

The Sonar

Your fortnightly update from West London Academy

Issue 23: 26 November 2010

TextNow Reading Programme

LAST year a TextNow pilot scheme was run in schools across the UK.

Results indicated that the average reading age of students improved by 18 months in just 12 weeks. This means that readers improved in all aspects of reading, engagement and achievement in class.

Always at the forefront when it comes to supporting students, WLA recently launched the TextNow reading programme for learners in Years 8 to 10. The scheme is based on a structured programme of daily 20-minute reading sessions for 10 weeks.

Participants spend their time reading books and articles that interest them to help engage in learning. Afterwards they discuss the book with an assigned mentor. If they finish the programme successfully they are rewarded with WHSmith vouchers. We are sure that readers will be happy with this reward, especially with Christmas



Research shows that reading improves under the TextNow project

just around the corner!

TextNow Coach Mr Almeida told The Sonar: "Reading is one of life's essential skills. It is a form of escape, relaxing and it exposes you

to fascinating new ideas. There is no more important activity for preparing students to succeed than to help them improve their reading and understanding what they read."

Setting an example

WE REMIND parents and carers that while in the playground and around the Academy that they should conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to school.

We will not accept abusive language or confrontations between parents in front of the children and other adults.

Children should feel safe and the right example should be set for them at all times so that they continue to follow WLA rules. We reserve the right to ban adults from Academy premises if their behaviour is deemed inappropriate.

Pen Pals Needed

COME and help us make our first steps to link with Maksegnit Secondary School in Ethiopia.

By communicating with each other and sharing our thoughts and experiences we can appreciate how diverse the world is!

Leaders for Learning are ready to help you write your letter to a new 'pen friend'. We will match your letter to a student or teacher in Ethiopia with similar interests so they can write back to you.

Come and see us in 8.4 between 1.15-1.45 every Monday.



Become a pen pal with a student in Ethiopia

Don't forget to check your child's LAP Records

Primary PE Kit

PLEASE ensure your child has their full PE kit in school every day as PE is a compulsory part of the curriculum.

PE kits should be brought into school on Monday and remain in school until Friday. They should only be taken home at the weekend for washing.

It is important that your child has track-suit bottoms and a sweatshirt in their PE kit to keep them warm during outdoor PE lessons.

An extra pair of socks is also advisable. Please check all items are clearly labelled with your child's name.

After School Collection

THE PRIMARY PHASE reminds parents/carers that if you, or the person who regularly collects your child, is unable to pick them up from school to inform us immediately. This can be done one of three ways:

- by telling the teacher in the morning
- writing a letter to give to the teacher office
- calling the Primary Phase Office

You must also supply the name of the person who will be collecting your child.

Asthma Sufferers

WITH winter rearing its ugly head, cold and moist air can cause asthma attacks.

Now is the time to ensure that students have up-to-date asthma pumps available at all times.

A spare pump should also be kept in the Academy Welfare Room.

For more information contact the Welfare Officer, Ms Thomas.

Yr 7 RS Hindu Temple Visit

TUESDAY 30 November: The trip will leave school at 10am and arrive back at the Academy at 1:15.

Students must wear full school uniform. Girls should wear trousers if they are not wearing a long skirt. You will be asked to remove shoes at the entrance of the temple, so wear socks you are happy to show off! No food should be brought as students will be back to WLA for lunch. Students can bring a small amount of money to spend in the gift shop.

Christmas Activities

Christmas Craft for Families
Osterley Park and House
Jersey Road
Isleworth,
Middx TW7 4RB
(Sundays 5, 12 & 19 December)

AS PART of our Christmas celebrations we are offering free Christmas craft activities in the Study Base on the first three Sundays in December.

