



Quote of this issue

The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you. B.B. King

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents, Staff, Students and Friends of PA,

I am delighted that this edition reflects the enormous number of opportunities that PA students have had to meet many celebrities and take part in a wide range of activities with them. (This is our version of 'Hello' Magazine!). Meeting people such as Princess Beatrice, Al Gore, Richard Branson and Jamal Edwards have been fantastic opportunities for the students.

Perhaps the most impressive article in this edition which exemplifies all that we stand for at PA is Ara becoming captain of the Warwick University Polo team. A sport seen as elitist, a university that is one of the best and one of our students becoming the leader. We are so very proud of him and all that he has achieved.

A huge thank you to all the staff for embracing World Book Day, World Maths Day and National Science Week – an inspirational example to all our students.

As usual at this time of year we wish Year 11, 12 and Year 13 all the very best as we go into exam season.

Finally, it is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Miss Darley this term. Miss Darley has been the most fantastic member of staff at PA for 8 years and a brilliant Vice Principal. Although the staff and students are upset that she is leaving, we are all delighted that she is staying within the United Learning group and is going to be the Principal at Goresbrook in East London. We wish her all the very best and thank her enormously for all that she has done.

Wishing you all a very happy Easter.

Best wishes,
Oli Tomlinson



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Media

BBC School Reporters Interview Amateur Film-Maker Turned Media Millionaire SBTV founder Jamal Edwards tips students on road to entrepreneurial success



At the end of March 2014, SBTV founder and CEO Jamal Edwards visited Paddington Academy and spoke to students as part of the BBC School Report initiative.

Jamal, who grew up locally on an estate in Acton, started SBTV in 2006 as a teenager and has grown the YouTube channel into a multimillion pound online youth broadcaster. The channel has gone on to make videos with popular music artists such as Nicki Minaj, Ed Sheeran and Jessie J, gaining over 212 million views in the process.

Two Paddington Academy students in Year 9, Lirak and Ryan, interviewed Jamal for the BBC School Report. They were very keen to hear about the inspiration behind SBTV, whether Jamal had any tips for other budding entrepreneurs on starting a business, and what young people should be looking for if they want to become the next Jamal Edwards.

Speaking after the interview, 13 year old School Reporter Ryan said: "Meeting Jamal was a great experience and it was great to get some advice for young people on getting

into business. He was very down to earth and it's inspiring to think that 10 years ago Jamal was just a kid from West London like us."

Lirak, also 13, said: "Working with the BBC has been fantastic! We have gained so many skills and received so much advice to share with our friends at school and take into our careers."

Media teacher Victoria Proud and the Academy's BBC School Report Coordinator, said: "We always stress to students that there are many paths to a successful career and that, with dedication and a little luck, dreams and ideas can become one. Jamal and SBTV have really brought this to life for them."

To view a clip of Lirak and Ryan's BBC interview with Jamal Edwards, visit <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schoolreport/26758548>.

From Paddington Academy to Polo

Former PA student leads team to international polo victory

A former Paddington Academy student, Ara Shikalislami, has become Captain of Warwick University Polo team. Last month, he led his team to victory at the Winter Nationals, the largest competition in the world held at Rugby Polo Club. Warwick University competed against 29 other universities, and scored victories against Oxford, London and Birmingham in the final.



Ara has undergone a remarkable journey to success as he has only taken up Polo since starting this year at Warwick University. Despite only playing for 5 months, and never having ridden a horse previously, Ara quickly picked up the sport and soon became the team's captain. He trained with Warwick at Offchurch Bury Polo Club and also took lessons at Ascot Park Polo Club. He has thrown himself into the sport with characteristic enthusiasm and determination and has also recently been elected to the Warwick Polo Club Executive Committee.

During his time at Paddington Academy, Ara was a

committed and industrious student and his A Level results placed him as one of the highest achievers at the Academy. This summer, he gained an A* in Maths, an A in Physics and a B in Further Maths for his A Levels and gained a place at Warwick to study Engineering. Oli Tomlinson, Principal of Paddington Academy said "Ara represents everything that is best about Paddington Academy: its students and the transformation of their life chances through hard work and the support of their dedicated teachers. I am delighted that Ara is seizing the wealth of opportunities and experiences that university affords him".

