



**WEST LONDON
ACADEMY**
PROUD TO LEARN

TERM TIMES



WLA Children's University Celebrate Second Graduation

The second Graduation Ceremony of the WLA Children's University took place at Brunel University on Thursday 7th July.

This year, 80 students from the Academy achieved an award for participation in after school clubs or lunchtime clubs. Awards are given for over 30 hours of participation, with 30 hours receiving a Bronze Award, 65 hours a Silver and 100 hours a Gold. This was the first WLACU presentation of Gold awards and 11 students qualified for the award.

Attending the ceremony at Brunel University were representatives from many Children's University Learning Destinations,

including the Kew Bridge Steam Museum, Pitzhanger Manor and Gallery, Quilts 4 London and Bigfoot Arts Education.

There were also representatives from the Nationwide Building Society which is one of the sponsors of the National Children's University.

Professor Ian Campbell, Pro Vice Chancellor of Brunel University presented the awards, following a key note speech by Ger Graus, Chief Executive of the National Children's University. Brunel University greatly supports the work of the WLACU by providing students to help run clubs at the Academy.

The popularity of the WLACU has grown rapidly since its introduction in the Academy in 2009. The number of graduates has doubled since last year and with more children attending the extensive range of after school activities, together with an expansion of the eligible age range from 7-14 years to 5-14 years, the number of participants and future graduates will be even greater.

Many congratulations to all those taking part and to all the staff who have dedicated many hours in running clubs and helping to offer quality out of school hours learning opportunities.

WLA awarded national recognition for investing in the community

West London Academy has been awarded the Investing in Community Engagement (ICE) quality mark in recognition of the high quality work the Academy does in engaging with the community and community cohesion. This is a nationally recognised performance mark.

The assessor noted that "Community engagement is ingrained in the culture, climate and ethos of West London Academy."

The Academy's extensive multi-agency and extended services partnerships with the Northolt Learning Partnership and knowledge of the needs of local families was praised.

It was also noted how structures within the Academy facilitate school and wider community engagement.



New Build Update:

The Academy is delighted to announce that on 6th July 2011 the Planning Committee of London Borough of Ealing voted unanimously to approve the planning application for the new buildings at West London Academy which are due to open for September 2012.

www.westlondonacademy.co.uk





WLA awarded the Customer Service Excellence Standard

The Academy was awarded the Cabinet Office Customer Service Standard in April 2011. This is presented to organisations who can demonstrate that they provide high levels of customer service and follow the Academy gaining the Charter Mark in 2008.

To gain this standard the Academy spent time with many people from different customer groups including students, staff, parents and all visitors to the Academy, to identify customers' needs and experiences of WLA and to determine the drivers of customer satisfaction.

Following this the Academy was assessed over 2 days. This also involved the assessor meeting many of the Academy's customers and talking with them about their experiences at the Academy.

The Academy is very proud of the many areas of good and outstanding practice that were noted. These included:

- parents' feedback about the Learner Academy and Parent (LAP) Records, which provide up to date information on learner progress and homework;
- the enthusiasm shown by student leaders for their role and contribution to the working of the Academy and their knowledge of Customer Service issues;
- the Academy's Customer Service Charter;
- the high levels of satisfaction expressed by our Community Sports Centre customers regarding the facilities and services offered;
- the emphasis on maximum family engagement with parents and carers about pupil progress and educational experience;
- the full involvement of all staff in the planning and delivery of Customer Service;
- how all stakeholders have been fully involved in consultation regarding the new building works;
- the fact that student performance is showing accelerating upwards trends;
- the Academy's use of SaFE Workers as the first point of contact for parents and the different communication channels parents can use such as emails and telephone;
- the Academy's regular and sophisticated use of Pupil Attitude to Self and School (PASS) survey results.

**CUSTOMER
SERVICE
EXCELLENCE**



The Government Standard

WLA welcomes new EAL students

The EAL Team has offered extensive educational support for the Year 11 students who joined the Academy in September 2010, helping them with their school work as well as equipping them with the relevant information they will need in order to make plans for their future education. Working in conjunction with the Academy's Connexions Officer, the students have been guided with sixth form and college applications plus apprenticeship information. Recently the Academy has also welcomed a new group of Year 10 EAL students and is ensuring that with continued support they will be able to achieve and succeed in the future, not only with their public exams, but also through tutorial and practice sessions which support them in obtaining additional qualifications such as language exams, CLAIT and DIDA. The EAL team have also arranged for students to take exams in their home language, which celebrates their cultural heritage and increases their confidence.

