



Quote of this issue

‘The beautiful thing about learning is nobody can take it away from you.’
BB King

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents, Staff, Students and Friends of PA,

Welcome to the latest edition of the Paddington Academy newsletter.

This issue celebrates a successful term in which our students have had their achievements and opportunities recognised in a variety of ways.

We are delighted to announce that, once again, students at Paddington made outstanding progress compared with other students nationally. We were ranked third out of 357 schools for the progress made by students across all of their GCSE subjects, putting us in the top 1% of schools again.

On the artistic side, students displayed striking professionalism and performance skills during the Spring Music Show which was an enjoyable occasion. Additionally, two of our most gifted students have been short-listed nationally for their writing skills; we hope that their stories will become best sellers!

From the Performing Arts department we have also enjoyed some great dance performances as both KS3 and KS4 girls won the interborough dance competition and represented Westminster at the London Youth Games in the Olympic Village. Another notable event this term was Zimbe! where our students presented a sold out West End show to an audience of over 1000.

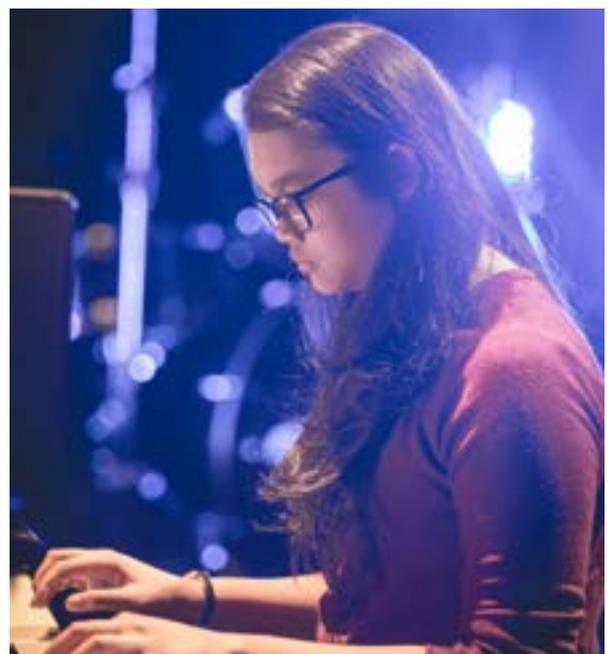
One important mark of the Paddington Academy community is the ability to empathise with and help others; we have had a variety of events this half-term to support this. Micro Tyco, helping the refugees in Calais, raising funds for Cancer Support and The British Heart Foundation are just a few examples which you can read about in this edition.

We are also pleased with the continuous work we do in enrichment, as part of the PA Promise. One key event this term to support equality, healthy lifestyles and encourage girls into sports was ‘This Girl Can’ week. It was a great delight to see so many girls participating in sport during the week.

As always, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support for our school community, and to wish you a restful break.

Warmest wishes,

Peter Jones
Principal



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Paddington Academy Students Take Zimbe! to the London Stage

Students Make it onto the Longlist in National Creative Writing Competition



On 25th January 2016, students from Paddington Academy took to the stage for a sold-out performance at London's prestigious Lyceum Theatre.

Conducted by popular composer Alexander L'Estrange, Paddington Academy students and staff joined a host of schools from all across the country to present songs from Zimbe! Those involved were all part of United Learning – our umbrella organisation - a unique group of state and independent schools located across the country from Portsmouth to Carlisle.

Zimbe! is an imaginative fusion of traditional African song and jazz which as a choral piece seeks to bring communities together. Two of Paddington Academy students Satra and Tomas were specially selected to present the show and what a brilliant job they did in front of over 1000 spectators.

Catherine Barker, Head of Music and Performing Arts for United Learning, said:

'I am immensely proud of all the students and staff that have performed in and helped organise such a spectacular event.

'I am particularly pleased with the feedback from students and staff who have said how much they enjoyed the opportunity to get together with other schools to perform

Zimbe! Events like this one show off the uniqueness of a group like United Learning as a true partnership between state and independent schools.'

Jon Coles, Chief Executive of United Learning, said: 'One of the advantages of being a national group of schools is that we can bring our most talented pupils together from all over the country to participate in events like this. An opportunity to sing in a magnificent theatre like the Lyceum is an ambition that many have but few have the chance to realise. So it's been wonderful to see our singers enjoy the experience and come together to perform.'

