
W2 5EZ
020 7121 0600
www.westminsteracademy.net

12 August 2015

Westminster Academy Sixth Form celebrates most successful results ever

Westminster Academy students are celebrating 80% A/A* grades as well as smashing a series of other records for the Academy in the IB Diploma, IB Career-related Programme and vocational courses with 95% A*-B, 97% A*-C and 100% A*-E grades.

In July, Westminster Academy IB Diploma students achieved an average of almost 35 points, well above the 2015 world average of 29.88, with 100% of students passing the diploma. There was particular success for three WA students: Gabriela Jaroszewska, Bence Koranyi and Zakri Zulkurnain; all achieved scores of 41 points (equivalent to more than 4 A*s at A Level), putting them in the top three thousand IB students in the world. Their high scores signal exciting future prospects, with Zakri Zulkurnain accepting a place to study geography at Jesus College, the University of Oxford.

Sarah Al-Saad, who scored an impressive 39 points to take her on to study Pharmacy at UCL, reflected on her experience, *"Since I started in Year 7, the school has been steadily improving each year and I feel privileged to have been part of this progression. The IB challenged us to move beyond our comfort zones, and now we feel like we can tackle anything which comes our way."*

Stephen Butler, IB Diploma Coordinator, commented, *"The Class of 2015 were quick to appreciate just how challenging this course is but they worked independently, with each other, and with their teachers to produce an exceptional set of results. I'm incredibly proud of them all."*

There was great success for WA's first full-sized cohort of IB Career-related Programme students too, with 100% of students passing the programme and meeting their university offers. One student celebrating was Labinot Krasniqi, who not only achieved excellent grades in all his subjects, but beat thousands of other nominees nationally to win 2015 Outstanding BTEC IT Student of the Year at the National BTEC Awards. He reflected, *"The support I've received at Westminster Academy has been incredible. I had considered A Levels but can say for certain that if I hadn't chosen the IBCP, I wouldn't be heading to Kings College London next year to study Computer Science."*

The results round off an extremely successful year for the Sixth Form at Westminster Academy, which topped the Westminster league tables last year.

Patrick Farmbrough, Senior Leader for Sixth Form, commented, *"We're all thrilled by the progress made by this year's cohort; they have thrown themselves in to their courses, worked extremely*

hard, and they fully deserve their success. We're looking forward to hearing about all their future achievements at university."

Principal, Ms Smita Bora, praised the hard work by students, parents and staff, along with the support from the Academy's sponsors, governors, community and business links, adding, *"These outstanding results complement our other Sixth Form achievements, such as those of our Diana Award winners, Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award recipients and young Rotarians, proving the students' credentials as lifelong learners and responsible, global citizens of the future."*

- Ends -

PEARSON

ALWAYS LEARNING

Westminster student wins national education award

Local student Labinot Krasniqi from Westminster Academy has won Outstanding BTEC IT Student of the Year 2015 at the National BTEC Awards.

The competition, which celebrates achievement in the country's most widely taken vocational qualification, was held in London on 7th July 2015.

The awards recognise the nearly one million students around the country who are studying BTEC qualifications this year. Pearson, who own BTECs, received over 800 **nominations** across the **20 award categories** for this year's Awards.

Now in their fifth year, the Awards were hosted by **comedian Rob Beckett**, at the Royal Horticultural Halls in London.

Ahead of the Awards Ceremony, the winners, their family, friends and nominators attended a Parliamentary reception in the **House of Commons**.

Winner biography: Labinot Krasniqi, 2015 Outstanding BTEC IT Student of the Year

Labinot swapped from A levels to the BTEC Extended Diploma in ICT at Westminster Academy because he felt a BTEC better suited his learning style. He is on track to achieve a triple-starred distinction and has been accepted by King's College London to study Computer Science in September.

Labinot is a dedicated and hard-working student with a passion for computer programming and video game development. He 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 Westminster's programme to help elderly people in his community to learn ICT skills and also tutors year 12 and 13 students who need extra support with IT.

