



Quote of this issue

I'm a greater believer in luck, and I find the harder I work the more I have of it.
Thomas Jefferson

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents, Staff, Students and Friends of PA,

Welcome to the Christmas edition of our school newsletter which brings to a close a highly successful term in which our students have been recognised many times for their successes, achievements and opportunities taken.

Firstly, we are very proud to report on a yet another best-ever set of results; our students once again made us proud by getting excellent grades as a result of their hard work and determination. I would like to congratulate students, staff and parents alike for such an outstanding job in getting the best out of every student. And for this, students were recognised during the annual ceremony of Awards Evening.

We are also very grateful to be part of such a vibrant and cohesive community which provides our students with unique experiences such as an Art trip to Berlin or experiencing the great outdoors at a PGL centre. For that we thank the 3 wards of Westminster and The Youth Stowe Centre for the generous donations.

Other opportunities this term included various guest speakers, career and specialist visits and the opportunity for Year 8 students to learn about cyber-security and e-safety from industry experts.

A highlight of this term was a visit from Colin Hegarty, the founder of Hegarty Maths. Colin spoke with real passion about his love for Maths and his journey from Kilburn to Oxford University. We are looking forward to seeing students make even better use of Hegarty Maths and to seeing Maths thriving as the favourite subject for all our students.

The Christmas production of 'Little Shop of Horrors' provided a brilliant end to this term. A polished performance was delivered by students under the expert direction of the Performing Arts department. The show was enjoyed by five visiting primary schools who were thoroughly entertained!

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all parents present at the Behaviour Consultation Meeting recently and to thank for all your support with the new policy which will be starting from January 2017.

We are also pleased to report that a more modern way of paying for your child lunches and other various activities, Parent Pay, is now available at the Academy. More details about this have been posted and on school's website.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and hard work for our school community, and wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas time along with the best wishes for 2017!

With warmest wishes,

Peter Jones
Principal



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Celebrating Success

Excellent 2016 Exam Results
Top 10 Schools in the country for value added at GCSE
Over half of A Level entries achieve A* to B grades



Students at Paddington Academy celebrate after making outstanding progress at both GCSE and A level.

After achieving best A Level results ever for the 5th consecutive year, there was further cause for celebration as students earned **100% success rate** and scored the grades they needed to study at the universities of their choice.

An impressive fifth (**20%**) of A Level **entries** achieved the top **A* and A grades** for the third consecutive year. 51% of all A Level entries were awarded A* to B, rising from 50% last summer, whilst **83%** of all BTEC entries were **Distinction** or **Distinction***, which represents the Academy's highest performance ever in these qualifications which include subjects ranging from Applied Science to Business.

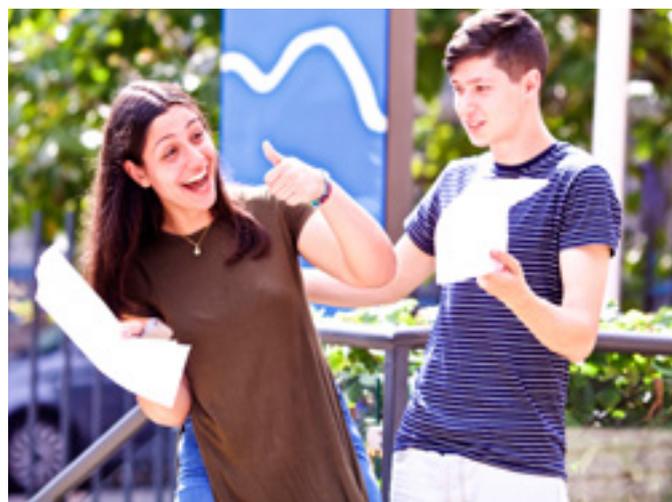
Paddington students celebrate at GCSE level too. Students performed particularly well in the core subjects, with **92%** gaining **A*-C in English** (almost half of these were A/A*) and 79% in Maths (over a third of these were A/A*). 77% of students gained 5 A*-C including English and Maths. A third of grades in all GCSE subjects were A or A* and 20% of students gained at least 5 A/A* grades.

Many students join Paddington Academy with below average starting points, but leave with grades significantly above average, this year students achieved 5.54 (B-) at Attainment8 (figure awaiting external validation).

