



Quote of this issue

“The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience.”
Eleanor Roosevelt

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents, Staff, Students and Friends of PA,

Welcome to the Easter edition of the school newsletter. At the end of an exciting and busy half-term we are pleased to be able to report on the wealth of opportunities offered to students and the hard work that has been undertaken to lead to success at the end of the year. Last week, the school was very pleased to receive a prize of £50,000 from the Department of Education at an award ceremony celebrating effectiveness in the use of the Pupil Premium. This award celebrated the ways in which Paddington Academy has successfully achieved outstanding exam grades for all its students, and also given them the guidance needed to gain the best university places possible. We are very pleased to be able to use the prize money to offer students even more opportunities.

In this newsletter, you can read about the varied opportunities and experiences that students have enjoyed. We celebrated World Maths Day and World Book Day this term and they gave students the opportunity to develop their Maths skills and also to see their teachers dressed up in a variety of costumes. The highest number of Year 10 students ever signed up to complete a work experience placement during their half-term in February. There was excellent feedback from employers and we held a celebration event which recognised the commitment of the students in giving up their half-term to gain this experience.

The next term promises to be a busy one for students preparing for the GCSE, A Level and end of year exams. We want students to perform at the best possible level and staff will be working hard with students to ensure that they are well supported and given every opportunity to excel.

With warmest wishes for a restful Easter break,

Peter Jones
Principal (Students)



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Celebration

World Book Day 2015



Thursday, 5th March was World Book Day 2015 and to mark the occasion students and staff at Paddington Academy celebrated reading for pleasure and the pursuit of knowledge in their spare time.

On the day, to show their love for books, teachers from across the school dressed-up in their favorite literature character.

Characters included Mr. Sebastian as Capt. Ahab from Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*, Miss Notowitz as George from *The Famous Five*, Miss Chatten as 'the dwarf-gremlin-thing' from *Don't Look Now*, Miss Faulkner as Mrs. Coulter from *His Dark Materials*, Mr. Freedman as the eponymous *Gatsby* and many more pictured above. The meaning of the day was explained to students in the school weekly podcast, themed lessons and book related activities that took place through the day.

Can you guess who's who in the photo above?

Key Dates Year 6 to 7 Transition 2015

Transition interviews will be held for students and parents who will be joining us in September 2015. The interview dates are as follows:

Wednesday 22 April 2015 | Saturday 25 April 2015 |
Monday 27 April 2015

Thursday 25 June 2015 - Parents' Information Evening
Friday 26 June 2015 - Transition Day | All students to attend

Cultural Exchange

During this half-term Paddington Academy received guests from Denmark.

The Danish students visited PA for the fourth year as part of a cultural and educational visit to London. Year 13 Media students spent the day showing their Danish peers around and sharing information about their respective schools.

The visit was equally enriching for both schools and we look forward to receiving them again next year.

Devised Drama Evening

AS Drama students have been rehearsing regularly in front of a full audience in preparation for their exam performance.

The Year 12 girls performed extracts from the play 'Girls like that' to reflect Brecht's style, an author they studied in class this academic year. The girls delivered brilliantly the piece framed around women's friendship with its ups and downs. The students performed to a very high standard and we hope their results will be just as wonderful as their acting.

In addition Year 11 students delivered some exceptional monologues. They all shone like real West End stars and we couldn't be happier for their achievements. Well done everyone!



2015 | 16 Term and Holiday Dates

The terms and holidays dates for the next academic year are now available for your information and to help you better plan your future holidays. Please be reminded that 100% attendance is crucial for your child's progress and achievement.

Term 1

Thursday 3rd September 2015 - Friday 23 October 2015
INSET Tuesday 1 and Wednesday 2 September 2015
(school closed for students)

Half term holiday Monday 26 October 2015 - Friday 30 October 2015

Term 2

Monday 2 November 2015 - Friday 18 December 2015
INSET 6 November 2015 (no school for students)
School closed Friday 27 November 2015
Parents Evening Thursday 17 December 2015 (4:00 - 6:30pm)
Parents Morning Friday 18 December 2015 (9am-12pm)
Christmas holidays Monday 21 December 2015 - Friday 1 January 2016

Term 3

Monday 4 January 2016 - Friday 12 February 2016
INSET 4 January 2016 (school closed for students)
Half term holiday Monday 15 February 2016 - Friday 19 February 2016

Term 4

Monday 22 February 2016 - Thursday 24 March 2016
Parents Evening Thursday 24 March 2016 (school closed for students)
Easter holiday Friday 25 March 2016 - Friday 8 April 2016

Term 5

Monday 11 April 2016 - Friday 27 May 2016
INSET 11 April 2016 (school closed for students)
Monday 2 May 2016 - Bank holiday
Half term holiday Monday 30 May 2016 - Friday 3 June 2016

Term 6

Monday 6 June 2016 - Wednesday 20 July 2016
End of academic year 2015 | 16 - Wednesday 20 July 2016

Careers

Year 10 Work Experience

From 16th to 20th February, over 140 students in Year 10 gave up their half term holiday to complete a one-week work experience placement.

