



**WEST LONDON
ACADEMY**
PROUD TO LEARN

TERM TIMES



*Ariel view of West London Academy's
Proposed New Buildings*

WLA in Top 4 Per Cent of UK Employers

IN January WLA was assessed for re-designation as an Investor in People (IiP).

The Academy first achieved this nationally recognised award in 2008 which makes judgments regarding our performance, against a number of criteria, including the quality of leadership and management within the organisation.

The award is highly valued as there is a clear correlation between having the standard, investing in the development of staff and organisational performance. It is used by thousands of different employers of every sector and size.

The assessment went so well that WLA has moved up from the basic Investor in People Award to the enhanced Bronze Award. At present only the top 4 per cent of companies nationally have achieved Investors in People Bronze Standard.



The Shape of Things to Come

Following months of competitive bidding and architectural design work West London Academy is in the final stages of consultation on the proposed new buildings for the Primary and Secondary Phases and the internal remodelling of some of the existing building. Kier London has been appointed as the contractors along with Architects Co-Partnership for the final project which is subject to planning approval.

Responding to a need for additional state of the art facilities and due to the expansion of the Primary Phase from 2 Form Entry (60 children per year) to 3FE (90 children per year) as a result of popularity and oversubscription, the Academy is once again delighted to be able to provide further outstanding facilities for local children. If planning approval is given the buildings will commence in July 2011 with completion in July 2012 with all facilities in use from September 2012.

The Arc

The Primary Phase new building, known as The Arc as its shape suggests, will provide:

- a new 105 place Nursery
- 3 Reception classrooms
- 3 Year 1 classroom
- small group rooms
- a large hall
- reception office area
- ICT/Science and Food Technology Room
- outdoor learning amphitheatre
- pupil toilets
- meeting rooms
- additional playground spaces

Looking towards the main Academy building with its famous 1/4 mile long Learning Curve, pupils in Nursery to Year 1 in The Arc will be able to enjoy the use of some of the facilities in the existing building whilst benefiting from purpose built learning and outdoor play spaces.



The Quad and Zeppelin



Named after its shape, The Quad will provide the latest Design & Technology, Food Technology, Art & Design and Media Studies facilities along with 6 additional general classrooms and 2 further ICT rooms. With its

striking entrance it will also serve as the gateway to the Academy Theatre for all public performances.

The iconic Zeppelin which 'floats' above the central are of The Quad will be

accessed via suspended glass walkways and will house two Media Suites which will provide access to the Theatre from a minstrels gallery to enhance opportunities for performances and events.

The central courtyard of The Quad will provide space for breakout teaching, exhibitions and as a foyer for performances and events in the Theatre.



Internal remodelling

The building programme will facilitate a rationalisation of the use of some of the Academy's existing internal spaces and will include:

- 3 additional science laboratories
- additional large science prep room
- additional large music suite
- additional teaching rooms for several departments
- dedicated learning Resources Centre for Years 7-11
- a dedicated Learning Centre for Post-16 students
- conversion of the existing Nursery into classrooms

Today's Headlines Are



'Gifted and Talented' students visited Acton High School for the annual BBC School News Report Project.

The news hounds joined students from across Ealing to train as journalists alongside professional BBC reporters and new editors.

Choosing which stories to be presented and broadcast the students learned about different types of news stories, how to analyse reports, what makes news, and what it is like to be a presenter.

They then planned, filmed and produced three news bulletins – and they only had four hours to do it! This included directing and presenting stories, as well as managing the auto-cue, sound and background images for the report.

Year 10 student Jordan described the experience as "a lot of chaos." However after a tense and hectic experience the budding journalists managed to get their reports finished. *Looking back at the bulletins I think it was worth putting all the hard work in,* said Jordan.

Year 7's Go Cross-Curricular

The Religious Studies and Art departments worked on a Cross Curricular project with Year 7 students on Islamic Art.

The objective of the unit was to compare and contrast the use of art in Christianity and Islam. Using their skills in art students showed their understanding of how religion has an impact on believers' lives.