Students scored significantly above the national average across all of their GCSE subjects and gained a fantastic **+1.01 at Progress8** (awaiting external validation) placing Paddington Academy in the top 10 schools in the country for student progress.

Also, we are delighted to announce that, once again, students at Paddington made outstanding progress achieving 22% at the English Baccalaureate, score well above the national average.

Lirak Krasniqi gained the highest **GCSE score ever** by a student at the Academy, achieving 10A* grades (Maths, Further Maths, Core Science, Additional Science, Further Additional Science, History, French, Economics, Media Studies, Citizenship) and 2A grades (English Literature) and English Language).



Excellent 2016 Exam Results

Student gains the highest GCSE score ever in the history of the Academy

20% of Paddington Academy students gain places to Russell Group universities



Other exceptional performances at GCSE included [Miriam Bengougam](#) gained 9 A* and 3A grades, [Satra-Sia Sumana-Kissoon](#) gained 8 A* and 4A grades, [Izzy El-Dandrawy](#) gained 7 A* and 4A grades, [Mahdi Uddin](#) gained 6 A*, 4A and 2B grades, [Qamil Pajaziti](#) gained 6 A*, 2A and 3B grades or [Max Khovansky](#) gained 5 A* and 7A grades to mention only a few.

At A Level too students shone with some fantastic grades; the list of top achievers 2016 included [Karolina Kajczuk](#) 3A* and will read Psychology at [UCL](#), [Ali Abo-Ragheef](#) - 3A* and will take a [gap year](#) before applying to university, [Eman Rashidy](#) 3A* and will read Mathematics at [Bath University](#), [Samy Radwan](#): 2A*, A, B who is still completing an [internship](#) with [Societe Generale](#) before accepting an university place next year, [Zaki Abdul](#): A*, 3A and will read Chemical Engineering at [Bath University](#) or [Ayman Ahmed](#): A*, 2A and will read Economics at [UCL](#).

Once again, these students are only a few of this year's highlights but their results reflect the effort, resilience and determination demonstrated throughout the entire life at the Academy.

We strive that progress is made continuously and in every area at Paddington Academy. The Sixth Form has grown significantly over the last three years and 2016 had the largest ever [Year 13 cohort of 143](#), and has seen a

steady increase in the number of A Level entries, whilst at the same time maintaining high grade standards in terms of outcomes for students. There is a high degree of personalisation, with students studying a rich mixture of vocational and academic courses which lead them to success at either university or apprenticeships. [20%](#) of students gained places at [Russell Group universities](#), placing Paddington Academy nationally at the top for student achievement and destination. Over 93% of Paddington students remain in education or continue training at the end of secondary school.

For further details about our results and progress please consult the latest DfE Performance Table for Paddington Academy on the highlighted link.



Future Leaders

Celebrating Success - Awards Evening 2016



Paddington Academy held its annual Awards Evening on Wednesday 19th October 2016. The event was a wonderful opportunity for students, teachers and parents to celebrate academic progress, achievement 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.

Head Boy and Head Girl, Abotalib Mohamed and Farhana Towsi presented the Community awards that recognise those students who have made particular contributions to the school community. The nominees included Hassan Zaman, Reda Nima, Eithar Ibrahim, Dania Silawi-Ahwazi, Jad Hussan and Asma Abdu.

The 'Learner of the Year Award 2016' was presented to Amiin Barkhadle, in Year 12 for his outstanding dedication to learning. In the summer, Amiin achieved a fantastic set of GCSEs and he is an exceptional role model to his peers and his academic achievement is a true inspiration for everyone here.



Overall Achievement awards were presented to students in recognition for their hard work, determination to succeed and excellent results. The winners this year were: Yusra Anshoor, Lirak Krasniqi, Omar Majdoub, Malik Vidal, Alanis Dos Santos and Shavan Sabeer.

A tradition now at the Academy is the Pandora Gabbidon in Memoriam Award to honour a very special PA teacher, Pandora Gabbidon. Year 13 student Hilla Hamidi was nominated for the Pandora Award in recognition of her passion for literature and learning. Hilla is also a talented creative writer and her latest piece was shortlisted for the BBC Young Writer of the Year 2016.



