

The Sonar

Your fortnightly update from West London Academy

Issue 17: 08 July 2010

Community Cohesion – Parental Cars and our Local Community

WE ARE very fortunate to be located in an area where the local residents support the progress, popularity and success of the Academy and appreciate the advantages of having a local school for local children which serves the local community.

However a minority of our parents are abusing the goodwill of our local residents and damaging the relationships we have with them by using their cars to bring children to school in rather than using public transport and walking. Compton Crescent, where the majority of Primary pupils enter the Academy from, is part of the quiet residential area in which the Academy is situated and which is not designed to have lots of cars dropping off children and double parking at any time of the day or night. We are working with the local residents

and Ealing Council to look at more stringent ways to address this issue and prevent the minority of parents who make the lives of local residents a misery daily through their insistence on driving their children to and from school, blocking roads and house entrances and, on occasion, being thoroughly abusive to the residents, something which our young children have witnessed.

The Academy Travel Plan strives to encourage as many children as possible to walk to school or take public transport. A significant number of Primary Phase children have siblings in the high school so are able to take advantage of the many after school clubs that the Primary Phase runs through our Children's University and then walk home with their high school brothers and sisters rather than be picked up in

a car by their parents. As a school that holds the Healthy Schools award and which has sport as one of our specialisms, the good work that is undertaken with our children on physical exercise, in providing first class school meals and in promoting healthy lifestyles is undone by bringing children to school in cars. Furthermore it does not set a good example for our children. The Mayor of London has provided free Oyster card travel for children and the Academy operates a travel buddy scheme to encourage independent travel by our children with an older student 'buddy'. If children are well prepared for school, allowing plenty of time for breakfast and to get here on time and without any stress, there should be no need to use cars to take Primary children to school with the average distance any child has to come

to the Primary being 0.7 miles – a 15 minute walk.

We will be monitoring the vehicular use of the residential area by parents with children in attendance at the schools on the West London Academy site as part of our work with the local residents and Ealing Council to reduce the rat run that a minority of parents create and which also puts the health and safety of our children as pedestrians at risk each day. West London Academy is a learning community at the heart of a long established residential community and we will do everything in our power to ensure that we respect and continue our good relationships with our neighbours.

*Dr Hilary Macaulay
Principal*

¡Viva España

¡VIVA ESPAÑA means "I love Spain", and The MFL Department has had a busy and exciting end to the academic year with eventos and fiestas with students demonstrating how much WLA loves Spain.

On 22 June Year 7 Spanish students attended an end-of-year fiesta which was held in the restaurant to showcase what they learnt this year through teaching español to staff and students alike!

There was Spanish-themed food, music, quizzes, games and prizes to be won!

Students were invited to pin the tail on the toro (bull!), to take part in a languages quiz (congratulations to the winner Harry who demonstrated an impressive understanding of both Hispanic language and culture) and to bash open the piñata! Well done to Ishaq who demonstrated his sporting abilities by smashing open the piñata with a cricket bat whilst blindfolded, releasing a mountain of sweets for his eagerly-awaiting fellow students. The evening was enjoyed by students, Leaders for

Learning and teachers alike.

And that's not all! On 29 June Year 9 Spanish students invited WLA staff to That'll Teach The Teachers Part 2 in the Academy Theatre.

Staff were invited to a total of ten mini-lessons, taught by Year 9 showing off some of what they have learnt over the last three years of their Spanish education.

During the break, staff were welcomed to the cafeteria, served by the Language Leaders, where there was a Spanish-themed feast on offer! All staff in attendance were presented a certificate and prizes were awarded to the hardest-working and best-behaved teachers.

Gracias to all the staff who took part...even those that had to spend a stint on la silla de traviesos (the naughty chair). A massive congratulations to all the Year 9 students involved in teaching and to the Language Leaders for their invaluable assistance throughout the night.



Raging Bull: Ishaq displays his fighting skills

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

Leaders for Learning



Heads down: WLA Leaders for Learning study hard

THE HUMANITIES department has come round full circle. At this stage last year we trialled the recruitment and use of Leaders for Learning in the department.

