



Quote of this issue #everyyearmatters

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents, Staff, Students and Friends of PA,

I am very pleased to present our latest newsletter to you. We have had an exciting and action-packed start to the new school year and we have enjoyed welcoming our new Year 7 students to the school. In this issue you will see examples of some of the many events held at the Academy this half-term and some of the opportunities that we have been able to offer the students.

On the sporting front, we have had visits this half-term from highly successful sports people including an Olympic athlete. We are building our own success in this area following the selection of Chloe Healy to the GB Taekwondo team. Well done to Chloe and to our other Taekwondo students who train so diligently each week.

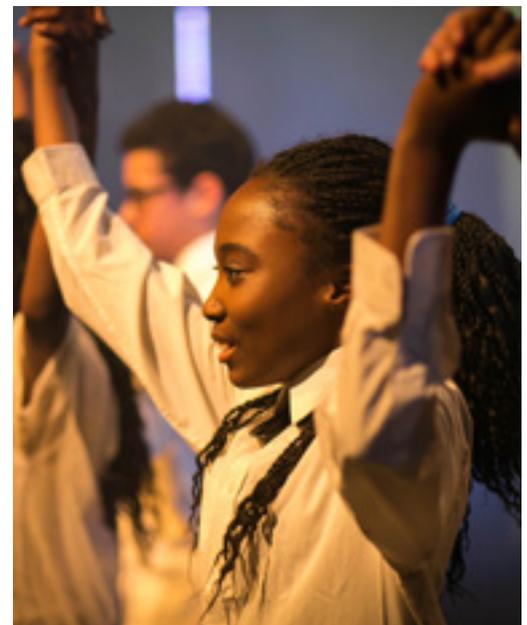
Two weeks ago we held our first sector careers week focused around the construction industry. This is a growth area in terms of career opportunities for students in the future, and students from all year groups were able to gain an insight into the diversity of roles that exist in this industry.

For Year 8 students, the big event of the half-term was the Outward Bound trip to Aberdovey. Many older students count this as their best experience at Paddington and I am pleased to say that this year's trip was an outstanding success. The trip was introduced last year for the first time and the idea of Ms Sheel who believes very passionately in giving young people memorable experiences.

Unfortunately, we are sadly saying goodbye to Ms Sheel at the end of this half-term as she is moving to Manchester to take up a role as a senior leader at another United Learning Academy. Whilst we are very sad to be losing her, we are very glad that she will continue to work for United Learning.

Every good wish for a restful half-term break,

Peter Jones
Principal (Students)



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Academic success

Hard Work Brings Rewards - PA Awards Evening 2014 Celebrating Academic Success



Paddington Academy held its annual Awards Evening on Thursday 23rd October 2014.

The event was a wonderful opportunity for students, teachers and parents to celebrate academic progress, achievements and attainment in their learning for the past year.

Students across all year groups were nominated for awards and special prizes were given out for contributions made towards the community and learners of the year.

The “Learner of the Year” awards were presented to students in recognition for their hard work, determination to succeed and excellent results. The winners this year were: Sahar Saif, Adam Najmi, Deborah Edosa, Tohamah Al- Thafiri and Benjamin Jihad.

A tradition now at the Academy is the Pandora Gabbidon in Memoriam Award to honour a very special PA teacher, Pandora Gabbidon. Year 12 student Sarah El-Dandrawy was nominated for the Pandora Award in recognition of her passion for literature and learning.

The awards were presented to students by Mrs Tomlinson the Executive Principal. The final award of the evening was a new addition to the event : the “John Laing Progress Award” and was presented by David Micciche from John Laing. This year the Award was won by Basmah El-Badawy in Year 13.

This award recognises the student who has made the most progress across their range of subjects in the last academic year in the whole school. In addition to this award, John Laing will also make a donation to the winner’s charity of choice.

Mrs Tomlinson gave a lovely opening speech to the audience and between award presentations some exquisite pieces of entertainment were performed for the audience by the talented Allegra Jashanica, Elenora Sestanovic, Emma Islami and the PA choir. Allegra performed beautifully the ‘At Last’ song by Etta James while Elenora and Emma were wonderfully accompanied by the PA choir on performing ‘Somewhere Over the Rainbow’ from this winter’s school production of ‘The Wizard of Oz’.



Paddington Academy Student Kicks For England 14 year old Chloe O'Sullivan Healy off to Commonwealth Championships



Paddington Academy student Chloe O'Sullivan Healy has kicked her way into contention for a Commonwealth medal. The young Taekwondo prodigy will compete for England at the Commonwealth Championships in Edinburgh this November.

Having taken up the martial art in Year 7 at a weekly after-school club run by Paddington Academy cover supervisor Mr Sargeant, Chloe took just 20 months to earn a black belt. Mr Sargeant, Taekwondo Master, trained Chloe with St Katherine's Taekwondo Club and she subsequently earned a silver medal at the British National Championships this year.

