



## Quote of this issue

Education is not the learning of the facts, it's rather the training of the mind to think.

Albert Einstein

### Message from the Principal

Dear Parents, Staff, Students and Friends of PA,

Welcome to the latest edition of our school newsletter. This half-term has been characterised by a wealth of enrichment opportunities which have been made available to students. Currently, we have over 100 students in Years 7-9 staying every week after school to participate in the Paddington Challenge, Project Oxbridge, TED Talks and DebateMate. The new opportunities give students the chance to develop new skills, increase their confidence and to gain knowledge beyond the curriculum. The longer-term goal is to ensure that all of our students can gain places at the most competitive universities when they leave us.

In this newsletter, you can read details of events that add colour, vibrancy and enjoyment to the life of the school. The Music Concert demonstrated the impact of the many hours of instrumental lessons that students are provided with in order to develop mastery of the instruments they play. Students have also had the opportunity to experience success in sports such as football and athletics, and to learn more widely about religions through the RE Stop Day.

We were very proud of our Year 11s from last year when we found out recently how well they had performed in their GCSE exams compared with other schools nationally. Students at Paddington Academy make exceptional progress from the time that they start with us, and the Performance Tables showed that we came 6th out of 3443 secondary schools nationally for the progress made by students at GCSE. We are working hard with the current Year 11 to ensure that this progress is sustained and that results continue to rise as much as they have done over the last 8 years.

With warmest wishes for a restful half-term break,

Peter Jones  
Principal (Students)



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## Performing Arts

### The January Music Concert



The January Music Concert took place this term and it was as expected a huge success. Students from across all year groups performed a variety of musical pieces in front of a full house.

Ryan, Year 10 Media student, had the responsibility to deliver a photo-journalistic report of the event. Here is what he thought about it.

The Music Concert at PA is 'always a joy to watch and a pain to wait for, and this one was no exception' says Ryan Wilson who wrote a report about it.

'The build up towards this term's concert was intense. As a massive crowd gathered, and desperately awaited their entry, the groups inside performed their sound checks, all of which sounded amazing. With the performers shaking and nervous, the doors opened and seats began to fill. It opened with the incredibly talented Year 10 student, Satra-Sia Sumana Kisson,



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## 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**



warmly welcoming us as we took our seats. The audience enjoyed a varied set of performances including adaptations of well known songs, some free-styling pieces, some improvisations and a few covers of songs which I'm sure would impress even the artist themselves. In addition, the show got better; the audience enjoyed an outstanding display of dancing with Year 12 student Marlon Matenhese, delivering an exceptional all over performance.

The performance nerves did not show through as every single student performed fantastically well.

This was an amazing show enjoyed by performers and audience alike and we are looking forward to the next shows with much anticipation.'



# Student Success

## V&A Art Class Visit

The Year 11 Art class went on an educational visit to the Victoria and Albert Museum in Kensington this half term. Students were able to explore the world's largest museum of decorative arts and design, which houses an impressive permanent collection of over 4.5 million objects. The visit enabled students to explore the Museum's permanent art collection, which will support their GCSE Art and Design exam project.

The Year 11 artists were also able to explore a rare and exciting exhibition at the V&A, on display currently, called 'Disobedient Objects'. The exhibition was one of the first art events that allowed our students to examine the powerful role of objects in movements for social change.



The Year 11 Art class completed their mock exam, which was the culmination of three months of hard work on a personally driven project around the theme of 'Growth and Evolution'. Each student worked brilliantly and produced some outstanding work, which will contribute towards their GCSE grade.

## 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](mailto:holly.thompson@paddington-academy.org)

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

## Teens and Toddlers Project

Congratulations to the Year 9 group of students for completing the Teens and Toddlers group project.

The students attended a 18 week project at St Mary's of the Angels Primary School in Westminster. During this time the students supported teaching staff in working with the toddlers during lessons, breaks and play time. The successful completion of the programme resulted with each student gaining a National Award in Interpersonal Skills.

The certificate ceremony will be held shortly at St Augustine Secondary School. Well done to the following students for going the extra mile in supporting this year's project: Jerry Cozema, Raja El-Fassi, Reyan Eter, Fouad Fadly-Mtiri, Dina Baroodi, Amal Ahmed and Yzeed Abdullah.

## Curtain Raisers for Tavaziva

Paddington Academy KS3 students have started rehearsals for a Tavaziva dance routine. These students will perform this dance as part of a new and exciting project called Male West.

The project requires great talent and skills and therefore the enthusiast PA students will continue intensive rehearsals along with the professional dancers until Christmas 2015.

Tavaziva specialises in fusing African and contemporary dance, creating a unique dance style that is both contemporary and rooted in African cultures. Part of the company's aims is to introduce secondary school students to new perspectives on dance.

More about this project in future newsletters.

## Sports News

Congratulations are in order for the PA boys football teams that have been collectively undefeated in term one.

Year 11 and Year 7 are Westminster champions; both year groups had achieved this result with no losses and the Year 9 boys are top of the league with a perfect record of seven wins out of seven games. This is now 3 league titles out of 3 for PA, and hopefully the Year 7 and 10 teams can keep the run going next term.

We had brilliant news from the Year 7 and Year 8 boys indoor athletics teams which both came second out of eight borough teams.



## Year 10 Work Experience

From 16th to 20th February, over 130 students in Year 10 will be giving up their half term holiday to complete a one-week work experience placement.

All students will be exposed to the real work-life experience within a variety of career paths. They will be experiencing careers like law, medicine, education, graphic design, hospitality, retail, public relations, constructions, property management, security, health and beauty and many others.