The team initiated the EAL Parents' Evening as part of the Academy's work in involving the community. It created an opportunity for parents and students to become familiarised with essential aspects of the British educational system. As a result, the attainment level of EAL students is expected to increase further with parents able to monitor student progress and become more actively involved in helping their children succeed.



Above: EAL Students during a lesson

1,500 plastic bottles standing in a row



In June Lauren Crockford, Tea Coordinator from Tata (Tetley Tea), who helped to fund and build the Greenhouse on Academy Fields, visited the site to view the finished product.

Lauren was most impressed that the Greenhouse was completed and looking so effective. She admired the raised beds and paid tribute to the hard work of Academy staff, especially George the Academy's Groundsman, and Mr Owen and Mr Flynn

from the DT Department, whose support on the build day was immeasurable.

Lauren is keen to look for further opportunities for Business in the Community and to work together with the Academy. She praised the enthusiasm and effort made by all the students who took part in the build and was very interested to see that the Greenhouse is being fully utilised to support the Academy allotments.



Outdoor learning opportunities at WLA's Academy Fields

Learners at West London Academy have really benefited through a variety of outdoor learning opportunities at Academy Fields. The 5.5 acres of land to the north of the WLA learning campus has been transformed from a waste ground to a valuable learning space.

Academy Fields plays host to a variety of activities, projects and investigations covering the full range of subjects. Recently, Year 8 students have been building on their theoretical knowledge of the weather by using the Academy weather station to collect data and analyse it. Learners from all phases have been taking part in the exciting raised bed competition, planting, growing and nurturing

flowers and vegetables. Further opportunities for scientific and environmental research are afforded by the pond which students have been using to study the development of ecosystems.

Research shows that learning outdoors encourages 'deep learning' and students understand concepts and ideas more thoroughly. As if this were not enough outdoor learning has a range of additional benefits. In a recent survey, the Outdoor Education Trust found that learners became more confident and resilient, their social and team working skills improved, and they became more enthusiastic confident in their learning.

Students share their experiences of WLA Adult Education Centre

The Academy's Adult Education Centre has been running an ESOL Entry 3 Writing class since April and students have been working very hard preparing for the new exam.

Nada Alobaidi is 23 and from Iraq and is a volunteer for Cancer Research UK in Ealing. Nada states that at WLA she feels safe and comfortable and the teaching staff help all to learn regardless of where people come from.

Kowsar Nuur is 22 from Somalia and had never been to school and came to WLA through the Worked Focused Services. She has found learning English difficult but she is studying Entry 3 English has been able to pass European Computer Driving Licence Level 2 in the WLA Adult Education Centre.

Carmen is from Ecuador and came to London in 1999 and manages two local shops. She states "WLA is an exciting place to study. The teachers are excellent, we understand everything very well and enjoy the classes". She is extremely grateful for the help and support everyone receives.

If you would like to know more about the current courses running at West London Academy Adult Education Centre contact:

Michael McCombe, Adult Learning Centre Manager

Tel. 0208 841 4511 Email. mccombem@westlondonacademy.co.uk

www.wlaaec.co.uk

Enterprise at WLA

The Academy has set targets to develop special skills in all of our students that will make them very desirable to employers and places of learning so that they make a positive contribution to the world of work. These include teaching students how to work in teams, communicate in groups and as individuals, keep going when things become difficult and to have the confidence to try new things and not be afraid to make mistakes. At WLA, Enterprise is 'a combination of resilience, innovation, creativity and risk taking combined with a 'can-do' attitude. The Academy encourages learners to take responsibility for their own actions and encourage them to take the opportunity to tackle problems and reward their successful resolution. The drive to make things happen is essential and the Academy believes that it is an integral part of their independent thinking, self motivation and development of relationships that prepares them to make a positive contribution to society.'

Every curriculum area has identified in their plans where they will focus on enterprise skills; all House events have Olympic, Paralympic and Enterprise skills as a focus; stand alone Enterprise events occur throughout the year, competitions, both local and national, are entered for and the three days of Specialisms events occurring which involved trips, sports and enterprise and entrepreneurial development for all students.