Working with another subject area provided the chance for an exchange of skills and subject knowledge for both students and teachers. Curriculum Leader for Humanities Ms Dee said: *"The final piece of art work was useful for promoting both the subjects in a positive way. Students gained subject knowledge from the project, while Art teachers added more information on Islamic art to the project."*



Remembering the Holocaust

Year 13 International Baccalaureate (IB Diploma) students Sam and Radhika spoke at the 'Untold Stories' ceremony to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.

Speaking in front of the assembled guests at London's City Hall including London Mayor Boris Johnson, the pair read 'The Student's Statement of Commitment' which pledges to never forget the Holocaust.

Other speakers included a Holocaust survivor and a survivor of the Rwandan genocide.

Taking place annually to mark the liberation of Aushwitz-Birkenau, the ceremony carries the theme of greater understanding and tolerance towards people in our daily lives.

Afterwards Sam and Radhika were invited to attend a reception on the City Hall balcony with Boris Johnson and the Deputy Mayor of London.



Sam and Radhika pictured with Mayor Boris Johnson

Rapper Tells Students How It Really Is



MOTIVATIONAL speaker Mutah Beale visited WLA's Access and Inclusion Centre to warn students about the dangers of drugs and gun and knife crime.

Mr Beale, better known as rapper Napoleon, is a former member of Tupac Shakur's rap group the Outlawz. No longer involved in the music business he now travels the world talking to young people about crime and the importance of education.

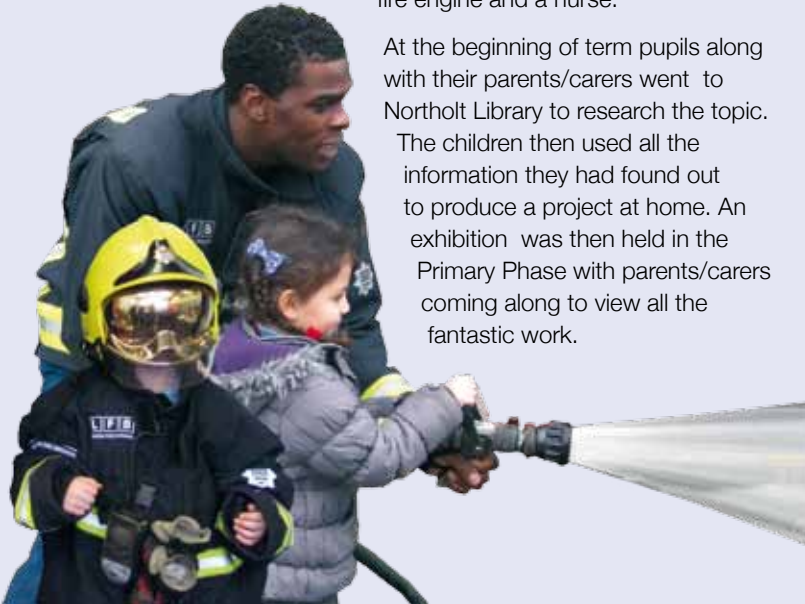
During his speech he empowered students to think about their life, encouraging them to appreciate how important it is to work hard at school.

Access and Inclusion Centre Co-ordinator Trudy Puddle told Term Times: *Mutah made a big impression with many students thinking about some of the silly things they have done and the need to change. Because of his music background they realised he was real; he connected to them and made them understand his message.*

People Who Help Us

This term children in Reception Classes have been talking about 'People Who Help Us'. Pupils thought about people at home and at school who help us, as well as the emergency services. We were very lucky to have visits from a police officer, firefighters with their fire engine and a nurse.

At the beginning of term pupils along with their parents/carers went to Northolt Library to research the topic. The children then used all the information they had found out to produce a project at home. An exhibition was then held in the Primary Phase with parents/carers coming along to view all the fantastic work.



Spelling Bee

Four Year 7 students were selected to represent WLA at the Ealing Borough Spelling Bee competition

The event included 12 other schools from across the borough, giving the day a competitive edge.

Chloe and Paula did an exceptional job with some incredibly challenging words. Paula won the elimination round and the Academy came fourth in the heat.

They then participated in a quick fire round where players took turns to spell as many words as they could in one minute. WLA was the only school not to get a single spelling wrong giving them a brilliant third place finish; 8 points behind the winning team.

