



Quote of this issue

‘The educated differ from the uneducated as much as the living differ from the dead.’ Aristotle

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents, Staff, Students and Friends of PA,

I am delighted to welcome you to the summer edition of the newsletter.

Exam season has come to an end and so we have sadly said goodbye to our year 11 and 13 students – but in style as you will see from the articles!

In terms of skills building and the Paddington Promise to students there have been some wonderful events going on in the last few months.

Thanks to Miss Faulkner and the Enterprise group a great community week was organised for year 10 and 12.

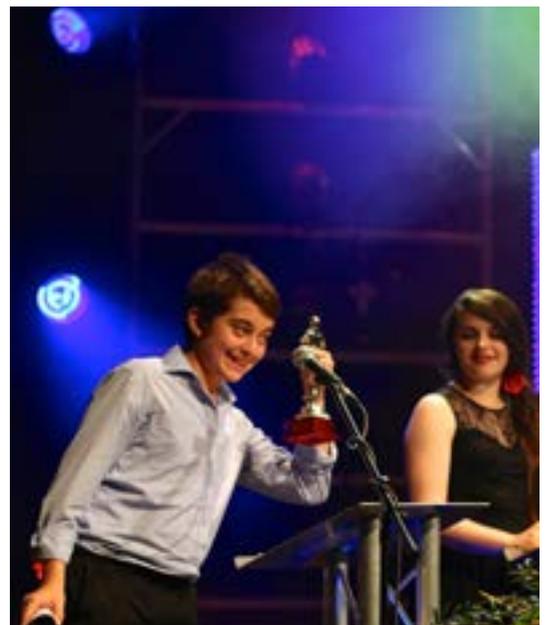
This was complimented by the Careers event organised by Mr McKay and the Maths Money Week organised by Miss Modha. We are hugely grateful to all the local businesses that supported these events.

We have also enjoyed some marvelous school trips and residentials – from the Science Museum, to a Buddhist temple all the way to Singapore for the World Scholar’s Cup!

A huge thanks to all involved in an immensely enjoyable and successful year.

Have a safe and restful summer.

Warmest wishes,
Oli Tomlinson



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International success

From PA to Yale

Students shine at the World Scholar's Cup in Singapore and qualify for the Final Round in the USA



Students from Paddington Academy qualified for the final stage of the World Scholar's Cup that will take place in November 2014 at Yale University, USA.

The students just returned to the Academy after achieving top scores in the Global Round that took place in Singapore at the end of June. The five day competition assembled over 2400 students from all around the world and is held yearly to celebrate excellence in a range of subjects.

Although this was the first time that Paddington Academy students have taken part, they managed to achieve some exceptional results. These were the culmination of days of intense competition which included debating, collaborative writing and individual challenges. While the team collaboration and their shared competitive spirit were vital factors in this immense success, some individual achievements were remarked on by the jury. Mahdi Hijazy, Year 11, was recognised as the top scorer for the team while Jahida Begum, Year 11, managed to secure the top spot in collaborative writing.

About the Singapore experience, Mahdi Hijazy - 17

years old, said: 'The World Scholar's Cup was a unique event which involved students from every continent. It was refreshing to be challenged on topics such as Arts, Literature, Philosophy and many more against intellectuals from somewhere else other than the UK. I am also greatly looking forward to visiting a world renowned institution such as Yale University. Hopefully this event only foreshadows what is yet to come.'

Ellie Miles, Advanced Performance School Leader at PA and the teacher who accompanied the students on this journey, said: "We are very proud of what these students have achieved through their hard work and commitment and would like to sincerely congratulate them and wish them well in all their academic pursuits."

Congratulations are in order as well for Miriam Bengougam and Lirak Krasniqi both in Year 9 and PA's Junior Team in Singapore, who put in a stellar performance showcasing their exceptional intellectual abilities on an international stage. This unique experience has no doubt opened the doors for them to build upon the success of the Senior Team in the future.

From Classroom to Boardroom

Students present their business ideas at the City's powerhouse, Guildhall



During the last week of June, 12 Year 12 students from Paddington Academy and Surbiton High School were presented with a business challenge to which they had to find a solution.

For a week the students went on a journey to adopt the life of a business executive. They had to immerse themselves into the world of business – each student held a specific business role supported by a mentor – and were given the task of solving an actual business issue.