Ara's family were Kurdish refugees who fled Saddam Hussein's Iraq in the 1980s to move to London. Growing up on the Mozart Estate, there were few opportunities for Ara to play Polo, known as 'the sport of kings'. His story is a powerful example of social mobility and how there are no barriers to success when hard work, ambition and determination are involved. Ara said "I had never been on a horse before Warwick and saw the Polo stall at the Sports Fair and thought I should try out a different sport that I had no access to while living in London. I have met a very different group of people by being involved in the sport and it is great fun".



We Day UK

PA students give talk at We Day launch dinner party and get to interview celebrities on the red carpet



Students from Paddington Academy reported from the red carpet as some of the biggest names in music, film and world politics arrived at the very first UK We Day. The students, taking part in the BBC School Report programme, were joined at Wembley Arena by some 12,000 others from across the country.

We Day is an initiative by international charity Free The Children that aims to inspire young people. It is part of a year-long global educational campaign for schools called

We Act, which empowers young people with the skills and resources to make the world a better place and help end the worst forms of poverty.

Speakers and performers at We Day included Prince Harry, singers Ellie Goulding and Jennifer Hudson, and the inspirational young education activist Malala Yousafzai. Paddington Academy School Report students were lucky enough to interview Ellie, Free The Children co-founders Craig and Mark Kielburger and Richard and Holly Branson, who are sponsors of We Day.

Year 9 student Lirak Krasniqi said: "It was fantastic to meet so many amazing and well-known celebrities and to interview them. Just being there was a thrill, but to be working with the BBC? Wow! Working with School Report is great fun and also a great learning experience as you learn many skills which can be applied to the real world. It was an amazing experience and I hope we can work with the BBC again soon!"

Year 9 student Ryan Wilson said: "We were very excited to explore the talents of those such as Sir Richard Branson



Pulitzer Centre Talk

Media students at Paddington Academy were visited at the end of March by Micah Fink, award-winning filmmaker, and one of his protagonists, Maurice Tomlinson, a human rights lawyer from Jamaica. The two were joined by Petra Krishock - European representative of the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting from Washington DC.

Micah's feature film 'The Abominable Crime' shows the life altering consequences of anti-gay violence. The one hour documentary tells the interconnected stories of two gay Jamaicans who are forced to flee their home in the face of violent homophobia. 'The Abominable Crime' premiered in the US at DOC NYC film festival (New York's most prestigious documentary festival) in 2013, and was screened this month at film festivals in NYC, Amsterdam and this weekend in London.



Maurice Tomlinson is a gay rights activist from Jamaica who was forced to flee his homeland when his marriage to a man became public. He now lives in Canada. Maurice has been involved in HIV/AIDS and LGBTI activism in the Caribbean for over 14 years. He is an attorney-at-law and Law lecturer with current research interests in sexual rights and HIV/AIDS advocacy.

Media students were impressed by the vast journalistic and cinematographic knowledge and talent of Micah Fink and they asked numerous questions.



and Ellie Goulding. Meeting the celebrities was a great experience; and it was nice to see them in person, so down to earth, no different from us. We really enjoyed the ecstatic atmosphere inside the venue at We Day UK, and can't wait for the next one."

Paddington Academy has very close ties to We Day, having hosted the launch event with Craig Kielburger in January. Year 8 students Yassine and Erika also addressed a dinner the evening before We Day, urging attendees to support Free The Children and earning praise from guests including Princess Beatrice and former US Vice President Al Gore in the process.

Paddington Academy Principal Oli Tomlinson said: "The We Act movement has inspired a lot of debate and action at the Academy. We have always supported a number of charitable causes but our students have been absolutely buzzing with ideas since we hosted the launch of We Day. Popular choices included Save the Children and Amnesty International, and we will be working closely with those organisations moving forward."

Visit to the BBC World Service

On Wednesday, March 12th, four students from Paddington Academy took part in a World Service radio recording of the World Book Club. They were Fatima Al-Ali from Year 12, Ardita Sylejmani from Year 8, Tori Drummond & Hilla Hamidi- both from Year 10.

