



The Sonar

Your fortnightly update from West London Academy

Issue 30: 13 May 2011

Key Stage 4 Exams and Revision Sessions

The Year 11 exams are now underway and West London Academy is offering a comprehensive revision programme in addition to the Aim2Gain sessions and holiday revision that has been running all year. It is important that students attend the revision sessions for the courses which they are studying. Our staff know the exam syllabus so well that an hour of revision in the Academy is worth many hours at home.

When students are not in examinations or specific revision sessions they should still be at the Academy, attending their timetabled lessons or the designated Study Room. All revision sessions are downstairs in the Year 10/11 pod.

Monday May 16th

7.15am to 8.30am - English
2pm to 5pm - Citizenship

Tuesday May 17th

9am to 1pm - Religious Studies

Wednesday May 18th

9am to 1pm - Biology

Thursday May 19th

4pm to 5pm - Additional Maths (FSMQ)

Monday May 23rd

9am to 1pm - Citizenship (Full Course)

Tuesday May 24th

7.15am to 8.30am - English Literature
2pm to 5pm - Chemistry

Wednesday May 25th

7.15am to 8.30am - Chemistry

Thursday May 26th

7.15am to 8.30am - Spanish
2pm to 5pm - Physics
4pm to 5pm - Additional Maths (FSMQ)

Monday June 6th

7.15am to 8.30am - Mathematics
7.15am to 8.30am - Economics
9am to 1pm - History

Tuesday June 7th

9am to 4pm - Mathematics

Wednesday June 8th

2pm to 4pm - Mathematics

Thursday June 9th

9am to 1pm - Additional Mathematics (FSMQ)
2pm to 5pm - Additional Mathematics (FSMQ)
2pm to 5pm - Graphics

Monday June 13th

9am to 1pm - Economics
2pm to 5pm - Economics

Tuesday June 14th

9am to 1pm - History

Wednesday June 15th

9am to 1pm - History

Thursday June 23rd

2pm to 5pm - Geography

Friday June 24th

7.15am to 8.30am - Geography

Monday June 27th

9am to 5pm - Statistics

Gifted and Talented students participate in Work Skills Event



On Wednesday 6th April, Gifted and Talented students participated in a Work Skills Event hosted by volunteers from Dunnhumby and Business in the Community. Throughout the day, forty Year 10 students worked in small groups with a volunteer from Dunnhumby. The day event featured an introduction to Dunnhumby, a skills assessment activity, mock interviews, CV writing and a final competition wherein the students had to create a rewards scheme that Dunnhumby could use with its clients. The competition was judged by a panel of Dunnhumby employees and the winning reward scheme was pitched for JB Sports.

Students who participated said *'It was great to find out what the work at the office is like and that it can be fun'* and *'I really liked the activities. Everything was fun, enjoyable and educational'*.

The day was a huge success and both the students and volunteers were kept incredibly busy throughout. A huge thank you to Dunnhumby and Business in the Community for putting together such a fantastic and useful day for our students!

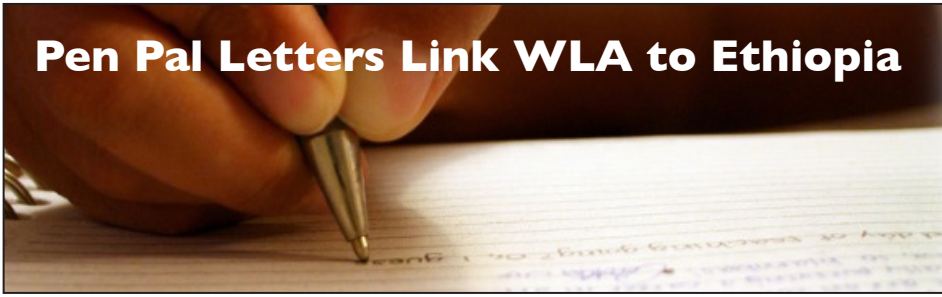
dunnhumby
essential customer genius

WLA is committed to outstanding customer service and has just been awarded the Government's Customer Service Excellence standard.



The Government Standard

Pen Pal Letters Link WLA to Ethiopia



Thank you to all the students who have been taking part in writing Pen Pal letters to our Link School in Ethiopia. The Link Ethiopia team have travelled out to Maksegnit School so we have been lucky enough to have them hand deliver the letters personally to the school for us. Humanities Leaders for Learning Zaynah (Year 10) and Saloni (Year 8) have devoted many of their lunchtimes completing all the paperwork and individually addressing each letter so that it can be handed over to the students. It has been a challenging process but a fulfilling one and we eagerly await the replies.