Tarani Ariyanayagam, Head of Performance Arts at Paddington Academy, said: "Tomas and Satra as presenters were absolutely brilliant; their professionalism in presenting to nearly 1000 people was second to none! I am extremely proud.

About presenting such an important event, Satra-Sia Sumana Kisson, Year 11 student said: "It was a great experience! Although I was nervous at first, the high energy of the performers and the crowd made it feel a lot more natural."

Two KS5 students have made it onto the longlist for the First Story 2015-16 National Writing Competition.

Paddington Academy is delighted to announce Tori Drummond and Murshelena Shahul Hameed's impressive creative writing achievement. Their stories passed the rigorous scrutiny of renowned creative writing judges at Penguin Random House and have qualified for the next stage of First Story's national writing competition. This is a huge achievement as over 3000 stories were entered from across the UK from which only 11 were selected for the longlist.

The judges commented on the extremely high standard, variety and maturity of the entries. The theme the students explored this year, Echoes, inspired some wonderfully original poems and short stories, which contemplated big ideas such as family, love and memory.

Murshelena's story - 'Why a Duck's Quack Doesn't Echo' - is a creative and original example of magic realism. In only 500 words, Murshelena manages to create a real sense of sadness and fear, and surprise.

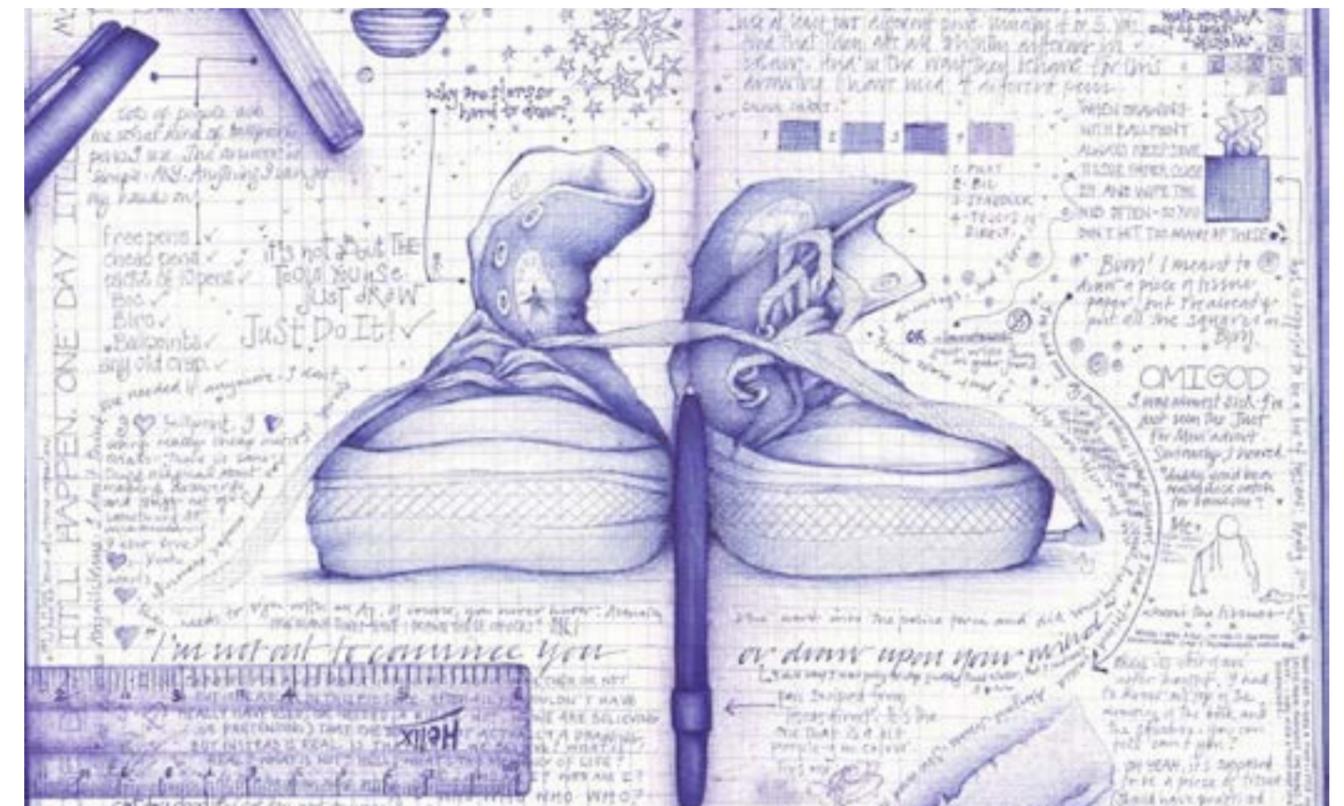
Tori's story - 'Baker's Close' - tackles gang culture and gun crime within the context of a story about sibling rivalry.