The company *Carbon Voyage*, who tested the students on their enterprise skills and challenged them to deliver sustainable business solutions, set the challenge. The contest for PA students was to 'identify a strategy or set of measures that will improve efficiencies in retail supply chains in order to meet the demands of consumers'.

This was an opportunity for the students to link the work they do in the classroom, during Business and Social Enterprise lessons, with the corporate world, the purpose being to inspire future success in the real world.

Watson Brown, Year 12 student said: '*Classroom to Boardroom* gave not only me but young adults in general the opportunity to express and combine our skills in order to form a great and wonderful idea for a future generation.'

Harrison Degannes, Year 12 student and CEO of the business challenge, said: 'The course was a great experience that enabled me to gain new skills and relate them with the business world.'

Jack Brown, Year 12 student and Deputy CEO in this challenge, said: 'The *Classroom to Boardroom* scheme was an amazing opportunity and gave us great insight into the world of business. We applied the knowledge taught to us during lessons in a real life situation. Although presenting in front of so many professionals was a bit nerve-wracking, the support of our business mentor helped us do a good job.'

The scheme culminated with a conference at the City's powerhouse, Guildhall where students had the opportunity to voice their ideas in front of over 100 business senior executives. The business presentation created by the students was fantastic and was aided by some extraordinary business decisions perfectly articulated.

At the end of the awards ceremony, attendees commented on students' wonderful eloquence, business-like minds and the leadership skills demonstrated during the business challenge.

Once again, PA students - challenge defeated!

Community achievement

PA Principal Recognised for Excellence in Education at No 10

Mrs Tomlinson met the Prime Minister at a reception celebrating excellence in education.

On 18th May, Oli Tomlinson, Principal of Paddington Academy, was invited to 10 Downing Street to meet the Prime Minister at a celebration of state education.

The reception was held to recognise the dedication and contributions of some of the country's most innovative and outstanding schools.

Addressing attendees the Prime Minister said: "I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your contribution to education in this country." The PM continued by pointing out that for the first time independent schools experience real competition from state schools. "State education in England is going from strength to strength." "But all that would not be possible without the work of people like you."

The Prime Minister highlighted the enormous hard work teachers do "to provide children and young people with the education they deserve – regardless of where they live or what their family's circumstances are" which it is ever so congruent with the values Mrs Tomlinson is consistently promoting at PA which include: "The street stops at the gate"; "Nothing should stop education"; "There are no limits, no short-cuts and no excuses".

Also in attendance at Number 10 were Education Secretary Michel Gove, United Learning Director Dame Sally Coates and Chair of PA Governing Body Tristan Pedelty.



Sublime Music Hub with the BBC Symphony Orchestra



On 30th June, students from Paddington Academy and College Park put together a sublime music concert with the support of the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

To achieve this fantastic result, students worked together to produce their own version of a well-known classical piece of music. This year their piece of choice was *The Planets* by the British composer Gustav Holst. They met regularly during the whole summer term and their work paid off when supported by the BBC Symphony Orchestra they performed to an audience in awe. The innovative music was softly interjected by pieces of poetry recited by a few of the most talented Academy's sixth formers actors.

This is second year takes part in this type of project that aims to inspire a generation of children to get creative with classical music.



Paddington Academy Students Step Out on to the Red Carpet 7th year celebrating media succes at the PA

By Olivia Sesay-Murray

On 2nd July, Paddington Academy hosted its very own Oscars Ceremony complete with red carpet, ball gowns, black tie and gold statuettes. This was all in aid of the annual Paddington Gold Awards – in its 7th year! - which recognised the Academy students' achievements in media arts.

The Academy building itself had been transformed into Hollywood for the evening along with glitter balls, live television feed, fireworks and fabulous performances.

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of the awards which were presented by a selection of sixth formers. On this glamorous evening, PA also showcased some of their best music and dance students as they performed elegantly to an amazed crowd.



The smoke and the vibrant spotlights creating a wonderful stage for the winners to walk up to as they collected one of the gleaming Gold award statuettes. Celebrating the efforts of performing arts students from across all key stages the awards included: Best Advert, Best BTEC Music Video, Best Short Film, Best Motion Graphics as well as individual categories.

One of the outstanding achievements awarded on this occasion was the remarkable work from the junior journalists who had produced news reports for the BBC

School Report. The award for the Best Reporter was presented to Year 9 students Ryan Wilson and Lirak Krasniqi, who represent students' talent and ambition to strive and succeed in media.