The awards were presented to students by Paddington Academy Principals, Ms Gillam and Mr Jones. Between award presentations a alternative piece of entertainment was performed for the audience by the talented music students under the guidance of Mr Balysz. Amanda, Tahmid, Tori and Stuart performed on stage Gunslinger by Avenged Sevenfold.



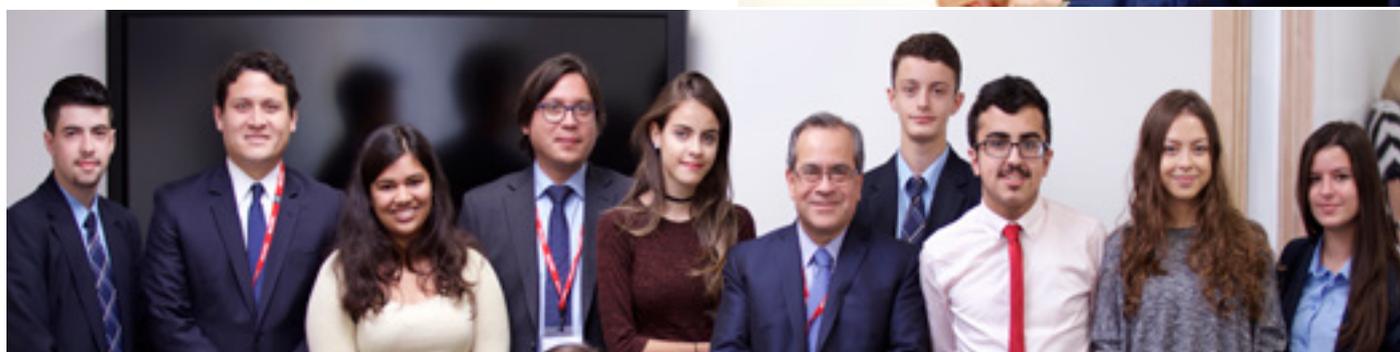
Well done everyone and we hope next year will bring even better awards.

Peruvian Visit

This term, PA students had the opportunity to share their views and experiences about education with a notable member of the Peruvian government and his accompanying delegation, Education Minister - Jaime Saavedra Chanduvi.

The visit was arranged with the help of the British Council and both parts benefitted enormously from the conversations had by sharing the similarities and differences between the two countries.

Also, most students got to practice their Spanish by which the Minister was most certainly impressed.



These are your students representatives

From left to right [Siraj Charradi](#), Head Boy and [Farhana Towski](#), Head Girl and Head Deputies [Hilla Hamidi](#) and [Abotalib Mohamed](#)



Reporting success

This Term in PE

This half term has seen many sporting successes at PA.

The Year 11 football team have been competing in the Westminster Schools League where they have played 5 matches, won one and drawn 4. With some excellent performances by Lonit Talla, Adam Amieur, Antonio Louis Johnson and Lum Dedinca.

Similarly, the Year 8 football team have also been competing in the Westminster Schools League, playing 4 matches with one win, one draw and two losses. Lorent Talla, Ali Abu-Jabir, Jon Kurti and Seddig Mohammed have all had exceptional performances.

The Year 9 and 10 girls competed in the Westminster School 5-a-Side Tournament. The girls managed to finish in fourth place winning four of their six games; goal scorers included Sarah Ribiero, Yanha Nisar with further excellent performances from Meriam-Ferah Kefi and Shamss Mohammed Alkhafaf.

The Year 8 girls also took part in the Westminster 5-a-Side Tournament finishing in third place and only losing one match. Standout performances included Tia Thake-Devere, Gerta Haziri, Rym El-Fodil and Nour Barakat.

Twelve students from Years 7-11 competed in the Westminster Cross-Country competition. PA had 4 students finish in the top 15 places in their respective years (Mohammed Benzekri and Arlind Mustafa) with two of those students finishing in the top 5 for the Year 11 race; Adam Amieru (5th place) and Sami Ullah who finished in 2nd place.

Well done everyone and we are looking forward to reporting further sporting success next term too; meanwhile follow Paddington PE account on Instagram [@paddsports](#) for most up to date info.

