



## Quote of this issue

"You can never be overdressed or overeducated."  
Oscar Wilde

### Message from the Principal

Dear Parents, Staff, Students and Friends of PA,

Welcome to the latest edition of the school newsletter. This half-term has been both an exciting one for events and opportunities, and one filled with hard work for year groups taking exams.

One of the best opportunities this half-term was the mock election that the school held on the day of the General Election. Students stood as candidates and participated in canvassing, party political broadcasts, a leader's debate and in writing manifestos. Over 700 students voted in the election, culminating in the election of Dania Silawi-Ahwazi as the Labour MP for Paddington. It gave students a real insight into the process of democracy and is part of our theme of British values for the current year. On a similar theme, a group of students enjoyed the privilege of a visit to 10 Downing Street which you can read about further in this issue. We share the ambition of Zakariya that one day a PA student will occupy Number 10!

One very useful way of increasing the employability skills of our students has been the opportunity to participate in work experience and internships. The Career Academy programme has offered this for a number of years and this year has been no exception, with 15 students securing internships over the summer holiday period. We wish these students well for their programme.

Once again, there has been a wealth of extra-curricular opportunities this half-term. Art students have visited Berlin due to the kind generosity of the Stowe Youth Trust, and we have enjoyed Drama and Dance performances. At the end of term, a highlight for Year 13 was their Leaver's Prom. We wish all of our Year 13 students good luck for their exams and for their future at university and apprenticeships.

With warm wishes for the next half-term,

Peter Jones  
Principal: Students



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# PA Promise

## A Trip to No 10 Downing Street

On Thursday 16th April 2015 a group of Year 8 students visited No 10 Downing Street. As a reward for their outstanding attitude towards their learning and wider contribution to school life, Maisha Tasnim-Manaf, Al-Julkaier Kadil, Zakariya Ali and Hana Mejzini, were chosen to go on the trip.

Stepping out of Westminster station on a breezy day our trip began with a view of Parliament and a short guide to British politics. On we marched to Downing Street, past the throng of 'selfie' obsessed tourists, through the heavily armed gates and on to the most important house in the country.

Our tour was an exclusive. With the Prime Minister out on the election campaign, we had an 'all-access' tour that began in the Cabinet room itself. We were able to sit on the same leather-bound chairs that government ministers have discussed and made important decisions in every week for 150 years. Al-Julkaier sat in the Prime Minister's chair where all Prime Ministers from Winston Churchill, Margaret Thatcher, Tony Blair and David Cameron have sat. We learnt that no technology is allowed in the cabinet room and even ministers have to leave their phones outside.

We moved on up the stairs, made famous by Hugh Grant

in the film Love Actually, where portraits of all former Prime Ministers hang. At the top of the stairs we were handed some delicious refreshments and sat around a table that was made especially for the G8 summit, a meeting for the leaders of the world's most powerful countries. Were we sitting on President Obama's chair? At this point Maisha shined. The tour guide was impressed by her scientific explanation of how secure rooms, enclosed by a metal mesh called a Faraday Cage, allow the Prime Minister to have secret conversations with world leaders abroad.

After a visit to the state dining room, we made our way into the beautiful garden where the Prime Minister's children had been playing that afternoon. Hana was not impressed by the fact that the children had not put their toys away. A clear violation of the Paddington 10!

Our trip ended with photos outside the world's most famous front door! A lovely afternoon was had by all and the students represented PA with distinction. The final word goes to Zakariya who said that "although we did not meet David Cameron himself, it was amazing to sit on the same chairs that so many powerful people had sat on and made important decisions on. Maybe, one day, someone from PA will be sitting there every day!"



## Devised Drama Evening

On the 21st April, Year 11 GCSE Drama students showed off their wonderful acting talents to an audience before their acting exam.

Students took on some challenging scenes from plays such as A Streetcar Named Desire, A Doll's House, Educating Rita and Blood Brothers.

The visiting examiner was extremely impressed with the quality of work produced. We are extremely proud of them!

Coming up next term: Year 10 GCSE Drama Devised theatre pieces, and a Performing Arts KS3 showcase. Watch this space!



## Key Dates

### Year 6 to 7 Transition 2015

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

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

## 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 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**

# Careers

## Students Prepare for Summer Internships

A group of Year 12 PA Career Academy students were invited to take part in an interactive learning day at SThree – large award winning recruitment company. They were supported by professionals from Real Staffing Soho (branch of the SThree umbrella) before they take up paid internships with other companies in the summer.