With each award the crowd watched short clips of the humorous, skilled and stunning work from PA students; it was as amazing as the Oscars.

As a PA 6th former, and from my first time attending the Gold Awards I have realised the huge amount of opportunities PA offers to all of its students, giving them a chance to embrace their talent and celebrate success. Parents, teachers and students who supported their family and friends at the Gold Awards shared the joy in celebrating the inspiring talent that was shown. As a proud winner of one of these golden trophies for Best Short Film along with my cinematographer colleague Maryiam Sanyang and editor Radeen Moncrieffe, we appreciate the amount of help and support PA staff put into their students' work in order to truly ignite the best in everyone! I am sure that all students nominated and recognized on the night would be delighted to have won an Oscar before Leonardo DiCaprio has!



Art

Showcasing PA Art Talent

Last week of June, Paddington Academy hosted its annual summer exhibition to showcase the magnificent work of its GCSE and A-Level Art students.

The exhibition was a truly eclectic collection of fantastic art and photography which included GCSE Art examination pieces exploring the theme of 'Order and Disorder' and A level examination pieces exploring the theme of 'Growth and Evolution'.



Throughout their studies, students had the opportunity to visit many London galleries including the Tate Modern, National Gallery and the Saatchi Gallery. A-Level students sought inspiration from wider afield by exploring other cultural offerings like the Natural History Museum and the London Zoo.

GCSE students' work ranged from an investigation into space to personal reflections on their identity. They all worked phenomenally hard and produced work of an extremely high standard. They explored a wide range of exciting artists and a series of standout pieces from Siddiqah Islam was inspired by the mixed media collages of Robert Rauschenberg. Another exciting piece by Ardijana Konjuhi was a textiles based installation that attracted much attention at the exhibition, which led to many offers from people wanting to buy it! This year's Year 11 teacher, Juliet Adjei, noted how proud she was of the "student's hard work and what a pleasure it has been to see them grow into young artists!"

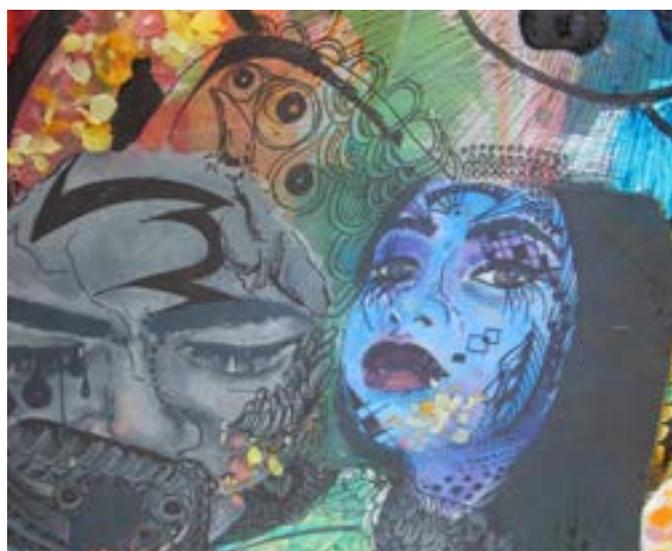
The A-Level students' final year began with a summer course at Camberwell College of Art and Design. They

developed projects from individual starting points and in some cases explored some deeply personal ideas through their artwork. Marifhe Mindanao produced some truly eclectic work, responding to different visual and cultural stimuli. Joshua Tampoe-Holmes worked tirelessly to understand this media with which he worked and in one final piece, combined sculpture, installation and painting to create a really exciting final outcome. One of the finest pieces of Artwork produced this year was an ambitious painting spanning more than 12 feet in length and combined a multitude of experimental media and materials. His final outcome was accompanied by a series of videos that he made documenting his work and process.

The exhibition was attended by proud parents, students and staff, who were bowled over by the standard of the work on show. One Year 8 student remarked how exciting the show was and that "there were so many different ideas presented in so many exciting different ways"

Subject leader for Art, Mr Elias, said: "Students have risen to the challenges that we keep setting and responded with creativity and imagination. We are very proud of them".

Paddington Academy has a vibrant and creative Art department which teaches students a broad range of creative skills ranging from painting, drawing, photography, mixed-media, print-making and installation.