Chloe's medal haul over the past two years attracted the attention of Team GB, and she has been training at the GB Taekwondo Academy in Manchester most weekends. Her determination impressed coaches so much that she earned a place on the England team in the under 51kg weight class.

Chloe will now hope to begin to emulate the success of British Taekwondo star Jade Jones, who won the country's first Gold medal in the sport at the London 2012 Olympics.

Discussing the upcoming championships, Year 9 student Chloe said: I'm feeling nervous, excited and proud to be representing England and I'm looking forward to meeting Taekwondo students from across the

Commonwealth. If it wasn't for Mr Sargeant at school, St Katherine's Taekwondo and my mum, I wouldn't have this opportunity."

Mr Sargeant, Cover Supervisor at Paddington Academy, said: "I am very proud of all my students and would particularly like to congratulate Chloe on her achievement in representing her country. She has trained very hard with the support of her family and Paddington Academy behind her."

Latest news about Chloe's Taekwondo progress is that she has been invited to be part of the British Taekwondo team. We will be reporting back with more details about this exceptional success soon. Well done Chloe!



Achievement

Prestigious Award for PA Maths Department

Paddington Academy has received The Prince's Teaching Institute Mark for 2013/14.

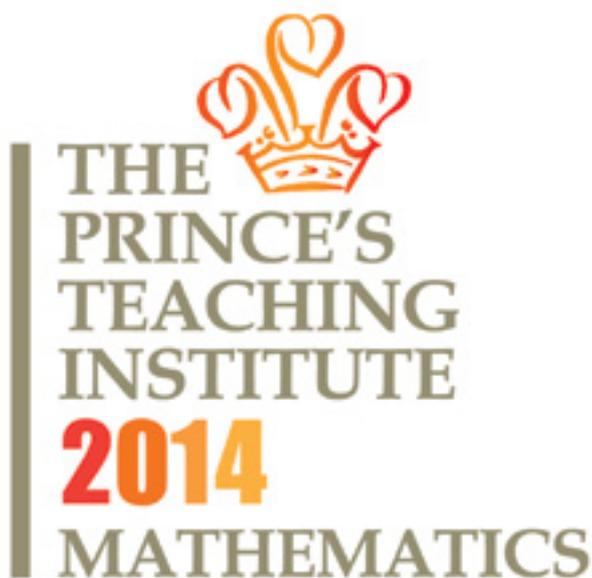
We are delighted with this prestigious award, which recognises our maths department's development of inspirational ideas and activities that improve learning for all students.

Within this, the Prince's Teaching Institute notes that the department:

- Delivers a strong and challenging maths curriculum for our students;
- Develops our maths teachers' specialist knowledge;
- Creates effective links and partnerships with maths departments in other schools; and
- Raises the enthusiasm of our students through mathematics-based activities.

The Prince's Teaching Institute is an independent Charity set up by the Prince of Wales to recognise and help facilitate inspiring teaching that maximises the life opportunities of young people.

Everyone at PA would like to congratulate Miss Modha and the whole maths department on their consistently excellent work and inspiring teaching in delivering this award.



The Wizard of Oz

The preparations for the Academy's Winter Musical are well and truly under way. This year's musical is The Wizard of Oz .

The keen cast members have auditioned and are turning up to rehearsals every week on time, professionally and rehearsing with the full energy of a west end cast.

This promises to be a fantastic show full of the tradition of a fun filled family musical that can be enjoyed by all. So get ready to follow us on the magical, Yellow Brick Road this December!



English Classes for Parents

Would you like help with your English?

If English is not your first language and you would like to improve your proficiency in English, the EAL department at PA runs weekly sessions for parents.

Classes run every Thursday 11.00am - 12.15pm.

If you would like to attend please contact Miss Thompson in the EAL Department extension 3934 or email holly.thompson@paddington-academy.org

All sessions are open to all parents and free of charge.

Superb Autumn Dance Show



On the 21st of October the Dance department put on their Autumn Show which was a great success.

Year 10 GCSE and year 11 BTEC dance students choreographed a variety of pieces varying from contemporary to urban dance styles to a spectacular jazz ensemble. Each student performed brilliantly and they were highly acclaimed by the audience.

There was also a special appearance from Year 12 Marlon Matenhese who wowed the audience with an amazing hip-hop solo performance.

The Dance Department continues to bring variety to the audience and this time around they did not disappoint with a fantastic projection of multimedia visuals and exciting dance routines.

The dance students have demonstrated how hard work, enthusiasm and dedication is necessary to achieve great performances. These students have worked hard in lessons and after school to ensure they gave their very best; and as hard work brings rewards, students' efforts were appreciated by a packed theatre audience showing the excellent support from families, friends and the Academy's staff. Overall the students and audience had a really fantastic evening.



This term in brief

Friday, 26 October 2014

6th Form students took part in the LDNY Festival at Winfield House - home of the American Ambassador.

At LDNY Festival (London/New York Festival) the students networked with world known artists, photographers, musicians and of course, the American Ambassador in the UK.