Now we have 7 Leaders for Learning in KS3 who have helped shape changes in the department. Their key focus this year has been improving the quality of homework. They realised that many of our Learners needed support and access to a range of resources so have been running their own homework club for two terms. They offer support to students and give them suggestions for the content and presentation of their work.

They have each taken part in different events throughout the school from using the weather station at the Academy Fields to taking part in a Humanities field trip and leading a PD session for staff. They have trialled new resources and activities in the department as well as leading activities within Humanities lessons.

In the Autumn term, they hope to introduce the Academy staff and students to an International Link we have been preparing for, which they recently did a workshop on.

The PE and Sport department have been trialling the use of Leaders for Learning in the department, in a number of areas this year. We had six Leaders for Learning with various roles and responsibilities which have included focus meetings to discuss Sport and PE at the school. They have helped with a number of events that we have run, as well as inputting into the Student SEF that we have used also for the first time this year. The Leaders for Learning were fundamental in helping to set this up, to ensure it was appealing and student friendly, but most importantly it has been used to increase student voice and identify actions for improvement. The Leaders for Learning will help implement and monitor any actions that result from the Student SEF helping raise standards in PE and Sport and across the Academy. Next year we are looking to recruit further Leaders, who will take on additional roles and responsibilities as identified in our SEF results.

ParentPay

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

Using a highly secure website (www.parentpay.com) and 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



ParentPay®

Children's University

CHECK-OUT the below Children's University Summer activities coming up at Osterley House.

Each week there will be a themed walk/trail, related crafts and hands-on activities. Participation counts a one hour – i.e one stamp!

These include:

29 July - Trees

5 August - Bugs

12 August - Moths and Butterflies

19 August - this afternoon is a bit more unusual and will offer an afternoon of park/wildlife volunteering activities for families.

26 August - Birds

Performing Arts Summer Showcase

THANK YOU to all staff, students and parents who were involved in the 2010 Showcase.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the show which was a tribute to the hard work that has gone on in Performing Arts lessons over the academic year.

In addition, goodbye and good luck to our wonderful Year 13 BTEC Music students. You have been a wonderful group to work with and your final performance in the show was a fitting tribute to your successes on the course.

Lights, camera, action

AN EXCITING opportunity has opened up at WLA for Primary and Secondary students wishing to pursue a career in film or web site production.

The Academy is currently organising a Development Team to design a website by our students for our students. This will ensure that learners have the information they need to be successful at WLA

Participants will be involved in every stage of the development of

the website from its initial design to the types of information found on it.

The new Student Zone will be interactive, fun and educational. Those who are successful in their application to join the team will have a huge opportunity to build up skills and experience of working on website design.

The Academy is also investigating trips to universities who specialise in digital media.

If you are interested in the digital

media industry, be it animation, video, film production or web production we would love you to apply for a position.

We welcome applicants from all year groups so please feel free to collect an application form from Ms Tylee in Primary, or the Creative Services Developer Mr Matthews. Alternatively go to the current Student Zone and download an application. Look out for more information in September.

More WLA Spanish!



Body Parts: Iido leads the course

THE YEAR 9 Spanish Language Leaders have had a busy week of Spanish last Friday when they successfully completed their Language Leaders course, teaching Year 6 students during their Induction Day to WLA.

One group of Language Leaders (Bhumi, Nicol, Marta, Mustafa and Renatas) taught the Year 6 students los animales, using a range of teaching techniques that they have experimented with over the year-long course.

Similarly, the second group of Language Leaders (Iido, Narmin, Mano, Ivneet and Mozamil) taught the Year 6 students los partes del cuerpo (the parts of the body) as well as the lyrics and an accompanying dance to the well-known Spanish song Juan pequeño baila.

The Language Leaders have worked tirelessly and enthusiastically over the course of the year; attending weekly after-school sessions, demonstrating an ability to work both independently and collaboratively and teaching Spanish lessons in the WLA Primary School.

Their hard work culminated in the Spanish lessons taught on the Induction Day which allowed Year 6 students an exciting insight into the opportunities that await them within the WLA MFL department. The Language Leaders have been a pleasure to work with over the course of the year; a huge congratulations to them for their successes.