English Teacher, Ms Brownlee said: *They spelt some incredibly difficult words and were rewarded with medals and certificates. Well done Paula, Chloe, Anissa and Danielle.*

Back to School For WLA Staff

A number of WLA Associate Staff recently completed their NVQ Level 2 in a number of subjects ranging from Customer Services, Business Administration, and Team Leading.

To mark the event a party was held in their honour in the Academy Restaurant to celebrate and recognise their achievement.

Academy HR Officer Siân Davis told Term Times: "In a culture where we are Proud to Learn, and as an Investors in People, I could not be more proud of our staff. This qualification recognises the skills that we already knew our staff possessed and solidifies their position as valued members of WLA.

"The confidence and status of a nationally-recognised qualification and relevant transferable skills provides a springboard for them to further education and career development.



Who's Who at WLA

Clare Groom

Reception Class Teacher

Tell us about your role

I am a class teacher in Reception. I introduce children to the skills they will use for the rest of their lives - how to read and write, develop an understanding of number and problem solving.

How has your experience of working here been so far?

WLA is an exciting place to work as there are many challenges involved in teaching, but I am frequently humbled and inspired by the children and my colleagues.

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

Before training to be a teacher I was Private Secretary to an Appointed Peer in the House of Lords, Lord Brennan of Bibury QC. I organised all his political, professional and personal affairs. I spent time in the Houses of Parliament researching for various debates and issues that Lord Brennan is involved in.

Why did you choose to become a teacher?

I have always been interested in education. I became extremely interested in Education Policy while working in Parliament, but felt that to hold any views of my own I needed to experience teaching first-hand. Therefore I decided to become a primary school teacher.

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

The Foundation Stage Christmas Concert was a particular highlight. The Reception and Nursery children worked extremely hard learning songs and memorising their lines.

What are you looking forward to in the future?

I am looking forward to seeing my class move up to Year 1 and ensuring they are prepared to meet the expectations of Key Stage 1 and then meeting a whole new group of children.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I play the cello, flute and piano. I have been a member of a traditional Irish folk band for several years. Since moving to West London I have joined a choir, singing a variety of modern and classical compositions.



*Picture perfect:
Primary Phase staff and pupils*

World Book Day

The Primary Phase celebrated this year's World Book Day by dressing up as characters from their favourite books. A colourful assortment of characters from Harry Potter, Traditional Tales, Horrible Histories, The Gruffalo, Roald Dahl, Alice in Wonderland, and the Greeks were on display throughout the day.

The amazing range of costumes were made by parents/carers and the pupils with a great deal of ingenuity. Even the Primary staff got into the spirit of occasions and dressed up in costumes.

Prizes were awarded to the two best dressed characters from each class with the winners selecting a book worth £3 from the Scholastic Book Club.

Each pupil was also given a £1 book token which they used towards a book of their choice. World Book Day celebrates books and reading.

Academy Students Speak Out

WLA was brilliantly represented in the regional finals of the Jack Petchey 'Speak Out' Challenge by Year 10 students Wumni and Francine.

Reaching the final was the culmination of an intensive two-day training and preparation workshops where students were taught how to improve their debating skills.

Beating off stiff competition from other WLA students, Wumni and Francine went forward to represent the Academy against other Ealing schools at Brentside High.

Francine reached the final 16 but was pipped at the post in the final heats. Her skills and dedication were recognised by the Mayor of Ealing Rajinder Mann, who presented her with a commemorative certificate.



*Year 10 student Francine with
Mayor of Ealing
Rajinder Mann*

The Ambassadors Gets a WLA Makeover

Students in KS3 Art and Design produced square sections of Hans Holbein's 'The Ambassadors' painting during this term's House Week.

Carefully drawing and then adding colour in a medium of their choice to complete each section of the painting, all 121 squares were then mounted together and displayed to form a large scale collaborative picture.

The artwork is currently on display outside the Academy Theatre with the original painting displayed at the National Gallery.



Magic Numbers

THE PRIMARY Phase participated in a new and exciting project to help pupils with their maths homework.

Welcoming Ocean Maths to WLA, pupils and parents/carers attended a workshop based on maths games that children can play with adults. The event had an excellent turnout with many people attending the workshop in the Academy Restaurant.

The Primary Phase plans to continue the Ocean Maths project during the summer term and hopes to extend the scheme to Year 5 pupils in the next academic year.