All students have been exposed to the real work-life experience within a variety of career paths. They had a taste of careers in law, medicine, education, graphic design, hospitality, retail, public relations, construction, property management, security, health and beauty in organisations including the London Stock Exchange, Time Out, RBS, The Ritz and many more.

Feedback from employers was overwhelmingly positive with many saying that PA students were the best they've had on work experience.

"A breath of fresh air, her attitude has been spot on and she's been a real help to the team in a difficult week" – Khadija Miah, Barclays

"Mahdi has been a delight all week, I've had good reports from all departments, he is particularly bright and very mature for his age" – Mahdi Uddin, Great Portland Estates

"Abdullahi has done extremely well this week, we've been impressed with his standard of work and he did everything that was asked of him in a polite manner" – Abdullahi Ali, Boots

A very well done to all!

STEM - Business Career Academy

Year 12 Career Academy students attended a fantastic visit to the Cross Rail site in Paddington Station.

They were rewarded with a rare opportunity to descend into the underground subway and platforms to get a real sense of the enormity of the project.

Students were able to experience first-hand how their academic studies can translate into professions within engineering, construction and design. They were also able to visualise how one of Europe's largest projects comes together and how innovation, expertise and teamwork enable a project to come to fruition.

One of the students commented on the experience: "through the Career Academy programme I have learnt about so many different jobs and careers, this visit (to Cross Rail) has made me really consider a career as an Engineer. I think it would be really rewarding to work on a project and then to actually get to see the finished product at the end."

In addition to this amazing experience, three lucky Career Academy students will have the opportunity to participate in a paid Internship with Cross Rail this summer.



Business Trip to BA

On Tuesday 24th March, Year 10 Business Studies students visited British Airways Community Training Centre in Heathrow.

The visit helped students relate their academic course to the working world and to gain a deeper understanding of what good customer service really means.



They took part in a number of practical activities including customer service role plays, presentations and quizzes.

They dressed up as airline crew and played out customer service scenarios on the British Airways mock plane.

Students also improved their communication, team work and confidence skills during the day, one student commented: "I have found today really inspiring, I know how to help customers now and would like to do work experience in an airport so I can learn more."



Introducing PC Singh

Interview by Lirak Krasniqi, Y10

Paddington Academy is a strong and very special community. Part of this vibrant community is the local Police Force who offers its support through the School Police Officer, making the school a even safer place to be for everyone.

Recently PC Paul Turpin, the former School Police Officer, retired to pursue other policing-related ventures. He passed on his role and responsibilities to Police Constable Toch Singh. Year 10 student Lirak Krasniqi interviewed PC Singh and here is his introduction:

LK: So Constable, how long have you been a part of the Police Force?

PC Singh: I have been on a rapid response team for the past five years, dealing with a whole range of issues from theft, domestic violence and more severe incidents such as GBH and murder.



LK: What made you want to become a police officer in the first place?

PC Singh: Probably the same with most officers who wanted to join the force in the first place, I wanted to help people in the local community. It's a big responsibility.

LK: What made you want to come to PA and become the new School Police Officer?

PC Singh: I feel that I can connect well with younger people. It is also great experience and is a great way to help the local community.

LK: Can you sum up the ultimate goal of policing in one sentence?

PC Singh: To keep the community safe and to make sure that the law is followed.

Celebration

Maths World Day

This half-term, the Maths department brought to PA students a joint celebration of the World Maths Day and Pi Day.

The department wore customised Maths t-shirts with pride, showing their favourite numbers and Maths formulas on the back and there were various events planned throughout the two days for the students to take part in.

From the moment students arrived in the morning, they were eager to complete questions for the treasure hunt and win the competition by finding the teachers to sign their sheet as quickly as possible. The Year 7 classes enjoyed a lesson on famous mathematicians from over 2000 years ago to present day, and the Year 9 classes were able to replicate the Maths skills required in a financial market scenario of buying and selling in order to make profit.