The judges described Labinot as an outstanding IT student with a passion and dedication to his subject. His volunteering and tutoring work demonstrate his commitment to helping others develop essential computing skills.

Award winner, Labinot Krasniqi, 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."*

Mark Anderson, Managing Director, Pearson UK said, *"The National BTEC Awards is an opportunity for us to shout from the rooftops not just about the winners, but also about the achievements of BTEC students, apprentices, teachers, schools, colleges and training providers up and down the country."*

"Every year, thousands of BTEC students go on to university and good jobs that really value their skills. Whether as a stand-alone qualification or combined with A-levels, BTEC represents the fastest growing route into education and these awards demonstrate why that's the case. They achieve great things in a wide variety of industries vital to the economy, ranging from business and engineering to ICT and healthcare. Recent figures showed that pupils from lower socio-economic groups are twice as likely to go to university on the back of a BTEC, rather than traditional A-levels."

"At a time when the value of vocational learning at school and college is continuing to be robustly debated, we believe the example set by these Award winners is part of a growing body of evidence that clearly demonstrates their valuable contribution to both the education system and the broader economy."

"It is vital to support and celebrate the hard work and achievements of outstanding BTEC students and their teachers. 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".

ENDS

Notes to editors:

- About Pearson.** Pearson is the world's leading learning company, with 40,000 employees in more than 80 countries working to help people of all ages to make measurable progress in their lives through learning. Learn more at www.pearson.com/uk
- The independent judging panel for the Awards included:

Name	Job Title	Organisation
Mark Anderson	Managing Director	Pearson UK
Gill Clipson	Deputy Chief Executive	Association of Colleges (AoC)

Jill Duffy	Vice President	Pearson UK Schools
Barry Falconer	2014 Outstanding Teacher / Tutor of the Year winner	Leeds College of Building
Seetha Kumar	Vice President	Pearson Qualifications International
Shane Mann	Managing Director	FE Week
Jean-Michel Maltais	Interim Marketing Consultant	Pearson UK
David Phillips	Vice President	Pearson WBL and Colleges
Stewart Segal	Chief Executive	Association of Employment and Learning Providers (AELP)
Rob Wall	Head of Employment and Education policy	CBI

3. 40% of BTEC students, compared to 20% of A-level students, have parents from lower socio-economic backgrounds. Despite starting with a more disadvantaged intake, nearly half of students who go on to university having studied a BTEC go on to obtain a 1st or a 2:1

4. For further information about the National BTEC Awards, please contact Hannah Hawkins: Hannah.hawkins@pearson.com; 0207 010 2336



young people who  inspire the lives of others

Local young volunteer honoured with Diana Award

Westminster Academy is delighted to announce that Mohammed Abdul Jalil has been honoured with the Diana Award. The Diana Award, set up in memory of Princess Diana's belief that young people have the power to change the world for the better, has Prime Minister David Cameron as Patron and the support of the HRH Duke of Cambridge and HRH Prince Harry.

Mohammed Abdul Jalil (AJ), aged 18 from North Westminster, received the Diana Award for being a Diana Champion Volunteer at Westminster Academy and the surrounding area.

As a Volunteer Police Cadet, AJ has been actively engaged in keeping communities safe for the past three years. He now leads younger cadets and has inspired them to have a positive impact on the local area. Additionally, AJ has supported older members of the community by volunteering with Open Age at Westminster Academy. As well as helping to organise events for the group, AJ has been involved in weekly sessions to help Open Age members with technology, giving them the confidence to use the internet and mobile phones.

Since 1999, the Diana Award has recognised over 44,000 young people who have made a positive difference to the lives of others and their communities. The Diana Award believe that young people should be: encouraged for their contributions to society, empowered to reach their full potential and they should be engaged in social action as early in life as possible.

