

## ‘Exploring my internship at Pocket Explorers’



Every Wednesday, I catch the tube to work. I work from 10:30am to 4:00pm at Pocket Explorers. We are a start-up focussing on getting children playing with and in nature. You can check us

out on the Apple App Store or at our website at <http://pocketexplorers.com>.

On a usual day, I can be found doing anything from testing the app to writing blogs for our Tumblr page to creating content for our app. I even helped man our stand at Tech-nopop, a festival devoted to showcasing STEM to 5-18 year olds.

What have I gained from the internship? I have developed a sense of self within the workplace. I have learned how to interact with co-workers. I have learned how to handle and achieve deadlines. Finally and most importantly, I have developed confidence in myself as a young adult.

By that I judge this internship a success.

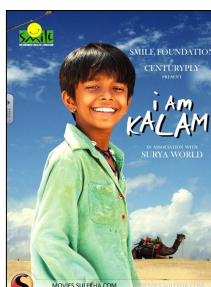
By Dalton Scott, Year 10

## Global issues on the big screen with Oxfam

On Wednesday 12 November, a group of 20 Year 9 geography students went to Baker Street to watch a movie called ‘I’m Kalam’ about a young Indian boy, Kalam, who develops a strong friendship with the King’s son, Ranvijay. Kalam is a poor boy who works with his uncle at a food stall instead of going to school. Kalam dreams of becoming an important figure and through this the movie points out that your life isn’t chosen by your destiny but by your actions and beliefs.

Overall, I enjoyed the movie because it was funny as well as having a hidden message. The talk by the head of education at Oxfam afterwards also helped us think through some of the issues in India today.

By Jeanelle Quartey, Year 10



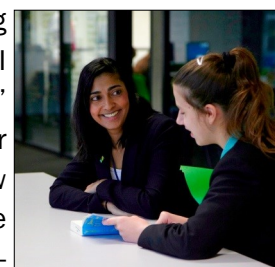
## Grammar Objective of the Week

The Department for Education has just published its grade descriptors for English Language. To achieve a grade 8 (equivalent to an A) students will need to **"spell, punctuate and use grammar accurately so that writing is virtually error-free."** This week at WA we are continuing our focus on the accurate and effective use of semi-colons and colons. Colons are used to introduce information; semi-colons are used to connect ideas or points. These punctuation marks can make your writing more precise and sophisticated: please do encourage your child to use these on a consistent basis as practice will build their confidence. Remember: there will be a 15-minute presentation to all students in Tutor Touch Base every Monday presenting the grammar objective of the week; English lessons will then provide the opportunity for more detailed study and practice; and finally, students will encounter the grammar objective of the week in all lessons as teachers will refer to this across the curriculum.

By Mr Harris, English Curriculum Coordinator

## Message from the Principal, Ms Bora

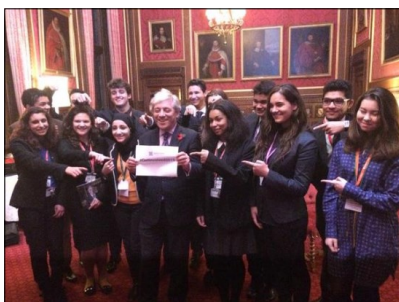
Last night, I enjoyed meeting so many Year 7 parents and I am proud of the students’ achievements so far. With Mr Thomas, I spoke about how parents can help staff at the Academy not only by encouraging



**reading, revising and practising questions** every night but also with the monitoring of behaviour. We have had a slight increase in irresponsible use of social media and rumour spreading which must be tackled and I urge all parents to pay attention to what their children do online, not only parents of Year 7 students. Finally this week, I would like to emphasise once again the importance of literacy and the article above written by Mr Harris.

