



Quote of this issue

“Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.”
Martin Luther King Jr.

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents, Staff, Students and Friends of PA,

Welcome to our latest edition of the newsletter. This past half-term has been an exciting time at the Academy with a wide variety of events and opportunities that students have been involved in.

As every year, we have designated a new 6th Form senior team of students. We wish them every success in leading their peers and representing them in the best possible way.

One of the highlights of the half-term was the annual Awards Evening where students were celebrated in recognition of their fantastic academic and personal achievements.

During this half-term, students were involved in a Careers week focused on construction and engineering. We thank Kingston University and Costain Skanska - Crossrail for their support.

The Year 11 Drama GCSE students performed original pieces of theatre to a full audience. They wrote, directed and acted their own plays in preparation for their exam and they were mesmerising to watch.

Students visited the Mini car plant in Oxford, participated in a fundraising event in the City, hosted a residential for the well known Tavaziva Dance Company, visited the Crossrail site and much more. Every visit was designed carefully by our staff to broaden students' knowledge and give them a close insight into how various industries work.

As usual we focus on high standards and exceptional results, and the next term promises to be a busy one. We want students to perform at the best possible level and staff will be working hard with students to ensure that they reach their potential.

A huge thanks to all involved in making this half-term immensely successful - your support makes us the school that we are.

With warm wishes for the next half-term,

Peter Jones
Principal



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Celebration

Hard work brings rewards Celebrating Success - Awards Evening 2015



Paddington Academy held its annual Awards Evening on Thursday 22nd October 2015.

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 overall year group achievement.

The "Overall Achievement" awards were presented to students in recognition for their hard work, determination to succeed and excellent results. The winners this year were: Britney Atireklarp (Year 8), Shihab Ahmed (Year 9), Franceso Di Mateo (Year 10), Ayat Elmsioui (Year 11), Habiba Akther (Year 12) and Samy Radwan (Year 13).

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 Mohamed Khan was nominated for the Pandora Award in recognition of his passion for literature and learning.

The awards were presented to students by Mrs Tomlinson the Executive Principal and Mr Freedman, an ex-teacher

of the Academy who is currently supporting the students as one of the school's governors.

Mrs Tomlinson gave a lovely opening speech to the audience and congratulated students for their success. Between award presentations an exceptional piece of entertainment was performed for the audience by the talented music students under the guidance of Mr Balysz. The students performed beautifully their own version of the 'Why Worry' tune.

Well done everyone and we hope next year will bring even better awards.



City Peaks Abseiling Challenging the Future

Paddington Academy students Kasean Coe, Soleen Rashid, Ryan Wilson and Deborah Edosa were given an opportunity to support an exciting fundraising event in the City.

Outward Bound challenged the City to abseil down three iconic buildings – the Gherkin, Cheese grater and Walkie Talkie to raise money to build a new centre.

Kasean, Ryan and Deborah had all spent at least a week with Outward Bound in one of the half term holidays and also participated in a three week challenging skills course.

They all showed that they have excellent team building, communication and leadership skills through the courses they attended.

On the day of the 'City Three Peaks Challenge' the students spent time at the Cheese Grater talking to abseiling participants about their experiences of Outward Bound. This gave the participants an extra boost before abseiling and raising hundreds of thousands of pounds towards the new centre.

Thank you for the opportunity and we look forward to the next Outward Bound experience.

Visit at the Mini Cooper Factory

In September, Year 12 and Year 13 Product Design students visited the Mini car plant in Oxford to see how large scale manufacturing operates in the automotive industry.

Plant Oxford is the birthplace and heart of Mini production. Manufactured to individual customer specifications, hundreds of Minis leave the plant's assembly lines each day, off to meet new owners in 108 countries around the world.

Students were given an exclusive guided tour of the plant and were able to gain insight into how the teams of robots build the shells of the cars and then went on to see the final assembly before the finished Minis were loaded on to the trains for global delivery.

The visit was also an opportunity for students to gain an understanding of the potential careers that could lead on from studying Product Design.

Students were keen to find out more about the apprenticeships offered by BMW Mini. Students have described the visit as 'a fascinating insight into the automotive industry. The robots were incredible'. 'It was fascinating watching all the robots move around the factory'. 'Great to see what is happening in industry'.



Product Design Venture

Shaping the Future with Design and Technology

Design Ventura

Year 10 Product Design students are taking part in a national design and enterprise competition organised by Design Ventura who believe that 'design is the link between creativity and commerce'.

Fully supported and rooted in curriculum requirements, Design Ventura places design and enterprise skills in a real world context and the live brief challenges young people to design a product to be developed, manufactured and sold in the Design Museum Shop.

To launch the competition Paddington Academy students visited the Design Museum near Tower Bridge where they were given a guided tour of the exhibitions and had a chance to see the kind of products that are currently selling in the Design Museum shop.

Students are currently working in teams to develop a creative response to the competition theme 'Move'. As well as this students also need to demonstrate entrepreneurialism by showing an understanding of the financial and business side of developing a product.

All teams will present their products to a panel of judges within Paddington Academy before one team's product will go forward to national judging in November 2015.

Good luck to the PA designers!