Money Week



One-off purchases often lead to ongoing expenses and may contain hidden costs, which is why planning what you do with your money is so important. And it was on this topic that the entire Year 8 students spent their past two weeks during the Money Week.

The workshops were brought in their Maths classes by My Finance Coach and the sessions were delivered by volunteers from Allianz, a multinational financial services company.

The lessons focused on Maths in finance and real life financial skills. The students learnt about finance in three key areas such as shopping, planning and savings.

Through the discussions led by Allianz volunteers the students were able to gain an understanding of budgeting and thinking about where they need to save or spend money. The planning module, aimed to provide the Maths skills to plan before they purchase and to calculate the best deal themselves following convincing advertising. The savings module enabled the students to gain an insight into different types of savings accounts in order to develop their skills on the concept of short term and long term saving and which type of bank account is best suited to their needs. The sessions built on the basic idea of balancing their personal income and expenditure to look at ongoing expenses and one-off expenses, including ensuring they have enough of an emergency fund to cover unexpected events.

Here is what students marked on the feedback forms at the end of the scheme: 'I learnt how to use money wisely', or 'I learnt about pay day loans and how much interest they charge.' or 'I should always check which price is best, even if the offer sounds good.' or even "I need to make sure I plan so that I can afford all the things I need, and not just buy the things I want."

Maths Medalists

During the summer term, Maths students at PA participated in the UKMT (UK Mathematics Trust) Junior Challenge. Here's how they did this year.

Year 7 and Year 8 students achieved 4 golds, 5 silvers, 7 bronzes.

Over 240,000 students from across the UK sat the Junior Maths Challenge with the top 6% of receiving a gold certificate, the next 13% silver and the next 21% bronze.

From PA, Enkhjin Togtobhbayar - Year 8, Mahdi Ahmad - Year 8, Shihab Ahmad - Year 7 and Akram Ahmad - Year 7 all achieved a gold.

Sarah Kubati, Mergim Muhadri, Hamza Hassan, Tania Ahmed, Jamal Brade-Artry all received silver and Omar Majdoub, Osama Mahdi, Amir Pajaziti, Fabio Garcez, Masum Ahmed, Nazzimuz Zaman and Hussain Martins achieved a bronze certificate.

A very well done to all those who participated.

Extra-curricular activities

Ola Espana!

For a week in mid June, MFL (Modern Foreign Languages) students from Year 10 left behind the grey skies of London for the sunny city of Barcelona. While there, students took part in a range of cultural experiences and had the opportunity to test out their Spanish language skills.

The students began their trip with an insight into the work of Cataluñá's most famous architect, Antoni Gaudi. They visited Park Guell, the Cathedral Sagrada Familia and Casa Batlló. After a heavy day of walking, some R&R was needed and students finished their day off with sunset at the beach.



First thing on Saturday they mingled with the locals and visited Barcelona's famous market, the Boqueria. The students enjoyed the experience of shopping for local produce, as well as sampling a number of traditional Spanish dishes such as tortilla and baby octopus. Students then went on a walking tour through the Barrio Gotico and down to the Marina, where most took the opportunity to beat the heat with a friendly water battle.

Originating from the south of Spain, Ms Venegas was determined to give the students an authentic Spanish Sunday experience so, the day began with some students venturing to Poble Espanyol. Other students could not resist the opportunity to visit Barcelona's football stadium, Camp Nou, home of the famous FC Barcelona. After a very busy morning, students made their way to Barceloneta beach for some fun in the sun.

Sadly, all good things have to come to an end and a very exhausted group of students boarded their flight back to London.

Instrumental grade success in PA!

Over 200 PA students now attend instrumental lessons in school on a variety of different instruments. That explains how on the 18th June, Paddington Academy was host to a day of rigorous external instrumental grade exams for a number of these students.

All students performed exceptionally well with all students passing their exams, most with the top grades of merit or distinction. Well done to all the students involved but a particularly big well done to Year 13 student Tim Andres who achieved a merit on guitar in the most challenging level of exam, Grade 8!



Music Concert

Students presented wonderful and memorable performances during the Summer Music Concert on 18th June. For an hour, students from all year groups delivered an exciting concert filled with a variety of styles all presented with the highest professionalism.

From Japanese Pop, beautiful solo piano pieces, classical ensembles, heartfelt touching ballads to heavy rock, each piece different from the other and displayed the incredible talents of PA music students. An absolute credit to all the performers!