To get prepared for their summer placements, 15 students spent time with volunteers from Real Staffing. The day was led and facilitated by Mital Jethwa, SThree Consultant, who was joined by his colleagues on different sections throughout the day.



### What was covered in the day?

The day covered sections such as: welcome and ice breaker, an introduction to Real Staffing - life working in the science sector and different careers, CVs, preparing for interview, interview role play, mock interviews and a tour of the offices.

### What was the feedback?

The students acquired important interview techniques along with preparation and presentation skills whilst the professionals involved were reminded of effective communication.

One of the students said: 'The day gave me the chance to confront the key problems I may face when in an interview. Plus, I was reminded of the importance of preparation.'

Jenny Daykin, Careers & Guidance Coordinator said "this was a great opportunity for the students with a wide range of activities provided."

Thank you to SThree.

## Three Peaks Challenge

Outward Bound Trust is organising an abseil event down three towers in the city to raise money to build a new centre which means that thousands more young people will benefit from the courses they offer.

The three towers selected for the abseil, on Monday 7th September, are known as the Gherkin, the Cheese Grater and the Walkie Talkie.

To launch the abseiling event from the Cheese Grater Kasean Coe was asked by to give a presentation about his experiences with the Outward Bound expeditions.

On a lovely sunny evening with an amazing view of London, Kasean spoke about the opportunities given to him when attending Outward Bound courses. He has supported Year 8 students over a weekend, spent 5 days in Aberdovey (Wales), 5 days in Ullswater and completed a 3 week course in Scotland last summer.

The courses all very challenging as weather conditions, terrain and group dynamics can all effect the outcome. The three week course was spent entirely under canvass with students from all over the world therefore Kasean had to quickly make friends and assess group strengths and weaknesses. These were vital for activities involving trust – abseiling, canoeing, night walks, rambling and gorge walking.

These courses helped improve his confidence and leadership skills and now Kasean is part of the sixth form leadership team. Next, Kasean will study media at Lincoln University and we wish him all the best



## PA First Election - May 2015



During the first week of May at the same time as the national general election, Paddington Academy held its own election – the first ever PA mock election - led by students for students. The activity gave students the opportunity to understand the democratic process in the UK and to have the experience of choosing their candidate and supporting them.

The candidates who stood for election represented the whole array of parties on the UK political scene. Dania Silawi-Ahwazi and Ahmed Gabrail represented the Labour Party while Yassine Abdul-Wahid and Salma Abdul-Wahid represented the Conservative Party. Kokab Barakat and Osama Mahdi stood for the Greens and Mergim Muhadri represented UKIP. We also had three impressive independent voices from Year 8 students Samuel Ribeiro, Tariq Abdelrahman and Ahmed Lamri. The Liberal Democrat Party was represented with outstanding political charisma by Abotalib Mohamed, in Year 11.

All candidates ran their own campaign with dignity and persuasion, presenting their manifestos responsibly,

articulately and with realism. During the week, students learnt about party doctrines, aims and history. Each candidate had their own photo-shoot and electoral poster and presented their manifestos during the school's weekly podcast.

Election fever gripped PA when the Leader's Debate started with each candidate trying to persuade the electorate of the worthiness of their vote. The Debate was marked by a thought provoking Q&A session when discussions became lively.

Thursday, the 7th May was, just as in real life, the Election Day. Students used their vote wisely at break and lunch time and the whole process had a great turn out for the first PA Election. Over 700 students expressed their political preference by voting on the day.

Unlike the general election, a landslide victory was celebrated by the Labour Party in the PA Election! Dania and Ahmed are our new MPs for the next 5 years and we wish them every success in this new and exciting career.

# PA Promise

## Art and Design Trip to Berlin

During the Easter holidays, fifteen Art and Design students had the opportunity to visit Berlin. With generous funding from the 'Stowe Youth Trust', in memory of Dicky McDougall, Paddington Academy's GCSE students were able to explore the artistic and cultural heritage of an ever changing city.