## Sixth Form invited to Parliament for 'MP of the Year'

Remember, remember the fifth of November when WA met Parliament at the hour of Sixth Form Tea. The time was 5pm when fifteen students set off to the glorious Houses of Parliament for the event of the year ('MP of the Year!'). Fifteen WA students were escorted through the chambers of Parliament stunned, amazed and blown away by the paintings, architecture and security. We were welcomed in the friendliest manner, given glasses of juice or water, then we entered a room filled with people wearing suits, all of VIP status. We networked and mingled with the crowd and introduced ourselves as students studying the prestigious International Baccalaureate. Suddenly, David Cameron's head appeared on the screen congratulating the MPs for their amazing work and formally announcing the start of the evening ("what's a celebration without David Cameron? A good one!")



MP after MP appeared, thanking everyone and of course receiving their beloved award. When their hard work had been applauded we were given a tour and took pictures before sampling more delicious (mouth-watering!) samosas.

It was truly a wonderful night: a night to remember and cherish forever.

By Rafah Mohamed, Year 12

## 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**

**Year 13 Parents' Evening** - Tuesday 9 December

**Expressive Arts Christmas Show** - Thursday 11 December

## Students take to the boxing ring at All Stars Boxing Club



A new opportunity has opened up for the boxing period 5 students: they have been given the chance to train at the local boxing club 'All Stars'. Students are lucky enough to be training with a qualified coach in the actual boxing club with specialist equipment, including a ring and punch bags. Each student has put maximum effort into each session and has progressed immensely. Miss Gold and Mr Phillips have seen some brilliant talent so far amongst our students and are keen to see their skills improve each week.

Anyone interested in having the opportunity to join these students on a Wednesday period 5, please see Miss Gold or Mr Phillips.

By Miss Gold, Teacher of PE



## Pitching at Youth Start-Up event



One weekend in November, Edon, Amir, Saleem, Hussain and I attended a Youth Start-Up business event at City of Westminster College (CWC).

Participants had to form groups and pitch a business idea to everyone. We formed

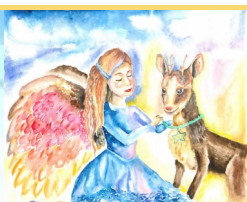
a group with two other people who we met at the event. Our business idea was to make a global restaurant - an international restaurant that serves food from many different countries; instead of going to different restaurants to get different food, people can come to our restaurant and have everything under one roof. Not only that, but this business also tackles a social problem that we have in London: so many people come from different countries and some of them feel isolated because of the language divide; in our restaurant they can interact with everyone.

There were four groups pitching ideas, and guess what? Our group was one of the winners! The prize for our group was a mentor to help us start up a business. I am looking forward to continuing to develop our project.

By Roy Prasetyo, Year 12

Coming soon...

**The Expressive Arts  
Christmas Show**  
Thursday 11 December





# Welcome to Bike It Plus



Dear Parent/Carer

**Congratulations!** Your school has been chosen out of thousands of schools across the country to be part of the **Bike It Plus** project. Your child will be introduced to the project in an assembly we'll be running shortly.

You are very fortunate in that, alongside myself Louise Powell, there will be Jeremy Tranter; we are both the Sustrans Bike It officers for Westminster. We will be working closely with you, your child, the school and the borough to encourage safe cycling into school.

There are many reasons for concentrating on cycling, including:

- It is one of the best forms of exercise for young people
- When asked, half of all children say they would like to travel to school by bike
- It's a fun way for children to learn independence and a valuable skill for life

## What happens in a Bike It school?

The Bike It officer will come into your school to:

- Run assemblies
- Help with the school travel plan
- Help arrange free cycle training, run playground skills and de-stabiliser sessions
- Arrange cycling events, like Bike It breakfasts, classroom activities, and after school clubs
- Hold bike maintenance sessions, and much more (Dr Bike will run Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December)

If you have any queries or want to find out more about Bike It then please contact me by telephone or email (details below). You can read more about **Sustrans** (the charity who run the **Bike It** project) at [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk).

Best wishes,

Louise Powell & Jeremy Tranter

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[Jeremy.tranter@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:Jeremy.tranter@sustrans.org.uk)

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