Westminster 6th Form Sports Champions

This term PA 6th formers competed in the borough's sporting challenges in football, volleyball and relay. The students displayed excellent sporting skills in all challenges and once again they won the annual title - Westminster Sixth Form Sports trophy. Congratulations to all of them.

International Visit

A group of students from Taiwan shadowed PA 6th formers in a cultural and educational visit. For two weeks, the Taiwanese students enjoyed shadowing PA students into their everyday school activities, sharing their culture as well as visiting the sights of London.

The project was organized by Regents College and it is a follow-up on feedback we had with a similar group last year.



Careers Fair

Beginning of July brought to PA students the second Careers Fair.

Among the organisations that participated were: Starbucks, Dream Arts, Westminster Sports, Wates Construction, Land Securities, University of Law, University of Westminster, Just For Kids Law, Just IT, London College of Beauty as well as Therapy.

Students asked many questions, picked up information and considered what career might suit them.

The organisations that attended commented on students' enthusiasm and maturity in relation to the types of questions that they asked.

We look forward to building on this success and holding similar future events as the feedback from students and companies involved was excellent.

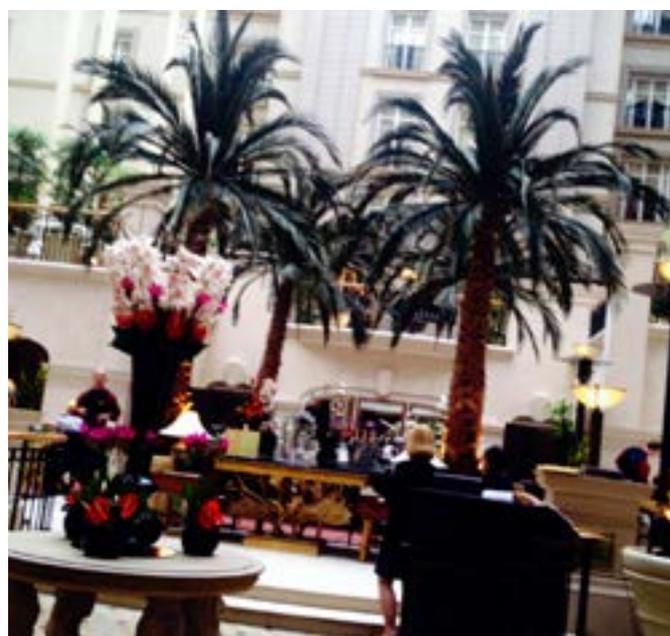
Cambridge - A Pathway to Success

Students in Year 12 were invited to attend a two-day residential at Cambridge University. At Murray Edwards College, along with their peers from around the country, the students were presented the 'Pathway to Success' programme. The programme aims to encourage and inspire high achieving females to consider Oxbridge universities when deciding on their university place.

After, the girls attended a formal dinner where one of the key speakers was Francis Edmunds – author presenter and wife of past cricketer Phil Edmunds. During the second day, students visited various Cambridge colleges that help them broaden their options in terms of university choices.

Events Management at the Landmark Hotel

At the end of June, Level 3 Business students took part in an events management day at the Landmark Hotel. The students were split into teams to work with students from a number of schools. Together they experienced working in a 5* hotel as the theme of the event was 'soft skills'. They took part in customer service role play, food and drink tasting, table settings as well as listening to a number of talks facilitated by people in the industry and a tour of the luxurious hotel. At the end, Cengiz Yengil - Year 13 student, was pleased to receive a voucher and speakers for his mobile phone as a prize for being in the winning team.



Sports

Summer Term Sports News



The summer term has brought PA students many occasions for success and celebration from the PE department.

In early June students competed in the Westminster Athletics Competition. Although the weather did not help, students carried on with success in both track and field events. They gathered numerous successes such as, to mention only one, the crowning of Year 10 student Tory Drummond as Shot Put Champion of Westminster.

In July, the PA annual Sports Day took place at Paddington Recreation Ground.

This event saw the highest ever number of students from across all year groups compete in a variety of events on both the track and field. Students competed in up to five events each.

Winner of the most events on the day was Ryheem Lockhart Year 10, who won 4 gold medals on the track and 1 bronze medal in field. The most successful girl on Sports Day was Satra-Sia Sumana Kissoon who won 3 gold medals and 1 silver across the track and field events, including the Year 9 girls 100m final. This was

not very surprising as Satra was placed 3rd year 9 girl in the borough at the Westminster Athletics Competition.