The four of them were invited to be part of the audience because they were among 16 students, currently studying here, who have read 'Noughts & Crosses' by Malorie Blackman; the subject of the programme who is the Children's Laureate. There are four novels in the series and Malorie Blackman read excerpts from the first novel, giving answers about all the books. Questions came directly by emails, Twitter posts and phone-calls from all over the world as well as members of the audience.

Questions were submitted in advance to the producer of the programme. Ardita and Fatima were selected by her to be among the first three to ask their questions. Tori and Hilla had the opportunity to ask Malorie their questions privately after the recording time.

Malorie Blackman's answers to the students' questions were heard on the broadcast on April 5th, World Book Club – on the BBC World Service.

World Book Day

By Lonit Talla & Kaltrin Januzi, Year 7 students

On 6th of March, Paddington Academy students celebrated World Book Day.

Students across the school shared their reading interests and Year 7 students had the opportunity to meet PA's Patron of Reading, Roy Apps who then joined the school in celebrating the wonderful world of books.

Mr Apps presented an inspirational talk about his life as an author and what it takes to be a writer.

Mr Apps gave an inspiring speech about which qualities are needed to become a successful writer. As well as that, Mr Apps read excerpts from his book which left students in suspense. He explained that in order to become a very good writer one needs to be two things: a liar and a thief. From the way Mr Apps read his books, everyone listening could tell he is very passionate about reading and writing.

The thing that surprised everyone was when Mr Apps told them about his own son who cannot read or write due to a stroke when he was a baby. Mr Apps said he listens to audio books, loves reading and is still so passionate about stories and is very well read.

Year 7 students, Alaa and Omar, said that "It was a really good experience" and "It was amazing meeting a famous person and getting his autograph".

On the day, to show their love for books, teachers from across the school dressed-up in their favourite literature character. Can you guess who's who?



Sports Updates



It has been a successful few months for the PE department at Paddington Academy. Having won the Year 8 Westminster Indoor Athletics competition and finishing runners up in Year 7. Daniella Rico Franco and Sherhryar Nisar also finished in the top 5 of their year group in the Westminster Cross Country event and qualified for the district finals.

The Academy has also seen success in the football league with Year 9 and the sixth form teams both finishing runners up in the league, both narrowly missing out on top position. The year 10 team are currently undefeated in the league and look set to continue to dominate and finish the season as overall winners. Good luck!

Paddington Academy played host to England Basketball in recent weeks as we ran a level 1 basketball coaching course for all level 3 BTEC students. This involved the students training intensively and all successfully being assessed as basketball coaches. All of the students performed excellently during their assessments and received positive feedback on their basketball skills.

Our Sports Leaders have also been representing the school across the borough, visiting Wilberforce Primary School on a weekly basis, running small sports sessions to the pupils there. As well as this a small group of leaders were selected to assist Westminster Sports Unit in running the Primary School Tri Golf Tournament at Jubilee Sports Centre. These leaders were a credit to the school and received outstanding feedback.

‘The leaders spoke confidently and were proactive during the event, asked great questions. They displayed forward thinking during the training session, and acted as really positive role models to the year 5/6 students attending the competition. In the future we would not hesitate to offer additional training and volunteering opportunities to your students.’ - Westminster Sports Unit

Congratulations and thank you to all students who have participated and represented the Academy in recent months. *From the PE Department*

PA - Borough's Music Hub



PA's music department has worked in close partnership with the Tri-Borough Music Hub for over a year now to offer exciting musical opportunities for young people.

At the end of March, Paddington Academy hosted the Tri-Borough Music Hub's event- Folksongs (London's Melting Pot) which brought together over 400 primary students

from 8 primary schools to sing songs from around the world as a massed choir.

The programme's mission is to provide opportunities for all children to develop a life-long love of music and realise their musical potential, whilst developing their personal and social identity. By partnering with world class music organisations, they are able to provide a broad range of progressive musical opportunities for children and young people in the Tri-borough area.