The top 15 Year 7 times table achievers took part in the Final of the Time Tables Rockstars competition to endeavour to win the crown of 'Ultimate Times Table Rock Legend'. The day culminated in a challenge to learn and recite Pi to the most decimal places, with some students reciting Pi to over 200 decimal places.

A very well done to everyone who participated and congratulations to the winners!



Pupil Premium Awards 2015

On 25th March Paddington Academy was awarded a £50,000 prize from the Department of Education at a ceremony celebrating effectiveness in the use of the Pupil Premium Fund.

The award celebrates the ways in which our school has successfully achieved outstanding exam grades for all its students, and also has given them the guidance needed to gain the best university places possible.

During the award ceremony, David Laws – the Minister for Schools – was very impressed by the excellent practice at our school and talked about ways Paddington Academy can share its knowledge and experience with other schools. Ideas proposed included becoming a pupil premium reviewer, working directly with underperforming schools, speaking at conferences and sharing your best practice online via Paddington Academy and the Pupil Premium Awards website.

We are very pleased to be able to use the prize money to offer students even more opportunities.



PGL A Trip of a Lifetime

By Abotalib Mohamed, Year 11

At the end of March, 100 PA students from Year 11 went to PGL Osmington Bay in Dorset for a 2-day weekend residential trip.

Here is how Abo, Year 11 student, describes this experience:

We left PA on Friday, leaving as 2 coaches - each coach of 50 students. Coach one had a journey of 4 hours, which was expected; however coach 2 unluckily got stuck in rush hour, which led to having a 7 hours journey. Unfortunately I was on the second one!



The trip still passed quickly and we arrived safely at our destination with just time to unpack our luggage and fit in a quick lesson!

The next day started bright and early with a full programme of activities planned for us to enjoy.



Activities included archery, rock climbing, Jacob's ladder, trapeze and capture the flag. Many of these activities were new experiences and was great to learn a new skill - work as a team - and in some cases overcome fears.

The trip provided opportunities for students to make new friends and have a good break before revision and exams.

This was an outstanding trip which left students with unforgettable and unbeatable memories. A trip of a lifetime!



The “WOW!” Factor this Half-Term

Tahj Miles met Idris Elba, Oscar nominee for best actor in 2015, at the National Television Awards.

Tahj, himself a West End actor and an eminent Year 9 student at PA, was invited to the event for his performing achievements. During the event, he was pictured on the red carpet with Idris Elba and national newspapers commented on both their exquisite sense of fashion and similar choice of outfit for the celebratory night.



© Mabe Photos/Ema Images © Stephen Coke/REX
Double trouble: Both Idris and Tahj Miles went for matching black tie and shirt combos

Requests for Absence

Requests for absence for the purpose of a holiday or leave during term-time are granted only in exceptional circumstances.

Application forms must be completed at least three weeks prior to dates requested and should be submitted with supporting evidence.

Additionally only one day will be authorised at a time for religious observance. This includes the Islamic Eid, as well as religious observance days Orthodox Christianity, Judaism and other faiths.

Any further absence would be considered unauthorised. Should you decide to take your child/children out of school without authorisation you may be subject to a Penalty Notice issued by the Local Authority on your return - currently £60 per child.

Term and Holiday Dates 2014 | 15

All students are expected back in school Tuesday 21st April at 8.20 precisely.

Term 4

Easter Holidays Tuesday 7th April 2015 – Friday 17th April 2015

Term 5

Tuesday 21st April 2015 – Friday 22nd May 2015

INSET Monday 20th April (no school for students)

Bank Holiday Monday 4th May

Half Term Monday 25th May 2015 – Friday 29th May 2015

Term 6

Monday 1st June 2015 – Friday 17th July 2015

Thursday 2nd July 2015 – Parents Evening (4:30pm-7:30pm)

End of term Friday 17th July

London Youth Games Dance Competition

On Friday 13th March 2015, PA dance club students performed at the London Youth Games that took place at the Box Office Arena at Excel Centre.

Erika Fejzullahu in Year 10 and keen member of dance club, was part of the Paddington Academy group and here are her impressions on this experience: “Performing at the London Youth Games was such an amazing experience. We managed to be come in top ten out of so many school participating from all over the UK. This was great! We put a lot of time and effort into our jazz dance routine and we were thrilled to perform in front of such a massive audience and judges.

I can’t wait to do it again next year!”