Congratulations are in order for all students participating; they did their teachers proud.



Sports Awards Evening 2014

A celebration of sporting success with the inspirational Tony Gibb



On Thursday 3rd July Paddington Academy held its first Sports Awards Evening to celebrate sporting excellence.

Guest speaker of the Evening was Mr Tony Gibb, Commonwealth medallist and world champion cyclist who delivered an insightful speech into the sporting world to a captivated audience.

The event was an evening of celebration of students' achievements in PE lessons, examinations and aimed to reward success for individual and team sporting performance.

The awards, presented by Mrs Tomlinson, Principal and Tony Gibb, included: Student of the Year (for each year group), Most Successful Team for various sports played at the Academy (under 14 and under 17) as well as Athlete of the Year and many others.

A very popular sport that students enjoy at PA is basketball and for the numerous successes achieved, the nominees were: Arbnor Haliti, Ahmed Ahmed, Hatim El- Harrak ,Amin Mahoutti, Ahmed Al Shamri, Samy Radwan, Yehya Hawila, Chachris Rimraor, Tilal Mohammed, Arb Visoka, Mathew Mindanao, Robin Mar Nery, Kasean Coe, Mohamed El-Fassi and Nadeer Magou – all part of the PA Basketball Team under 17. This team has won the Westminster League 4 times and represented the borough at the London School Games.

The winner of the 2014 Male Athlete of the Year Award was Arbnor Haliti, who has been selected for the Great

Britain under 17 basketball squad and will be studying A-levels at City of London as part of their nationally recognised Basketball Academy Programme.

Chole O'Sullivan-Healy was crowned Female Athlete of the Year 2014 for her fantastic performance in Taekwondo. Her achievements include a multitude of gold medals as well as being the National Gold Medallist in three categories. Chloe has been selected for the British Taekwondo fighting squad and patterns squad, the first for an athlete to be selected for both the fighting and patterns squad.

Overall this was an evening of outstanding sporting performance and we are looking forward to celebrating next year's performances.



Goodbye and Good Luck

Year 11 and Year 13

After an extremely hard working and success full year, it was time to say a heartfelt good luck and goodbye to Year 13. Their special graduation ceremony was held to recognise their achievements at PA during 2012 - 2014.

All of the 6th formers were sad to say goodbye to their period at PA but are looking forward to their university choices and jobs.

At the end of this term, we sadly said goodbye to yet another year group, PA's Year 11. After all the exam emotions and adrenaline-fuelled results expectations, the academic year finally came to a close for another PA year 11 group of students. Students' merits and achievements were celebrated in style during the graduation ceremony followed by a glamorous boat party on the River Thames.

We look forward to seeing students for results day on Thursday 14th of August for A Level results and 21st August for GCSE results.



PA wishes everyone a wonderful summer holiday and is looking forward to welcoming all its students back in September 2014. For all term dates go onto our website at <http://www.paddington-academy.org/Key-information/Term-dates>

Term and Holiday Dates 2014 | 15

Term 1

Wednesday 3rd September - school starts for Years 7, 11 & 12
Thursday 4th September - school starts for Year 8, 9 & 10
Monday 8th September - school starts for Year 13 students
Wednesday 3rd September 2014 – Friday 24th October 2014
INSET 1st & 2nd September 2014 (no school for students)

Term 2

Monday 3rd November 2014 – Friday 19th December 2014
Friday 28 November 2014 – school closed
Friday 19th December – Parents Morning (9am-12pm)

Year 7 Scientists at the Science Museum

Year 7 scientists were rewarded for their hard work on their Homework Project with an exciting visit to the Science Museum. On location, they participated in a workshop that included a mission on saving the Queen, an interactive science quiz and the making of science news.

The programme consisting of workshops, shows and visits, all year round, was offered by the Science Museum in an effort to engage year 7 students with Science.



Celebrating a Multi-Faith PA - RE Stop Day

On Tuesday 15th July, Year 10 students participated in the final RE Stop Day. Over 100 students went on trips to places of worship, including East London's Mosque, the Buddhapadia Temple in Wimbledon, St. Paul's Cathedral and the Hindu Mandir in Neasden.

They then returned to school and built those places of worship out of recycled materials in order to reflect upon religious attitudes to the environment. All students had an excellent time and represented the Academy beautifully.