Year 10 students raise £3000 for charity through the YPI



As part of their GCSE course Year 10 Citizenship students are required to choose a local charity to research and to complete a presentation for their GCSE coursework. This coursework task has been enhanced over the past 3 years through the involvement of the YPI (the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative). The YPI supports projects about charity and giving in schools and has made it possible for the best Citizenship presentation to win £3000 for their chosen charity.

Students worked in small groups to create their presentations, with many groups going well beyond the required amount of work. Many groups went to visit their chosen charities in their own time, and some even went about raising money to donate to the charities. Two groups from each class were selected to go through to the finals of the YPI competition at WLA, and a panel of judges including the MP for Ealing North, Stephen Pound, decided which team should win the money. The standard for all of the presentations was extremely high, with Rag, Adanna and Amie succeeding in winning the £3000 for their chosen charity, Trinity Homeless Projects.

WLA raise over £1000 for link school in Ethiopia



A key representation from Link Ethiopia visited the Academy recently to receive the fundraising cheque for our link school, Maksegnit Secondary School in Ethiopia after students raised just over £1000.

Students were shown images of the school and the local area in Gondar and told how the school will initially spend the money on providing a new drinking water station at the school. At the moment they only have one tap for the entire school!

Huge achievement at Debate Mate



Debate Mate is a debating which develops verbal intelligence in young people. In its second year at WLA and the club has gone from strength to strength. Starting from November each year

students attend weekly sessions where they learn how to debate and use different skills to communicate their arguments. Guided by Ms Samuel and Ms Brownlee during weekly sessions run by Elektra (a University student and Debate Mate mentor), the debaters quickly become skilled in arguing about a range of topics.

WLA made a good start to the competitions this year against other schools and soon found their way to the top end of the Urban Debate League table. In June, WLA sent a team of debaters to the finals in central London. The competition was very tough and the WLA competitors (Renatas, Stanislav, Andrew and Vaneeka) came joint 5th out of over 115 schools taking part from across the country.

Year 9 experience Parliament



Year 9 students visited the Houses of Parliament to see how topics such as Democracy and Politics impact on everyone's lives. Students were

treated to a tour of the House of Commons and the House of Lords, giving them the chance to see inside these historic and important chambers and ask questions. After the tour, students engaged in a Q&A session with a member of staff from MP for Ealing North, Stephen Pound's office. Finally, students took part in an elections workshop where they formed political parties, created manifestos and attempted to get elected, giving them a real chance to understand how government works.



Resistant Materials students display coursework in true environments

The display was the brainchild of Design & Technology Teacher, John Nolan who was looking for a way to display the Year 11 Resistant Materials coursework in their true environments. The stand, which fills the Academy's conservatories, is a combination of nursery, living room, office and a teenager's bedroom and aims to show just how personal the products are to the students. The course dictates that students must have a particular client base to design for so the display gives a small taste of where the products would end up once the students take them home. All the work is manufactured to as high a standard as possible to be commercially viable and presenting the work is an important part of its life cycle.



Using ICT to raise standards

ICT is extensively used across WLA and has allowed staff and students to engage in a platform that is both; enjoyable, interactive and above all informative. WLA has a clear vision for its use of ICT to raise educational standards and students' achievements and to ensure that best use is made of current and emerging technology to engage the wider Academy community and raise aspirations, attainment and achievement by embracing ICT opportunities. The Academy believe that this vision is not just aimed at improving the quality of ICT lessons, but to improve the quality of the entire curriculum.

ICT resources by themselves do not guarantee success. It is also important that staff have the required skills and equipment to use ICT in the classroom to ensure students have the necessary ICT skills. The Academy decided to maximise ICT potential by setting up a Progress Group team where staff share good practices and contribute ideas towards using ICT more effectively. This gives members of each department the opportunity to determine how they can use ICT to improve the quality of teaching and learning.

Using ICT enhances lessons and enables students to become more engaged and independent learners. Although it requires careful planning, a good ICT resource can be re-used or quickly adapted, which makes it a worthwhile investment and students on work experience have benefitted from being proficient in the use of sophisticated commercial software which most schools can only dream of having.

¡Espantástico!



In July, Year 4 students were treated to an afternoon of Spanish extravagance at the hands of the Year 9

profesores who spent weeks planning and preparing in their lessons for the event entitled Espantástico! Year 9 taught the Year 4 pupils many mini lessons at the event; Spanish sports, foods, days of the week, months of the year, colours, transports, weather, body parts, animals, school subjects, clothes, countries, numbers and much more! The Foreign Language Leaders also taught and the event represented the final component of their year-long course for which they have worked exceptionally hard. It was an afternoon excelente of teaching and learning; well done chicos y chicas!