The craft will be on offer from noon to 15.30 on each Sunday. Sessions will be offered within this time slot of:

- 12.00
- 13.10
- 14.20

There will be a maximum capacity of 30 in each session. The craft activities on offer during this period are:

- **Sunday 5 December:** design and make your own pomander to fill your home with the scents of Christmas

- **Sunday 12 December:** add a personal touch to Christmas by making your own felt decorations for the tree

- **Sunday 19 December:** the centre piece of your Christmas decorations - create a spectacular Yule Log adorned with holly, ivy and much more.

Activities are suitable for adults and children over-five, although younger children are welcome.

These activities are free and offered in partnership with Hounslow Adult and Community Education. Entrance to the House and Car Parking is charged separately.

All families must register on arrival.



Mobile Phones Banned at WLA

MOBILE phones, MP3 + 4 players are not allowed in the Academy and have never been.

Parents and students have been reminded of this on many occasions and we would urge you to ensure that all devices are kept at home.

If a student brings a mobile phone or music player into the Academy and they go missing for whatever reason it is the responsibility of the student not the Academy or Academy staff. Staff will not spend time investigating the loss of these items.

Students seen with phones will have them confiscated and placed in the Year Base safe. Parents will be contacted and asked to attend the Academy to collect them at an arranged time.

Students who do bring phones and MP3 + 4players to WLA can ask their SaFE Worker to place it in the Year Base safe and collect it at the end of the day.

Go, Go Gadgets!



Building Dreams: Inspector Gadgets winners Stefan, Matthew and Charlie

THE PRIMARY Phase recently launched a brand new project for pupils identified as being particularly able in numeracy.

Each term selected children will be set a mission to complete at home, which requires them to use the skills of super mathematicians.

So far one pupil has been picked from each class in Years 2-6. Small numbers are required as the work is displayed in Primary Reception.

We hope however that over the years many pupils will get the opportunity to take part in this fantastic project.

The first mission for our Inspector Gadgets was to design an Olympic village using a range of 3D shapes and demonstrate skills

such as measuring, questioning and interpreting as well as displaying their work in a creative and attractive way.

We were astounded by the quality of the entries and struggled to choose a winner. The results were announced in our House Assembly and the three top entries displayed their work as if they were on an Olympic podium.

Well done to Kori, Becky, Saranya, Sharan and McMillan who all submitted fantastic entries (they each receive 20 House points).

3rd place (with 100 points) – Charlie

2nd place (with 200 points) – Stefan

1st place (with 300 points) – Matthew

Congratulations to all our Inspector Gadgets and we look forward to seeing what their next mathematical mission will be.

WLA Notices:

Uniform Shop

THE ACADEMY Uniform Shop is open every Wednesday after school from 3:30-5pm.

We are delighted to be able to accommodate student requests by introducing a WLA cardigan as a uniform option for £16.50.

You can buy uniform online from WLA by going to: <http://www.parentpayshop.com/schools/3076905/shop.html>.

Non-negotiable items

THE PRIMARY Phase would like to remind all parents that they are not to come into the school building through the playground doors at any time of the day, including after school.

This is for the safety of children and staff. If you do wish to gain access to the school for any reason please report to Reception where they will be able to help you.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents that this includes taking their children into the toilets. If your child needs to go to the toilet before/after school, then please contact a member of staff and they will be happy to help.

Primary Phase Uniform Policy

ALL PRIMARY Phase pupils must wear a sky blue polo shirt with the Academy logo, grey trousers or skirt and a navy sweat shirt/cardigan with the Academy logo. Grey or white socks only.

Pupils must wear sensible black leather polishable shoes (no suede or boots). Trainers must not be worn instead of school shoes. Jewellery such as rings, bracelets, necklaces are prohibited.

Aerosols Prohibited at WLA

UNDER no circumstances are students to bring propellant aerosol products to school.

This includes deodorants sprays for personal care, paint, glues or any other type of aerosol product.

Not only do they pose a serious health danger they are highly flammable and environmentally unfriendly.

WLA Inter House Week

Inter House Week 1 for 2010/11 with the theme of 'our Specialisms' is next week Monday 29 November to Friday 3 December.

Don't forget to support your House and win points and have fun at the same time

Year 11: What's next for you?