We have also sent the school a video of a tour of West London Academy and a selection of Year 9 project work about the environment, as the students at Maksegnit School have already sent us similar pieces as part of what is known as a Shared Learning Activity. These will be displayed in the Academy in the coming weeks along with regular updates about the link. James Love, the Schools Link Development Officer for Link Ethiopia will be visiting the Academy on the 18th May to receive our fundraising cheque in assembly. We look forward to his visit.

Students' Achievement in Enterprise

After achieving second place in the first leg of the Enterprise competition, run by the Enterprise Village, students from Year 6 to Year 12 (Erzen, Liam, Farah, Sharon, Billy and Hafsa) achieved second place in the final.

The students had to create various products in the final (T-shirts, arm bands) as well as create and offer various services that could attract customers for The Olympic Games. Business Studies Teacher Mr Almeida said:

"As a teacher, I was very proud the way the whole team worked together. In the

final, the competition was fierce, but through hard work, the WLA students shined and their performance was outstanding.

It was a wonderful learning opportunity for the students to learn more about the Olympic Games. Their ideas were original and everyone had a great time, where they showed a 'can do' attitude."

WLA continues to provide new opportunities for the students so they continue to grow as individuals and be better prepared for the future.

Well done for the outstanding result!

TextNow Reading Programme Success

Students from Years 8, 9 and 10 have been taking part in the TextNow reading programme. The innovative reader engagement programme motivates young people to become more confident and able readers. The model is based on a structured programme of 20 minute reading sessions each day for a period of 10 weeks; each student is paired with a trained coach for their sessions.

Our first cohorts of students have successfully completed the programme and attended a celebration event, where they were awarded certificates and WH Smith vouchers for their achievements.

Miss Searle who co-ordinates the TextNow Programme said,

"TextNow has been an excellent reading programme. Our young people have been very enthusiastic about the programme and their confidence and reading skills have significantly improved. It is a fun programme, with great incentives. It is so nice to see young people enjoying reading and to have the freedom to choose their own books."

Science Corner Space Quiz



1. Which planet is famous for its big red spot on it?
2. Which planet is famous for the beautiful rings that surround it?
3. Who was the first person to walk on the moon?
4. What planet is known as the red planet?
5. What is the name of a place that uses telescopes and other scientific equipment to research space and astronomy?
6. Earth is located in which galaxy?
7. What is the name of Saturn's largest moon?

Name:

Form:

Please return your answers to Mr Lowor in SCI by the end of this half term. House points will be awarded to the first ten correct entries and the winner!



Year 11 Citizenship Campaign

Students get involved with educational issues!

Introduction by students Noor and Kajal

Citizenship Studies is an important part of every student's curriculum at WLA with all Key Stage 4 students studying for the GCSE. It is a subject that helps students to become more aware of topics such as human rights, law and order, diversity, how the UK is governed and globalisation. For their GCSE in Citizenship Studies students in Year 10 and 11 take part in Active Citizenship where they choose an issue they feel strongly about and take part in a campaign to try and improve things. In recent years students have campaigned about issues such as Child Abuse, Refugees, getting better treatment for victims of Alzheimer's disease and Homelessness. In the last two years WLA students have won £3000 on 2 separate occasions from the YPI organisation to give to their causes of helping Young Carers and helping homeless people.

13 students in Year 11 have also campaigned about educational issues that they were concerned about. Many students in WLA were disappointed that the new government decided to scrap the Educational Maintenance Allowance and to introduce The English Baccalaureate. As part of their Citizenship campaigns they decided to interview experts, write letters to newspapers and to MPs and produce articles in order to share their concerns.

Mr Millionaire (Cameron) cuts EMA

By student Zahra

Masses of students flocked onto the streets of London to protest against the injustice (they say) that is David Cameron deciding to cut the Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for students going to college next year. Mr Millionaire thinks that the money can be spent on "more useful" things. MORE useful! What is more useful than the education of young children, the future generation? Surely we should be throwing more money into the EMA system encouraging more students to carry on in education, I feel that with this decision Mr Millionaire is just widening the gap between him and the majority of his constituents. What next eh! Is he going to cut Meals On Wheels for the elderly or Dial-A-Ride because the money can be spent on "more useful" things? Furthermore, many of the Year 11s at WLA have strong views on the decision to cut EMA. Many are going to be affected personally. Also, we shouldn't just focus on the Year 11's; we need to think about the even younger generation. Have their parents' plans for further education been hindered already? We need to fight this injustice otherwise we'll be thrown back into the dark ages when only the wealthy considered further education.