Tori creates a disturbing and poignant portrait of the relationship between the narrator and her older brother. Katie Winfield, who teaches creative writing as part of the Year 12 enrichment programme at PA, said: "Both writers worked exceptionally hard to craft their stories into concise, compelling and effective pieces."

Their stories are available to read on the First Story website, along with those of the other nine longlisted writers. We wish them luck on getting onto the shortlist.

First Story brings talented, professional writers into secondary schools serving communities to work with teachers and students to foster creativity and communication skills. By helping students find their voices through intensive, fun programmes, First Story aim is to raise aspirations and gives students the skills and confidence to achieve them.



Top 1% in the UK Performance Tables

Paddington Academy is delighted to announce that once again we made progress with the standards of education we provide our students. Paddington Academy is in the top 1% best schools in the country. The new measure places Paddington Academy 5th in the country with the progress made for the past academic year at GCSE level - Progress 8.

At the end of January, the DfE published its league tables which included scores for the new Progress 8 measure.

Progress 8, which measures student progress at GCSE across eight subjects, will become compulsory for all schools from this summer but 327 schools decided to opt in a year early. Paddington Academy was one of the schools which opted in and the tables show that the academy achieved a score of 0.97 – the fifth highest.



Peter Jones, Principal of Paddington Academy, said: “We are hugely encouraged by our Progress 8 score which places us fifth in the country. This score, which measures student progress across a range of subjects, demonstrates our commitment to providing students with a high-quality, broad and balanced education. Our strong Progress 8 score is testament to the hard work of our fantastic staff across the academy who seek to provide students with an exceptional education which will enable them to follow any career path they choose. We look forward to building on these results in the future.”

Helping Syrian Refugees

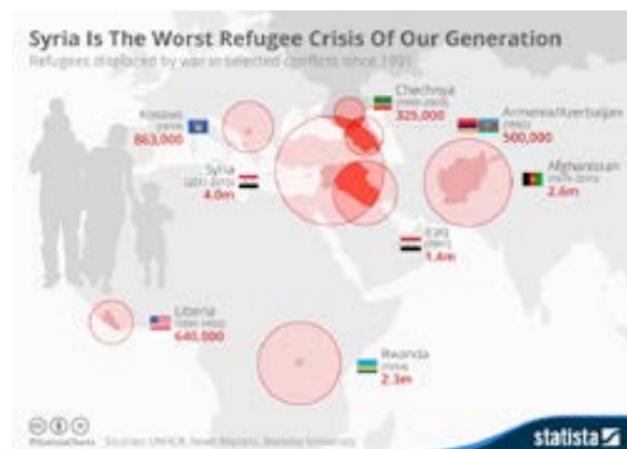
More charitable events took part at PA this half term. The same group of PA social activists who last term were receiving a response from the Prime Minister, reassuring them of making all the efforts to help the Syrian refugees find a better life, did something grand this term too. No surprise from these student!

A non-school uniform day was organised (for a fee) with the aim of helping the Syrian refugees and students were invited to donate clothes they no longer needed.

The response from students was overwhelming. Several students have donated multiple times and all have been exceedingly generous, so much so that the social activists managed to raise approximately £400 in financial donations on top of a towering pile of clothes including coats, jeans, jumpers and shoes. One student even donated their new pair of trendy trainers which she had only worn twice - which demonstrates the impressive capacity to empathise students develop as part of the PA community.

The clothes are now on their way to help those in need with the help of Aid Convoy Charity. The money raised has also been donated to international refugee charities.

We are sure that once again the help raised will have a significant impact for those in need.