Congratulations

Congratulations to the Year 12 students who have been accepted onto two mentoring/ support programmes which will give them Oxbridge and Russell Group experience.

Omar, Munira, Qamar, Jahida and Mary are on board with the Imperial STEM Potential Programme whilst the second programme includes the following Year 12 students: Mary, Ayman, Samy, Madeha, Maliha, Mominul, Hannaa and Omar. Congratulations and good luck to each of them!



Monday, 20 October 2014

Paddington Academy hosted Professor David Hemery CBE who delivered a training session for the United Teaching trainee teachers.

It was a thought-provoking, entertaining, stimulating and very well received by the future teachers.

David Hemery is also known for his extraordinary sporting successes. He is Olympic Champion and World Record Holder in the 400m hurdles (Mexico 1968).



Monday, 13 October - Friday 15 October 2014

Fantastic workshops and talks during Construction Week at PA. Students from years 7, 9, 11 and 13 participated in construction and engineering workshops with guests from CIBT (Construction Industry Training Board) and Kingston University.



Every Student Will Participate in an Away Residential at least once During their Time at PA
 Extraordinary Body and Mind Outdoor Challenges



One of the Paddington Academy's promises to students is that every student will have the opportunity to participate in a residential trip at least once during their time at PA.

Over the years Paddington Academy has build strong links with Outward Bound Trust. The Outward Bound Trust is an educational charity that uses the outdoors to help develop young people from all walks of life. Every year PA students are challenging their physical and intellectual limits on a variety of activities and locations offered by the Charity.

Kasean Coe, Year 12 student talks about his experience:

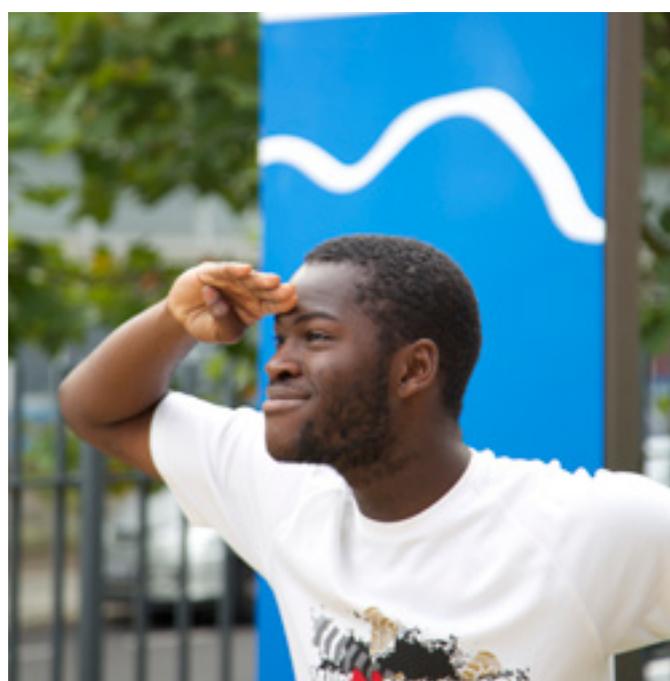
'My First ever experience with Outward Bound was when my Sports BTEC class was asked to volunteer to help manage year 8 students while they were on their trip to Aberdovey. I found this to be fun of fun but also a great chance to work on my leadership skills. This was followed by the opportunity of a 5 day leadership skills course. The course took place at the Outward Bound's centre location in Aberdovey and included fellow sixth formers during the Easter holiday. At the end of the course I was one of four students chosen to attend a three week Classic or Ultimate Course.

I jumped at the chance of an Ultimate course and chose to attend one at the Loch Eil Centre although we actually only stayed there for two nights. In my group were 11 young people from all over the world and different backgrounds, I got to know them over the 22 days.

Each night we camped so we all had to carry equipment, clothes and food-drink every three-four days we had to

re-supply. As well as walking during the expedition we also got to kayak, gorge walk and scramble. My favourite was gorge walking, the water was freezing but it felt so refreshing. I must say the worst for me was the kayaking. Overall the whole experience is something I am truly thankful for and I want to say a big thank you to everyone that made it possible – Outward Bound trustees, John Lyons and Paddington Academy.'

Since Kasean's fabulous experience during the summer with the Outward Bound Trust, another group of students enjoyed the outdoor challenge and during the Autumn half-term Year 12 PA students are away for more exciting adventures. Stay tuned on PA Facebook to find out how they did.



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!

Admissions Secondary Transfer 2015

The deadline for submitting the Secondary Transfer 2015 applications is the 31st October 2014, and online applicants can submit applications up to 11:59pm on the closing date.

If there are parents that have not yet submitted an application online, paper forms are still available for those parents who are not able to complete an online application, and the parents can request one directly from the Admissions Team on 020 7745 6433.

Term and Holiday Dates 2014 | 15

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

Lest We Forget

2014 marks the centenary of the start of the first world war. Sixth form students will be selling poppies at break/lunch time from Monday 3rd November, poppies will also be available from reception.