Can We Have Some More!

FEBRUARY saw the premiere of Lionel Bart's musical, *Oliver*. For two nights students from across WLA performed the show in the Academy Theatre. The venue was packed to the rafters and with each song and scene the applause grew louder and emotions ran high.

Kayode, Travis and Rohan's comic interpretation of Mr and Mrs Sowerberry and Mr Bumble had the audience in fits of laughter, while Sylvia's rendition of *As Long As He Needs Me* had people in tears.

Ebony proved the perfect choice for the character of Oliver and many audience members commented that Andrew was born to play the Artful Dodger. Daniel (Fagin) and Cory's (Mr Brownlow) performances were noteworthy since both students stepped into the roles only two weeks before the first performance.

1500 Bottles Standing on a Field



The WLA Children's University (WLACU) combined forces with the beverage company Tata, better known for Tetley Tea, to build a recycled plastic bottle greenhouse on Academy Fields.

Led by Mr Owen, Mr Flynn and Ms Bower, more than 1,000 plastic bottles were cleaned, cut and linked together to make the walls and roof of the greenhouse. Supported by George the

Academy's Groundsman, a wooden frame was constructed and the bottles, mounted on bamboo canes, were stapled to the frame.

The hard working students were rewarded with a tea tasting session from Tata. The teas were a special brew designed with children in mind, with flavours including vanilla and strawberry. The WLACU Design and

Technology Club now plan to build shelving units for the greenhouse.

WLACU Co-ordinator Joanna Chodzko-Zajko said:

We are extremely grateful for the help, support and interest of Tata in our various environmental projects and look forward to working with them in the future.



Pilot Scheme Rewards Parents

The WLA Adult Education Centre has been working in partnership with the London Borough of Ealing on the National Child Poverty Work Focus Services Pilot.

The Pilot was based in Children's Centres across the borough including WLA, which was twinned with Lime Trees Children's Centre. The scheme was created to help parents with pre-school and school age children enter the workplace.

A Skills and Employment Coordinator was employed by WLA to help parents move from benefits into training and work. Hundreds of parents came for interviews,

with many entering training schemes and finding jobs as a result.

To celebrate their achievements the Pilot held an Oscar Awards celebration at WLA in March. The event was attended by dignitaries from across Ealing and national representatives from the scheme.

The top award of the evening - the Pilot Work Focused Champion Award - went to Anisa Ibrahim, who now works in the Academy Restaurant.

***Pictured:
Adult Education Centre Manager
Michael McCombe and Anisa Ibrahim***



WLA Lights Up Twickenham



Students formed a guard of honour for the players emerging from the tunnel during the Six Nations international rugby game between England and Scotland.

They also took part in a game of tag rugby before the match, as part of a course run by the youth charity The Princes Trust.

The scheme has given the students an introduction to rugby through sessions run by Rugby Football Union (RFU) coaches.

The team – led by PE and Prince's Trust teacher Mr Bird – earned the right to step out on the famous turf after winning a tag rugby tournament held at the University of Westminster's sports ground in Chiswick.

WLA drew the curtain-raiser at Twickenham against Feltham Community School, maintaining their current 'unbeatable' tag.

WLA Wins National Table Tennis Championship



The WLA Under 19 Boy's Table Tennis Team has won the National Schools Teams Championship beating Bristol-based Filton College 7-1 in the final.

Congratulations to the boys and their coach Jason Sugrue. Daniel (Year 14), Tony (Year 14), Daniel (Year 12), Ryan (Year 13), Igor (Year 10) and Tayshan (Year 10).

Winning the title is a reflection of the dedication, determination, perseverance and tremendous talent the WLA team has.

WLA Coach Wins Top National Award



WLA Table Tennis Coach Jason Sugrue has been awarded a prestigious coaching award at a ceremony hosted by the English Institute of Sport.

The award recognises Jason's outstanding contribution to coaching table tennis in London.

Jason works at all levels of the sport, starting players off at school and developing them into county, regional and national champions. Some of his players have gone onto represent England, including those from WLA

As a former international player himself, Jason has great knowledge of the game and is always looking to improve and help young players.

His devotion to the sport is unquestionable and his record of achievement is superb. The Academy is extremely fortunate to have a coach of such stature working with our students.