Human Rights Debate with Karen Buck MP

Year 10 students sat their Citizenship controlled assessment debating whether prisoners should or should not have the right to vote.

The students were introduced to the teamed panel discussion - including Karen Buck MP - who outlined the pros and cons on the matter.

Each invitee reasoned extremely well their position making this even more challenging for the students when deciding on which side to stand for.

Students demonstrated excellent critical thinking paired with beautiful eloquence during the Q&A session at the end which certainly impressed the guests. So much so that Ms Buck MP tweeted about the visit.

We wish them well with the results.



Building Science Bridges

On the last day of this term the Year 7 students have been treated with a fantastic Science show.

The day is part of an exciting project - Building Bridges - run by the Science Museum Learning Team. Building Bridges aims to help students understand how science shapes everyday life.

On the day the students were presented the topic of electricity, explained how electricity works and introduced to some of the most prominent figures in this area.



One £Pound, Infinite Possibilities

During the month of February, Business and Economics AS students at PA are taking part in a world wide charitable initiative.

The project is organised by Wild Hearts Organisation and PA students are taking on their Micro-Tyco entrepreneurial challenge which aims to help people in developing countries to start a business and become eventually independent.

Micro-Tyco is a month long competition that enables participants to practice and learn fundamental business principles in a safe, 'micro' environment. Teams from schools, universities or businesses have one month to turn £1 seed capital into as much money as possible. Micro-Tyco aim is to unleash participants' latent talents, foster essential entrepreneurial thinking, resourcefulness and team work.



At the end of the month the funds created by the Micro Tycos are invested by Wild Hearts in micro loans for poor entrepreneurs in the developing world, which at their turn will have to turn it into a sustainable business. At the end of this project, Paddington students will become entrepreneurs to fund an entrepreneur.

To increase the turnover the young entrepreneurs have started collected pennies around the school and reached out to PA community to donate their coppers. So far they are pleased to have raised an important amount. To add value to the project, the 6th formers are holding a competition on Thursday 25th February where Key Stage 3 students will be challenged to guess the amount of money raised. Through a workshop the seniors will teach their younger peers some basic maths to help them to guess an appropriate total.

The students are supported during this month long initiative by Deloitte professionals who will also hand out the certificate to the winner and advise on careers in finance.

We look forward to seeing the fruits of this project and the benefits rolled out into the wider community.

Fabulous Spring Music Concert
Impressive display of talent



During the first week of February, Paddington Academy hosted its traditional Music Spring Concert, at it's 9th edition now!

As always there was an incredible display of talent complimented by a sublime set and lights and the audience couldn't be more delighted with the show presented.

The show was an eclectic exhibit of musical genres including classical piano pieces, covers to hits like Rhianna's, rapping Jessie J, an involving rock piece by Metallica, a wonderful tribute to David Bowie, some excellent personal compositions by Chanel Sabrah and Satra-Sia Sumana Kissoon (who also presented the show), a bassoon solo by Francesco Di Matteo and extremely well performed solos and duets.

All performances were to West End standards and we are looking forward with excitement to the next show from the Music department.



London Youth Dance Competition

During this half term KS3 and KS4 dance students reached some amazing achievements as they won the borough title and qualified to represent Westminster in the London Youth Dance Competition in the Olympic Village.

It was a fierce competition, and 35 Paddington Academy students went to compete against schools from across the London boroughs for the title of London Youth Games Dance Champion 2016 on Wednesday 3rd February at the Copper Box Arena, Stratford.

The event was part of the nationwide School Games and was delivered in partnership with Exercise Move Dance, the campaign run by one of Sport England's National Governing Bodies; the Exercise Movement & Dance Partnership.

This year, twenty-seven boroughs entered across the Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 events and an estimated 600 young people took part - showing off their talent, hard work and determination.

Participants were given the brief of creating an original dance piece with music of their choice. Paddington Academy students spent months preparing for the main event as well as hosting the regional competition. In the end the choice came naturally: create contemporary dances, representing important messages for Key Stage Three – a reflective dance on the immigration crisis and for Key Stage Four – an avant-garde dance commenting on the role of social media in our lives. Both pieces were showcased at the Copper Box Arena, at the Queen Elizabeth Park in front of three top dance judges: Lena Dee, Nathan Ramsay and Dharmz.

The day was an extravaganza of both talent and creativity, the students had the opportunity to watch dance styles from many different backgrounds.