Principal, Smita Bora, said, “At Westminster Academy we place high value on active citizenship, and as such are extremely proud of AJ. The Diana Award will encourage him to continue his volunteer work and will inspire other young people to volunteer in their schools and communities.”

Tessy Ojo, CEO of the Diana Award, said, “The Diana Award is proud to recognise young volunteers, like Mohammed, who have the confidence and courage to stand up for what they believe. The Diana Champion Volunteer Award is presented to inspirational young people who have made a positive difference in their communities. With a growing network of over 44,000 Award Holders, we are building a force of young people who are committed to take social action and improve our communities.”

For more information on the Diana Award or to make a nomination please visit:

Website: www.diana-award.org.uk

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DianaAward>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/thedianaaward>

Contact: Emma Pelling on 07958 558 172 or email: emma@pellingpr.co.uk

-ends-

Notes to the editor:

The Diana Award has 5 categories for individuals and groups of young people aged between 9 and 18.

Diana Anti-Bullying Award Champion for young people who tackle bullying in their schools and communities.

Diana Active Campaigner for young people who run campaigns in their schools and communities.

Diana Champion Fundraiser for young people who raise money for good causes.

Diana Champion Volunteer for young people who give up their time to improve the lives of others.

Diana Courageous Citizen* for a young person whose courageous approach to life has made a positive impact of the lives of others. **individuals only.*

Once Award Holders receive the Award they join the Diana Network, a programme opening doors to work experience, volunteering and campaigning whilst training young people in employability and social action skills.

Young people can also join the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors Programme which trains young people across the UK and Ireland to become Anti-Bullying Ambassadors in their schools or communities; helping to prevent bullying and ensure everyone is happy and safe online and offline.

The Training and Mentoring Programme gives Award Holders who have achieved something remarkable themselves to become Youth Mentors to disadvantaged young people.

For further information about Westminster Academy or photographs, please contact:

Sally Pitt

Westminster Academy

255 Harrow Road

London W2 5EZ

020 7121 0600

SPitt@westminsteracademy.biz

About Westminster Academy

Sponsored by the Dangoor family, Westminster Academy is an Outstanding International Business and Enterprise Academy serving a multi-ethnic community in a state of the art building in West London. Since opening, the Academy's GCSE examination results have improved from only 17% achieving five A*-C grades including English and maths in 2007 to now 70% of students achieving these grades, whilst our Sixth Form topped last year's Westminster performance tables and IB students achieve among the best results in the world. The Academy is ranked in the top 1% nationally in terms of progress measures for English, and its Best 8 score including English and maths.

Through its community and business links, enabling personalisation of a creative and innovative curriculum based on the RSA 21st Century Competences, the Academy is committed to providing each student with the very best learning opportunities to cultivate talents and maximise potential.

In 2013 the Academy was the recipient of three prestigious awards recognising achievements in engagement, attainment and access to Higher Education: the IAA (Independent Academies Association) Honorary President's Award for Academy Transformation presented by Lord Adonis, TES Secondary School of the Year and the Deputy Prime Minister's Pupil Premium Award for innovative use of Pupil Premium. It was also the only secondary school in Westminster to be given a Gold Club award by the Mayor of London.

International Baccalaureate at Westminster Academy

Westminster Academy is proud to be an IB World School. The internationally acclaimed International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) is studied in 146 countries and recognised all over the world as a symbol of academic integrity and intellectual rigour. The programme, in which students study a broad range of subjects to an impressive level of depth, is held in high regard by universities who value the preparation it provides for study at higher education level. The International Baccalaureate Career-related Programme (IBCP) was introduced to meet the needs of students who wish to complement their academic qualifications with a vocational challenge. The course combines two IB certificates with a Level 3 BTEC Extended Diploma, which adds up to the equivalent of five A Levels. Both IB courses also include the IB Core which has much influenced the ethos of Westminster Academy through its emphasis on active citizenship, high-level research skills and critical thinking.