We will report back here about how they got on with their first work experience. Good luck to all.

## PA Media Careers Week

The Media Careers Week took place at Paddington Academy between 2nd and 6th of February 2015.

For a whole week, students from across all year groups took part in workshops and seminars linked to careers in media. They acquired expert advice during inspirational talks from giant media companies like Google, ITV and Al Jazeera and gained insight of how a day of work could look in the media industry.

The Careers Department at PA aims to give students work experience that will inspire them to choose the right career path. A wide selection of careers are introduced to the students, always aiming to bring out the best in everyone.

## Devised Drama Evening

On 11th of February, Year 10 Drama GCSE students presented in front of a full audience an evening of devised drama.

During the whole term, the students worked on writing, directing and acting their own theatre pieces following the Brecht playwright model.

The final pieces — on drink driving awareness and social media addiction — were thoughtfully yet provoking composed and wonderfully acted. Well done to all!



## PA Celebration

### Head of Year Reward Lunch



On the 22nd of November, some of the most deserving students at PA attended a special lunch event along with their Head of Year and Mrs Tomlinson, Executive Principal at Paddington Academy.

The Head of Year Reward Lunch is part of the Paddington Academy Promise which aims to broaden students' social skills and engage them in community events. Four students, all fine PA role models, are invited every half term to participate to this event in recognition of their outstanding effort, excellent attitude and consistent contribution to the school. Each of the selected students must have achieved a P5 throughout the term and had no negative SIMS.

### RE Stop Day

Year 10 students participated in the annual Paddington Academy RE Stop Day on Friday 23rd of January.

The key question for students' debate on the day was 'What happens when we die?'

Students explored different views about the existence of the soul and investigated different religious and secular beliefs about life after death.

In order to develop students' focus and critical thinking, they evaluated one of the most important questions about human existence. Well done Year 10!

### Filming in the Community

BTEC Media students applied their skills to film a testimonial clip for Gorsebrook Primary School website.

The Year 13 students, Basmah, Zeliha, Safa, Kyle, Harry and Nassir, spent the day filming a number of interviews with the 5 year old students, parents and staff at Goresbrook.

Once back at Paddington Academy the sixth formers used their editing skills to compile two film versions to send over for selection. Their work was well praised by Ms Darley, Principal at Goresbrook Primary, for its quality and professional execution.



### Secondary Transfer 2015

On the 2nd of March students currently in year 6 at primary school will learn whether they have gained a place at Paddington Academy starting September 2015. On that date, every prospective Year 7 student will receive a letter from their local authority stating the secondary school they have been allocated to. If the application was submitted online, a notification via email will be sent.

Subsequently, Paddington Academy will be sending letters home to all successful applicants to update them about important up and coming dates for transition to secondary school.

### Maths Challenge

PA students from Year 12 and Year 13 who took part in this year's UKMT Senior Maths Challenge achieved some exceptional results: in total 7 silver and 9 bronze awards.

Over 81,000 pupils from across the UK sat the maths challenge with the top 10% receiving a gold certificate, the next 20% silver and the next 30% bronze.

Congratulations to Ali Abo Ragheef, Arsalan Zarah, Mohamed El Fassi, Samy Radwan, Shahul Rahman, Zaki Abdul and Minhazur Rahman who achieved Silver and Adil Khan, Ayman Ahmed, Kamil Szester, Jack Mckinney, Thomas Meca, Yassir Sardary, Adebisi Suleman, Midushan Thiakalingham and Mahdi Hijazy for achieving the Bronze in this reputable challenge.

The Junior division of UKMT Maths Challenge also took place on the 5th February and over 160 pupils in years 9, 10 and 11 took part in this prestigious competition. Results are to follow and be published here soon. Good luck to all.

### Mathematics Masterclasses

Year 9 mathematicians have attended the Royal Institution Mathematics Masterclasses.

Enkhjin Togtokhabar, Tania Ahmed, Mahdi Ahmed and Hamza Hassen have learnt about the Knot Theory and various aspects of Mathematics delivered by university professors every Saturday morning.

Year 10 and Year 11 students have been attending weekly masterclasses at Kings College London, where they explore Mathematics in depth with lecturers and Phd students from Kings College.

### Maths Forthcoming Events

The Junior Maths Challenge will take place on the 30th April for year 7 and 8 students.

A team of four year 8 and 9 students will compete against other schools in the UKMT Junior Team Challenge on the 11th March.

On the 9th of March, the Year 10 Maths team will compete against other London schools at the "Maths Feast".

Good luck to all of them.



## 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!

### 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 Monday 23rd February at 8.20 precisely.

### 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

## Learners of the Term

Year 7 - Winner - Tamim Meah

Year 7 - Runner-Up - Alaa Hajjaj

Year 8 - Winner - Oleksandr Shylivsky

Year 8 - Runner-up - Eithar Ibrahim

Year 9 - Winner - Elton Cortez Santana

Year 9 - Runner-Up - Erika Fejzullahu

Year 10 - Winner - Amiin Barkhadle

Year 10 - Runner-Up - Satra-Sia Sumana-Kissoon

Year 11 - Winner - Mohammed Tawfik

Year 11 - Runner-Up - Aya Muradi

Year 12 - Winner - Nawal Mohamed

Year 12 - Runner-Up - Nadia Uddin

Year 13 - Winner - Zeliha Gokce

Year 13 - Runner-Up - Abir Sakhi

Year 13 - Runner-Up - Imdad Ali