The English Baccalaureate

By student Alina

This year the new government has announced plans to make some important changes to our education system. One very big plan is to introduce the English Baccalaureate. This new award would go to students who achieve A*-C in English, Mathematics, two sciences, a Foreign language and History or Geography.

On paper this sounds like a good idea but it may well have a damaging effect on some very popular subjects like Media, Health and Social Care and Citizenship studies. These subjects could be "squeezed out" of the curriculum if Principals and Head teachers decide to concentrate on the more traditional subjects that make up the English Bac. Many students would be unhappy at this as not everyone likes or does well in those traditional subjects. Students should be free to choose at least some of the subjects they want to do in Years 10 and 11! Forcing students to do certain subjects could have a bad effect on behaviour and motivation. Please support our campaign to resist the English Bac!

Don't forget to check your child's LAP Records on the WLA website: www.westlondonacademy.co.uk

1st XI Middlesex Cup Finalists



On Tuesday 6th April the 1st XI squad beat Drayton Manor High School to be named as Middlesex County U18 League Champions. Goals from Connor & Mitchell both in the second half allowed WLA to be named as champions with Joe Hopla captain of the side lifting the trophy at North Greenford FC. It was a fantastic season for the 1st XI, ending with a record of 22 Wins, 1 Draw and 2 Losses.

Primary Phase enter the West London Chess Competition

The Primary Phase has had a chess club for the past two years and was invited to enter a team into the West London Chess Competition in March.

The team of eight children was comprised of Year 3, 4 and 5 students and were up against well established and experienced teams of Year 6 children. Nevertheless the children played with concentration and forethought, showed excellent sportsmanship and manners; and battled to beat the other team representing Ealing borough.

The Primary Phase is very proud of Reece, Wilson, Abdul, Matthew, Saleem, Noor, Tamara and Antonia. The chess team are all looking forward to returning to the competition next year.

Arsenal Spanish Double Club

The WLA Languages Department is proud to be once again running the 'Arsenal Spanish Double Club' after school on Wednesdays. This is an exciting programme designed by the Spanish Ministry of Education teamed together with Arsenal Football Club!

The goal is for footy fans to learn to kick and run en español! So players learn un poco de español while practising their skills on the pitch!

This term, we have kicked off with Year 8 chicos! At the end of the programme, players will be awarded a certificate, a trip to the Emirates Stadium and some more surprise prizes!

Match of the day is every Wednesday, so make sure you're on the ball and match-fit!

FA Level 1 Coaching Qualification

Over the Easter holidays 19 post 16 students completed the FA Level 1 coaching qualification. The 4-day programme included a First Aid and Child Protection course enabling our students in Year 12 & 13 to work within the sports sector as voluntary coaches or in a structured team. The course was very demanding and the attitude of all students participating on the course was fantastic!

Mad about Mathletics!

Following its successful introduction in the High School over 3 years ago, the Primary Phase is very excited to be launching an online Numeracy programme called Mathletics this term. Over the past couple of weeks, pupils from Years 1 to 6 have been receiving their log-in cards and getting very excited about Mathletics.

Mathletics is an excellent way for pupils to practise their skills in Numeracy from home. It's also lots of fun, with opportunities to feature on the Mathletics Hall of Fame, win certificates and prizes too! We will soon be announcing our WLA "Mathletes of the Month" and there will also be a prize for the class who earns the most points each week.

Mathletics workshops for parents will be held over the next few weeks. This is a great opportunity for you to come in and see how this exciting programme works, and have a go at some Mathletics challenges with your child too! Please see below for the time of your child's workshops - we look forward to seeing you there.

Mathletics Workshops for Primary Parents

Monday 16th May
9.00-10.00 Year 3 and 4

Wednesday 18th May
9.00-9.30 Year 1 Comet

Thursday 19th May
9.00-9.30 Year 1 Moon

Friday 20th May
9.00- 9.30 Year 6

Year 11 Prom

The Prom will be taking place at the **C&L Country Club, Northolt on Friday 1 July, 7.30 – 12.30.**

The price of the evening is £27.50, which includes a scrumptious buffet of English, Asian and Caribbean Cuisine, plus desserts; a memorable photo and good music.

Finally there will be competitions for different categories on the night, from the Biggest Eater (both students and staff) to the Prom King and Queen.