Recognising achievement through the Jack Petchey Foundation

Jack Petchey is one of the UK's most successful businessmen. Born in East London in July 1925, Jack came from a working class background with very few advantages. From an early age he showed the entrepreneurial skills that have aided his success.

In 1999 Jack set up the Jack Petchey Foundation as he wanted to give opportunities to young people in London. Over the last ten years he has donated over £65 million to schools, clubs and projects which benefit young people in London. In 2004 Jack was awarded an OBE at Buckingham Palace, by Her Majesty The Queen, and in 2011 was awarded a CBE in further recognition of his services to young people.

West London Academy has been running the Jack Petchey Achievement Award since September 2008, and to date has had over twenty award winners from Year 7 up to Post 16. When students win the award they are presented with a Jack Petchey cheque up to the value of £200, which the Foundation has donated through their scheme to choose something to buy that they feel will benefit the Academy, students and staff.

The Academy has also had two Leadership Award winners Melva Donald from our Hygiene Service department and John Nolan, Learning Manager. The scheme has a real feel good factor for the winners to know that both students and staff have voted for them.

Earlier this term, WLA was proud to be recognised for excellence in operating the Jack Petchey Award Scheme when Rowena Clenlow from the Foundation presented WLA with a plaque which now takes pride of place in the Secondary Phase Reception.

Success at Primary Science Fair

Matthew, Madison, Gracie, Balveen and Wilson proudly represented West London Academy Primary Phase at the Ealing Primary Science Fair 2011 at The Ellen Wilkinson School for Girls. The five finalists were selected having won WLA's Year 5 science fair with their independent science projects. Their projects displayed sound understanding of their chosen subjects and were superbly displayed.

The Ealing Science Fair arose out of the work done to support the delivery of Science within Ealing. It aims to encourage enquiring minds and a love of science. Matthew, Madison, Gracie, Balveen and Wilson did WLA Primary proud with the energy and enthusiasm they showed throughout the day. Having arrived at the school and set up their science project displays, with all of their evidence and apparatus, the children were ready to meet their judges. Scientists, doctors and business people questioned the finalists on their projects, their predictions, results and conclusions. From Matthew's outstanding 'How to Float your Boat' project and presentation, to Balveen's investigation on the weather and climate in India and Madison and Gracie's plant investigation, the WLA finalists certainly wowed the judges.

The day ended with a prize giving when the winners were announced. A special congratulations to Wilson (pictured right) and his impressive "How to make your egg bounce" project, which won First Prize in the Chemistry category of the Fair.



Above: WLA Jack Petchey Award Winners pictured with Rowena Clenlow from the Foundation and the WLA Jack Petchey Foundation team



Above: Trudy Puddle, WLA's Jack Petchey Award Co-ordinator, with Academy staff



WLA students perform in Summer Showcase concert

In June students took part in the Music Summer Showcase concert, involving a mixture of students from Year 7 to 9. Three Year 9 bands performed compositions that they had written as part of their Musical Futures project. These bands created musical ideas on their own, with the minimum guidance from staff. Every band created their own unique sound but the best band name had to go to 'Immortus.' The other band that performed was 'Underdogz,' who arranged and performed a hip-hop beat-boxing and rapping performance on the back of their close second place in the WLA's Got Talent competition. The winner of the competition, beat-boxer Vaneeka, also performed. Both acts created completely new pieces since their recent success.

The audience went wild at the end of every song and the concert was a complete success with excellent performances by every single musician. It was a great advertisement for the musical skills of students in the Academy and a showcase for the talents that they have worked hard to improve in lessons, extra-curricular activities and at home.

Below: WLA's Got Talent contestants



Who's Who at WLA

Wesley Louis

Junior Performing Arts Technician

Tell us about your role

I am the Junior Performing Arts Technician. I oversee the general maintenance of our music equipment, operate the sound and lighting equipment in the Theatre control room. I also support in various lessons helping the students to use our music production software. I already have quite a good knowledge of the technical side of music as I own a small pre production music studio and I wanted to challenge myself to learn the other aspects by working in this role.

How has your experience of working here been so far?

Due to the relationship I have with the staff and the students at the Academy my experience over the past 4 years has been extremely positive and enlightening.

How does working in an Academy differ to your previous experience?