Key Stage Three students performed extremely well improving on last year's results – a wonderful achievement! The dancers received positive feedback from the judges about their energy whilst travelling and the thoughtful choice of stimulus. Key Stage Four students were proud of their performance too and took the preparations with a mature and diligent approach, demonstrating their professionalism and dedication to their entry.

This Girl Can Week
Because every one can!

Report by student journalists Sameera Kamran & Dani Silawi

During a whole week in January, Paddington Academy hosted its first 'This Girl Can' - event organised with the aim to empower female students to take positive steps towards improving their health and wellbeing.

The PE department at the Academy offers year-round activities for both boys and girls, however this event saw a special extension of our normal programme and was tailored to girls only.

For a whole week a range of clubs from boxing to belly dancing, Zumba to basketball were offered to all girls across the school. Activities took part before school, at break time, lunch time and after school for a whole week.



Students also completed a 'This Girl Can' workshop in their PE lessons which aimed to explore the issues around self-esteem, the positive or negative ways that it can be affected and what positive changes students can make in their everyday life to improve their self-esteem.

This Girl Can is a national campaign developed by Sport England and it is a celebration of active girls/women up and down the country who are doing their thing no matter how well they do it, how they look or even how red their face gets. Whilst recognising the reasons why teenagers and women across the country do not take



the sporting opportunities, Sport England says that most females take part in less activity than males because of fear of judgement.

At PA we are committed to dismantling any barriers in the way of our students' success and we are positive we can change mindsets regarding female performance. The event was an excellent platform for students to show PA girls really can!

This is not a one-off week! The 'This Girl Can' event is to kick start a long term goal where students care about their health, make positive lifestyle choices and enjoy keeping fit. There are a range of activities to help students find what they enjoy the most alongside a place on a trip to Oxygen for the girls that attend the most clubs.

Because PA girls can!



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

Monday 5th September 2016 - Friday 21st October 2016

INSET 5th & 6th September 2016 (no school for students)

Half term Monday 24th October 2016 - Friday 28th October 2016

Term 2

Monday 31st October 2016 - Wednesday 21 December 2016

Friday 25th November 2016 - School closed

Wednesday 21st December 2016 - Parents morning (no school for students)

Christmas break Thursday 22nd December 2016 - Monday 2nd January 2017

Term 3

Tuesday 3rd January 2017 - Friday 10th February 2017

INSET 3rd January 2017 (no school for students)

Half term Monday 13th February 2017 - Friday 17th February 2017

Term 4

Monday 20th February 2017 - Friday 31st March 2017

Friday 31st March 2017 - Parents morning (no school for students)

Easter break Monday 3rd April 2017 - Monday 17th April 2017

Term 5

Tuesday 18th April 2017 - Friday 26th May 2017

INSET 18th April 2017 (no school for students)

Monday 1st May 2017 - Bank Holiday

Half term Monday 29th May 2017 - Friday 2nd June 2017

Term 6

Monday 5th June 2017 - Wednesday 21st July 2017

Summer break Monday 24th July - Thursday 31st August 2017

Term 4

Monday 22 February 2016 - Thursday 24 March 2016

Parents Morning 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

How Wise Is Your Child's Attendance?

Evaluation guidance

Gold Your child's attendance is above 97%. They are absent less than six days in the school year. They are "WISED UP" on attendance. As well as being an excellent attender they will almost certainly achieve the best grades for their ability, giving them real opportunities in further education and the world of work.

Silver Your child's attendance is 95% plus. They are absent less than 10 days in the school year. We know they are "WISE" regarding attendance. They are likely to achieve grades that will give them real opportunities to continue their studies and in the world of work.

Bronze Your child's attendance is 90 – 95 %. They are missing up to 20 days school each year. A full month lost! We think they "SHOULD BE WISER!" Their absence will make it difficult for them to achieve their best.

Red Your child's attendance is between 80 – 90%. They are missing up to 40 days in the school year! EIGHT WEEKS! They "NEED TO WISE UP"! They are missing so much time from school that it will be difficult for them to keep up with lessons or work.

WISE UP! Your child's attendance is below 80%. You need to "WISE UP and TAKE ACTION NOW"! They are missing so much time from school that it will be almost impossible for them to keep in touch with lessons or work!