Nurturing Programme Returns in September

THE WLA 'Nurturing Programme' is an established course offering courses for parents and carers.

It provides numerous effective approaches to develop emotional literacy; a key ingredient for healthy relationships in adults and children.

Starting in September, the course will be available at the Academy on Friday mornings from 9-11a.m. It will run for 10 weeks.

With two skilled facilitators available parents/carers will have an opportunity to explore self-esteem, communication and social skills, conflict resolution, managing challenging behaviour and many more

aspects of family life.

In addition to creating a parent support network the programme will provide tips and techniques on parenting skills to support your children's development. It will also look at possible difficulties as they move into the teenage years.

Letters will be sent home with students in the Autumn Term when you will be informed of the start date and contact details for registration.

The course is free and feedback from parents/carers who previously attended has been extremely positive.

If you have spare newspapers please donate them to the Art Department next term!

Primary Notices:

- The Residential Trip to Isle of Wight is booked. Can we remind parents who have requested a payment plan that all monies must be paid in full by October 2010.
- Uniform for the Primary will be sold on 1st and 2nd September from 10am. Remember that WLA Primary does not accept cheques for payment of uniform.
- The Primary Phase finishes for the Summer on Wednesday 20 July at 1.15 p.m. All medication must be collected on the last day of term and new medication and forms will need to be given in on the first day of term.
- Pupils return to school on Friday 3 September at 8.50am. Nursery and new Reception children do not return until Monday 6 September, or their allocated date.

West London Academy
Family Fitness Programme

Any ability!
 Any age!
 Come along!

Try for FREE:
 Extreme Golf
 Tennis
 Wall Climbing
 Circuit Training

Free every Saturday, 10-12pm
 For more information visit www.wlaaec.co.uk or call 020 8842 7808

It's for everyone!
Mum, Dad, Primary & Secondary Kids

London Youth Games

WLA students competed in the London Youth Games Finals last Sunday (July 4) at Crystal Palace National Sports Centre.

It is fantastic achievement to have WLA boys and girls at the finals competing on behalf of Ealing.

Team Ealing finished in 11th place out of 33 London boroughs, which equals their best performance for more than 8 years.

Team Ealing Boys Table Tennis Squad won the London Youth Game TT Competition. The boys finished champions of London beating the 8 finalist boroughs who competed on the day.

The Cricket team finished 5th, with Kamran staring as spin bowler.

A huge well done to everyone who was involved!



Top of the table: Igor shows-off the London Youth Games trophy for Table Tennis

The Community Sports Centre fully supports the Children's University (CU) programme. Activity and Session Passports can be purchased from the High School Reception for only £2 each. Pick yours up today and start collecting those stamps!



Uniform Shop

During the summer holidays the High School Uniform Shop opening times will be:

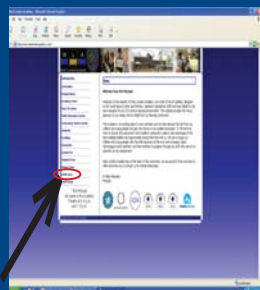
Wednesday 21st July	10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Wednesday 28th July	10 a.m. – 7 p.m. LATE NIGHT OPENING
Wednesday 4th August	10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Wednesday 11th August	10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Wednesday 18th August	10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Wednesday 25th August	10 a.m. – 7 p.m. LATE NIGHT OPENING

The Uniform Shop is located in the Academy Main Reception.

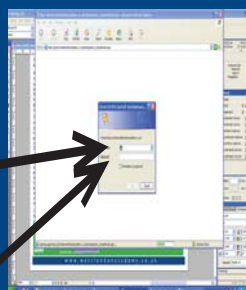
During Term Time the Uniform Shop is open every Wednesday from 3.30 – 5.00 p.m.

Accessing the Parent Zone

Log on to www.west-londonacademy.co.uk and click on Parent Zone



To access the Parent Zone the user name is **wla|parent** and the password is **zone**



You are now in the Parent Zone!