The music extravaganza also included songs performed by Paddington Academy's partner school Wilberforce Primary School. Children as young as year 3 sang in a variety of languages, such as Portuguese, Hebrew, Gaelic, Arabic, Zulu, and a makaton - the sign language.

The event also featured readings by five PA students, Bilal Al-Khanchi, Maryyam Sanyang, Hilla Hamidi, Satra-Sia Sumana-Kissoo and Elenora Sestanovic. The event looked and sounded incredible, well done to all of the students involved!



Ernie's Incredible Illucinations

On the 2nd and 3rd of April, Year 10 BTEC Drama class gave three performances of the play

The young Ernie has all sorts of hallucinations, much to his parents' displeasure.

Ernie has been worrying his mum and dad by his 'illucinations' – to use their own word. They take him to the doctor, and Ernie tells of his illucinations. Some of Ernie's crazy thoughts include soldiers invading his home, his auntie taking on a fairground boxer and dad rescuing a famous mountaineer in trouble. These were enacted before an astonished audience.

The cast do well to play several different characters telling us the story in just under half an hour. The play was full of wit, humour and dramatic moments keeping the audience engaged.

Well done to the Year 10 cast for performing their BTEC Year 10 acting assessment, roll on next year's performance!

Spring Dance Show

The Paddington Academy Spring Dance Show will take place on the 7th and 8th of May 2014. Don't forget to reserve your tickets from the Performing Arts Department office- it's promising to be an unmissable show!

Royal Albert Hall Performance

On the evening of Friday 21st February, number 1 album selling singer/songwriter Jake Bugg performed at the Royal Albert Hall to a packed audience.

What made this performance so special for Paddington Academy was that Year 11 student, Hanisah Rizaudin was one of ten backing singers performing with Jake on the night.

Talented musician, Hanisah had gone through a rigorous audition process and was one of only ten students in the Tri-Borough area selected to perform with Jake on the night. Well done Hanisah!

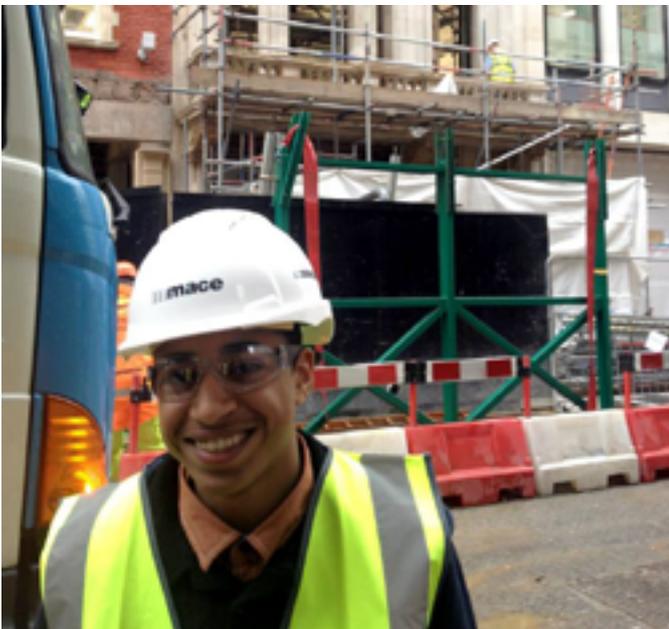


PA Students Go to Work

After a busy start to 2014, with coursework, revision and exams to deal with, Year 10 could be forgiven for taking advantage of the half term break to rest and prepare for the term ahead. Not so for over 160 career-driven students at PA, who chose to complete a one week work experience placement across London. These placements were drawn from a range of businesses and organisations across varied employment sectors including law, finance, media, hospitality and retail.

It was a rewarding and enriching experience for all involved, and one that the students will remember for many years to come. In recognition of the time and effort that students put into their placements, a celebration event was held during the following week which was attended by students, families and employers.

About what has been so far the most successful work-experience placement, Hamish McKay, the Careers' Coordinator at the Academy said: 'It is crucial that our students have the opportunity to develop employability skills that will allow them to be successful in the future, and work placements give them an experience that cannot be learnt in the classroom. It was incredibly satisfying to hear from many of the employers that these were the best students they have ever taken on work experience, and shows that our belief in their ability to succeed is well founded.'