This unique opportunity enabled students to view great historical and contemporary artworks at first hand. As a site of great importance throughout European history, the pupils took full advantage of the opportunity to explore Berlin's vast history and visited the Brandenburg Gate, the Memorial to the murdered Jews and the remains of the Berlin Wall amongst many other sites. The pupils explored the cultural history of the city with as much intrigue and respect as they showed for the artworks that they explored. Students were able to collect materials, information and sketch from their experiences to gather ideas for future projects.



The students also attended an alternative walking tour, where they had the opportunity to learn more about the city's contemporary culture and to explore the wealth of street art that adorns much of Berlin and contributes to the city's ever changing landscape. They also enjoyed attending a workshop where they were able to experiment with new materials and to create contemporary artworks of their own!

Upon their return to the UK, the students have begun work on a project, in which they must contextualise the relationship between the social and political history and the Culture, Art and Design in Berlin.



This project will culminate in an exhibition in October of the exciting work produced as a result of the investigations, discussions and personal artistic responses that would not have been possible without this phenomenal trip. Along with family and friends, the trustees from the 'Stowe Youth Trust' will be invited to celebrate the students' achievements and judge a prize for the best work!

Students have described the trip as "The best ever!" and "Once in a lifetime experience!".

## Understanding Social Activism

The Year 12 Envision group 'Bellatrix' have been campaigning this year to raise awareness of domestic violence.

Shortly before Easter they attended a committee hearing at the House of Commons on Violence Against Women and Children which was chaired by the Shadow Home Secretary, Yvette Cooper and Shadow Minister for Violence Against Women and Girls, Seema Malhotra.

Ema Khanom - PA 6th Former - spoke on behalf of the group and received a rapturous round of applause from the audience of over 100 politicians and community leaders. She has subsequently been nominated for a



Jack Petchey Award.

Here's what an official from the Jack Petchey Award said about Emma's speech: "Ema has impressed me from the off, impressed me a lot. She's a real leader within her team and keeps me on task each week. Quite remarkably she has taken up this role without being authoritative; she has just led by example and others have fed off her enthusiasm for the project and can-do attitude to everything. The most memorable moment of the first P4C event for me was Ema's part in her team's pitch. She started it off with some incredibly impactful spoken word poetry that she had written (and which incorporated some Tinie Tempah lyrics). It had everyone sitting up in their seats and listening to her team's pitch."

The Award will be presented to the students during the Envision celebration ceremony that will take place on the 17th June.

Well done Ema, well done Team PA!

## Spring Dance Show

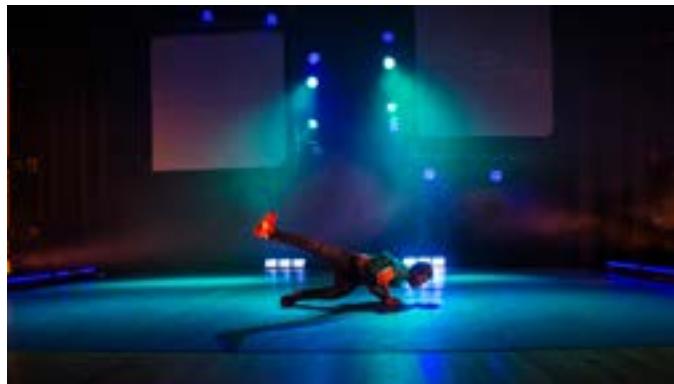
This term, the Dance department put on their Spring Show which was a great success.



Over 40 GCSE, BTEC and KS3 students choreographed a selection of pieces varying from contemporary to jazz and hip hop styles. Students rehearsed intensively for three weeks and their hard work really paid off as each student performed brilliantly.

Iman Ibrahim and Lyna Fergous - both Year 7 students who are also members of PA after school dance club performed to "Uptown funk" "Look up" and also the spectacular "Razzle Dazzle" – said: "We found the routines very challenging but thoroughly enjoyed performing; we are already looking forward to putting on the Summer Dance Show"

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 clubs 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.



## 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 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

## Goodbye and Good Luck Year 13

On Friday 22nd May, Year 13 enjoyed a Leaver's Prom at the Grange Fitzrovia Hotel.

For the majority of students present, it represented the end of seven years at Paddington Academy. Students dressed in their finest clothes and enjoyed some delicious food and dancing and ensured that their last celebration was one to remember.

Although we are sad to see Year 13 leave, we are also very happy at the amazing things they are going on to do, and the excellent results they have achieved so far.



## 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.