Construction and Engineering with Kingston University

Structuring the future...

As part of Construction and Engineering Week, Year 10 and Year 11 Product Design students took part in workshops run by Kingston University.

The students were set the challenge of creating a well-engineered and unique chair that would appeal to a particular target audience.

Students were given an hour for the challenge during which time they showed their creativity and group work capabilities.

Each team had to present their final outcome to the class and awards were given for best teamwork, most unique outcome and best creative thinking. Each student contributed to the construction of the chair and the presentation.

Kingston University were very impressed with their resilience, team spirit and competitive drive.

Students really enjoyed the workshop, saying it 'helped bring teamwork together and we used our imagination', whilst another student said, 'working as a unique team helped us boost morale which led us to victory'.

Well done to all the students who took part.



An Introduction

The Leaders of Tomorrow

Every school year PA students elect their leaders to represent the students' voice within the Academy. This year the 6th Form Senior Students are: Ibrahim Lamrani, Mary Abkir, Ellie Charles, Maliha Uddin and Samy Radwan. The students have been elected considering their strengths and each of them has a designated area of expertise as it follows (photo below from left to right)

Ibrahim Lamrani - Head Boy

Area of responsibility: Academic achievement in humanities subjects and Year 11-12 transition project and volunteering

Mary Abkir - Head Girl

Area of responsibility: Academic achievement in science subjects, mentoring and volunteering

Ellie Charles – Senior Student

Area of responsibility: sports participation, facilities, volunteering and mentoring

Maliha Uddin – Senior Student

Area of responsibility: student welfare, female voice, facilities, volunteering and mentoring

Samy Radwan – Senior Student

Area of responsibility: sports participation, volunteering and mentoring

Maths with the Simpsons

Learning Made Fun

On Monday a group of Year 10 students went on a visit to St. Paul's Girls' School where they attended a talk on 'Maths with the Simpsons.'

The students were given the opportunity to meet students from St. Paul's and other schools as well as listen to a fascinating Maths topic from a distinguished maths speaker.

The Year 10 students attended a lecture where they were introduced to narcissistic numbers, perfect numbers and Mersenne primes as well as Fermat's last theorem.

The speaker explained how many writers of the Simpsons have maths degrees and therefore like to include subtle references to maths for the amusement of themselves and keen mathematicians.

The students are looking forward to attending more lectures at St Paul's in the future. Thank you for the opportunity.



Drama Devised Performances



On 20th of October, Year 11 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 topics which included death, money and drink driving awareness — were thoughtfully composed and each of them was wonderfully acted. Well done everyone!



Dance Residential

Tavaziva Spends a Week at PA

This half-term, dance students had the opportunity to host Tavaziva Dance Company who spent a weeklong residency at Paddington Academy.

The renowned dance company delivered assemblies specially designed for KS3 students, provided dance workshops and run extra curricular sessions after school.

The students thoroughly enjoyed having expert advice in-house which helped raise student engagement in performing arts and gave students the opportunity to watch professional live theatre.

A surprisingly high number of male students were engaged in the extra curricular dance activities, which culminated in the re-launch of the Explode Dance Company (boys only).

Stay tuned to learn about how this project will develop for our talented students.

Women in Engineering

Embracing New Careers

The Careers Department is one of the most popular departments at the Academy. The Department's main aim is to prepare students for the world of work by focusing on linking students to the real world of work, through expert lectures, mentoring, workplace visits, placements and internships.

With this aim in mind the Department is also encouraging students to explore areas of jobs might not seem a natural option initially. "Women in Engineering" is a project which aspires to introduce 6th Form girls to various careers related to Maths and Science.

During this half-term, a group of 6th form girls visited the Crossrail site. There the students were introduced to a variety of jobs, backgrounds and personalities of the female Costain Skanska employees which helped students see where they themselves could fit within the industry.

The Skanska employees spoke about their career paths and the subjects they chose for their A Level. This gave students the opportunity to reflect on how their own subjects and interests that could be of relevance in a future engineering career.

The way the visit was structured with presentations at the start, followed by a tour and then speed networking,

provided the students with unlimited opportunities to ask questions.

The students' faces lit up when they entered the Crossrail site. It makes such a difference being able to experience a project first hand and to see the outcome of the many different jobs roles that make it possible. Students found the process of putting on PPE and entering the site extremely exciting and this added to the feeling that they were a part of the project and it gave all a taste of what it could be like to work on similar projects.

After the visit students were buzzing with excitement and were asking about work experience and other opportunities to experience and find out more.

We hope that the girls will be successful in gaining a summer internship with Costain Skanska and help them become ambassadors of the industry to their peers and females in particular. Many of the students said that this was one of the best school visits they had ever been on, and no doubt it will have a huge impact on raising and widening student aspirations and goals.

Thank you to all of the Costain Skanska employees who took part and thanks to Jess for organising such an inspiring event.



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

2015 | 16

Term and Holiday Dates

Term 2

Monday 2 November 2015 - Friday 18 December 2015

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

Lest We Forget

PA Students Continue the Poppy Appeal

Students will mark Remembrance Day this year too by selling poppies at break and lunch time from Monday 2nd November. Poppies will also be available from reception.