PA Student Elected Youth MP 2014

Year 10 Paddington Academy student Soleen Rashed has been elected Youth MP for 2014. This was announced during a ceremony that took place at Westminster City Hall on 17th March 2014 and was held by the Lord Mayor of Westminster herself.

A record 14,000 young people voted in the Youth Elections, including students from all year groups in Paddington Academy. Soleen will serve a one-year term, making sure the voices of young people are heard by decision makers across Westminster.



Soleen ran her campaign on a platform of increasing opportunities for Westminster's youth, combating youth stereotyping and creating a more active role for young people in the media.

On youth stereotyping she said: "I believe that we need to tackle the negative portrayal of young people within our society. We don't necessarily belong in the place we are so often put, but we need to take responsibility for changing people's minds. It is time for young people to have a voice and be listened to without prejudice."

About her remarkable new role, Soleen added: "I believe that young people should take a more active role in the media. If anybody is on the pulse with social networking it is our generation and it is our job to show that it is a serious and powerful tool which can have an impact on our world. We have the potential to shape the future and embrace young people's voices. Let's not just sit back and wait."

Congratulations also to Aymen Ahmed and Tahir Ali Hassan who ran strong campaigns but were narrowly beaten.

BBC School Report 2014

On the 27th of March our talented in-house journalists took part in the nation wide project, BBC School Report.

While reporting takes place all through the school year, the annual News Day in March provides a focus and a deadline for all schools taking part, over 1000 schools participate every year. Schools make reports for their own website which the BBC links to from an interactive map to a real audience.

Paddington Academy has worked in partnership with the BBC from 2007 and each year the project is proving to be more and more popular. This year, the students set-off bright and early to the New Broadcasting House to meet some of the teams that work in the BBC's central London headquarters.

A special edition of 'The One Show' was co-presented by Newsround's Ricky Boleto, Leah Gooding and Paddington

Academy School Reporters.

The Year 9 BBC reporters have also had an unexpected interview with 23 years old amateur film-maker turned media multimillionaire, Jamal Edwards. Details about the interview can be found on page 2.

About the experience on making the news, Year 9 Lirak said: "Working with the BBC was a great experience. We got to prepare and rehearse like real journalists, and when the cameras turned on us for the live segment we were recording, it was phenomenal!

The 20 minutes we were live for were tense but fun. We got to work with Newsround presenters Ricky and Leah when we recorded at the One Show Studio.

The scale of New Broadcasting House was also an amazing sight, as we got to see in real life how many computer screens and people it takes to make a TV company exist. You see it on the news bulletins, but you don't really appreciate the scale of things until you are there and seeing it for real.

It was a great day and I hope we can do it again next year!"

Latest news on charity work at PA

A very well done to Zahra Al-Ansare and her team of fervent Amnesty International activists who managed to raise £50 in just one week. The Year 10 students' work does not stop here, the Amnesty supporters have plenty other ideas of how to raise money and more importantly awareness about the death penalty in some countries. We will keep you posted with the progress made...



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!

Term and Holiday Dates 2014/15

Term 1

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)

Term 3

Tuesday 6th January 2015 – Friday 13th February 2015
INSET Monday 5th January 2015

Term 4

Monday 23rd February 2015 – Thursday 2nd April 2015
Wednesday 1st April 2015 – Parents Evening (4:30pm-6:30pm)
Thursday 2nd April 2015 – Parents morning (9am-12pm)
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

The 'Wow-Factor' of the Term Three World Subject Days in a Single Term

The Spring term has been very busy yet productive and buzzing with original learning ideas.

The school has managed to fit three international subject days in one small term; now that is something to be wowed about. The English, Maths and Science departments were celebrated across the Academy with custom made t-shirts, innovative outfit ideas and a real-life dissection on a sheep's skull! Even Pi (π) was in the limelight with students reciting Pi to an impressive number of digits. Is that a 'wow'?!



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.

School Counselling and Support Service

Please see the bereavement advise section on our website at <http://www.paddington-academy.org.uk/academy-info/view/635/>. This document will also be publicised entirely in the next issue of this newsletter.