STUDENTS need to ensure that they attend college/Sixth Form Open Evenings during the Autumn Term.

The dates for these are in the booklet recently provided. Once you have made your visit you need to begin to decide which College or Sixth Form Centre you are going to apply to, including WLA.

Remember, courses fill up fast so it is best to get your applications in early. You can ap-

ply to as many institutions as you wish.

If you are not applying for further education you need to look into what areas of work you wish to pursue, including work and apprenticeships. To do this you will need to prepare a CV.

See your mentor, tutor or Ms Aulak (the Academy's Connexions advisor) or Miss Bower, WLA's Work Experience and Careers Co-ordinator for more information.

Sun Continues to Shine in Attendance League



Position	Class	Total Class Points
1st	SUN	170
2nd	Star	160
3rd	Poppy	150
4th	Moon	140
5th	Rose	140
6th	Daisy	120
7th	Elm	120
8th	Beech	105
9th	Comet	105
10th	Ash	100
11th	Oak	65
12th	Lily	55

Sun Class leads the table with 4 weeks left

Year 7 Girls' Football

THE YEAR 7 girls' football team have been working hard and this has certainly paid off in their recent excellent form.

The team competed in their first football tournament and finished in third place. They played in matches against Cardinal Wiseman, Dormers Wells, Villiers and Northolt. Well done girls we are very proud of you, keep up the hard work.

Remember your PE kit

THE PE and Sport Department would like to remind parents/carers that a proper PE kit is vital to ensure maximum learning for students in PE and Sport Lessons.

Therefore we expect all students to be in full PE kit for all practical lessons, unless there is an appropriate reason for missing items with a note.

When the weather turns cold lessons will still be outside, so please ensure that your child has appropriate WLA PE items including tracksuit bottoms and jumper which can be purchased every Wednesday from the Academy Uniform Shop.

In extreme cold weather students are permitted to wear sports gloves and a black or navy woolly hat at the member of staff's discretion.

Investors in Careers Award

THE ACADEMY has successfully completed the first stage of the Investors in Careers Award.

The Careers Team is now working on the second stage of three, with the intention to complete in Spring 2011.

This award recognises the high quality of provision of Careers Education, Information and Guidance (CEIAG) at WLA.

For any further information regarding the award or CEIAG at the Academy contact Miss Bowater, the Academy's Work Experience and Careers Co-ordinator.

Wider Family Learning

Toy Making



Free Every Saturday

Primary Hall 10am-1pm

WLA Adult Education Centre

Enrol Now!

- Computing including ECDL
- Literacy
- Photoshop
- Numeracy
- DreamWeaver
- Teaching Assistant
- Business Administration
- Childcare

Please call or visit High School Reception:

Bengarth Road, Northolt UB5 5LQ

Tel: 020 8842 7808 / 020 8842 7937

www.wlaaec.co.uk



ParentPay and Academy payments

West London Academy offers parents/carers the ability to use the internet to make payments to the Academy.

Using a highly secure website (www.parentpay.com) with a unique user ID and password, parents/carers are able to pay for school meals (cashless system), uniform and music lessons and lots more using your credit and debit cards. This is a free service to parents and there are no additional charges for paying on the internet.

Parents receive a letter containing their

user ID and password as soon as a child is fully registered as a pupil or student at the Academy so that they are able to start using ParentPay immediately.

ParentPay benefits our children and the Academy in many ways not least by removing the risks associated with children carrying cash to school and reducing administration which creates more time to devote to educational support and the smooth running of West London Academy.

Parents/Carers find ParentPay a more

secure, convenient and reliable option for both them and their child. Available 24 hours a day 7 days a week, it provides the freedom to make payments whenever and wherever you like. The Academy still accepts payment by cash and cheque but we encourage as many parents as possible to use ParentPay.

If you require a user ID and password, please contact the Academy finance office on 0208 842 7836 or email them at finance@westlondonacademy.co.uk