The role of Junior Performing Arts Technician is completely new and exciting to me, coming from a background of reception and front of house work I am always being challenged in different ways. I like the fact that I am able to be even more proactive around the Academy and can always find something to do or learn to occupy my time effectively.

How does working in your new role differ to your previous Receptionist role at WLA?

I now have a lot more interaction with the students as opposed to being on the front desk and having more interaction with the parents and visitors, also there are a lot more responsibilities and challenges that go with working this role.

What has been the highlight of your time at WLA so far?

Taking Year 8 to the London Dungeons two years ago would have to be my highlight, seeing the staff and students screaming in terror.

What are you looking forward to in the future?

I'm most looking forward to learning and developing new skill sets and becoming more comfortable coaching the students.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

My main hobby would be music production but I also enjoy playing basketball, sketching and generally anything to do with motorcycles.

WLA students selected for Origin Rugby League Series



Michael and Denzel have been rewarded for their hard work and dedication this year by being selected to play for North London in

a 2 game Origin series against South London. The boys were selected after some barnstorming performances for amateur side Stains Titans, coached by WLA's own Mr Reynolds. Both players have been in fantastic form and have worked very hard this season and definitely deserve to play representative football. This is a huge achievement for the boys and a very proud moment and important step for Rugby League at West London Academy.

Children's Summer Workshops at PM Gallery & House



PM's artist-led workshops encourage children to create artworks in response to their visit to PM Gallery & House. All materials are supplied - dress for mess!!

Workshops run from 10am-12pm for ages 4-7 years, and from 2-4pm for ages 5-11 years.

All tickets £6. Please telephone (020) 8567 1227 during opening hours to book.

DREAM HOUSE

Wed 3 August
Visit Sir John's 'dream house' and imagine what your ideal room would look like!

SHAPE, COLOUR and PATTERN

Thu 4 August
Make artwork inspired by the shapes and patterns in the Robin & Lucienne Day exhibition and around the Manor-House

SEE-THROUGH

Wed 10 August Play
with reflection and transparency inspired by the bright and colourful Manor-House

GIANT WALLPAPER

Thu 11 August
Create a giant wallpaper together, based on the decorative mouldings and patterns around PM Gallery & House

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Wed 17 August
Learn more about Sir John Soane's hospitality and imagine what used to take place around the grand piano

MIRROR MIRROR ON THE WALL

Thu 18 August
Not everything is as it seems! Discover magic mirrors in the Manor-House and find new ways to look at the world

DESIGNER FOR A DAY

Wed 24 August
Design the furniture of your ideal house taking inspiration from the furniture in the Manor-House

LIGHT AND DARK

Thu 25 August
Get inspired by the Stained Glass windows in the Manor-House and recreate that wonderful light!

Community Sports Centre Summer Holiday Activities 2011

Minimum age of 8 years old

Week 1:	Week 4:	Week 5:
Mon 25th July Climbing 10.30-11.45am	Mon August 15th Climbing 10.00-11.15am Table Tennis 11.30-12.30pm Football 1.00-2.00pm	Mon August 22nd Climbing 10.00-11.15am Kwik Cricket 11.30-12.30pm Football 1.00-2.00pm
Tue 26th July Short Tennis 10.30-11.30am	Tue August 16th Golf 10.00-11.00am Table Tennis 11.30-12.30pm Football 1.00-2.00pm	Tue August 23rd Golf 10.00-11.00am Kwik Cricket 11.30-12.30pm Football 1.00-2.00pm
Wed 27th July Climbing 10.30-11.45am	Wed August 17th Climbing 10.00-11.15am Trampolining 11.30-12.30pm Table Tennis 1.00-2.30pm	Wed August 24th Climbing 10.00-11.15am Trampolining 11.30-12.30pm Table Tennis 1.00-2.30pm
Thu 28th July Short Tennis 10.30-11.30am	Thu August 18th Tennis 10.00-11.15am Golf 11.30-12.30pm Football 1.00-2.00pm	Thu August 25th Tennis 10.00-11.15am Kwik Cricket 11.30-12.30pm Table Tennis 1.00-2.30pm
Fri 29th July Short Tennis 10.30-11.30am	Fri August 19th Climbing 10.00-11.15am Table Tennis 11.30-12.30pm	Fri August 26th Climbing 10.00-11.15am Table Tennis 11.30-12.30pm

The Sports Centre supports FutureVersity 2011 and we are offering courses between 25th July and 11th August. See www.futureversity.org