PA Choir Opens England vs Australia Four Nations Match

Students from Paddington Academy sang the national anthem live on pitch at London's Olympic Park.

PA students performed live on pitch to open the special Remembrance Day England vs Australia match.

As part of United Learning, the national schools group which Paddington Academy is part of, 400 children and their teachers performed the national anthem to kick off the RFL Four Nations rugby match at London's Olympic Park venue.

The students sang in the CHANT Choir, run by music education provider Chant Productions, which has been working with United Learning schools to give young people a platform for live performances.

The KS3 choir singers enjoyed a number of workshops in school with Chant Productions' professional opera singers to prepare them for the Four Nations performance. They learnt the national anthem and a Brit Pop medley, along with stagecraft techniques to help build their confidence in performing live in front of such a large audience.

Katie Winfield, PA Choir Leader, said: "It was exciting to see their hard work paid off in an impressive and nerve-wracking performance. We were honoured to have the opportunity to sing at such a prestigious event and venue. It will be a day the students remember for a long time."



Construction-Engineering-Property Week

Wilmott Dixon Housing Year 12 students learnt more about construction and housing from EuanXXX who spoke about managing the new building work at the old Jubilee Sports Centre site.

The site is known to the students so they were interested in the transformation. Another local project is the old Moberly Sports Centre which is being transformed into a new sports centre and housing. Jennifer, who is a quantity surveyor, described her career path into this role at Wilmott Dixon Construction. Students were surprised to hear about the cost of the project as well as sustainability aspects including selling the old bricks and donation of astro turf.



Eric from **Network Rail** used a huge cross section diagram to show Year 12 and 10 students two types of tunnelling require of the **Crossrail Project**. Again this is a local project involving a site around Paddington Station. Many of questions were asked specifically about tunnelling and what sort of jobs were required as well as cost and time to complete. Eric kindly donated the plans which will be given a whole display board on the Yellow side corridor outside Design & Technology classrooms.

To finish the week Gareth and Tamara spoke about their roles in property asset management at **Knight Frank**, a property management company with its head office in Baker Street.

As well as explaining the different departments at

Knight Frank students were given information on a 5 year apprenticeship route into the company as well as a graduate scheme. Knight Frank have also offered three Year 12 students a one-week-work-experience during their half term holiday.

Thank you to everyone involved, the students have certainly gained some very valuable insight knowledge from each of the specialist guest speakers.



On Tuesday **St Paul's Cathedral** hosted the UN Day of the Girl and invited Year 11 students to take part in a speed mentoring event.

Shereen Abkir, Sarah Kubati, Hanna Mahamud, Najat Yusuf, Sanzidah Chowdhury Kokab Barakat took up the opportunity to find out more about the professions of women in the STEM sectors – TFL, Alstom, BT Security, Ericsson and Vodafone.

All the students benefited in these short discussions and confidently asked numerous competent questions about possible career routes and the challenges each of them (careers) might have to face.

Performing Arts

Little Shop of Horrors - Our Winter Musical Some People Pay to This Plants Grow in this Fanstastic PA Show



This year's School Musical was a fantastic success and gave a huge morale boost to the 'Little Shop of Horrors' cast.

The students were proud to perform for several wonderful and supportive audiences. The play ran over several days and was attended by over 400 students and staff from various primary schools within the local community.

The audiences were glued to their seats as our Academy students sang, danced and acted their way through scene after scene of high classed and polished performances.

Running shows in the morning and evening, the cast were really put through their paces but they delivered just as expected from high class artists on the Westend.



The cast gave strong performances in both solo and company numbers, together creating a first class show with the staff band (including musicians from various departments in the Academy) supporting them all the way.

A big thank you to all parents and carers who helped to support the cast during the rehearsal and performance process and everyone who attended the show.

Here's to next year's show!



INTO University

Over the last term 30 students from each year group in key stages 3 and 4 have spent at least one lesson working with representatives from Into University.

A number of students were already on the programme but places were offered to students who are new to the Academy or who were identified as needing extra support in aiming higher.



Each year group had a different focus and worked in small groups to explore higher education and in particular thinking about personal qualities and skills.

The programme supports the students throughout their time at the Academy and into the Sixth Form. Year 13 students received excellent support in writing personal statements and university choices which they need for UCAS.

Feedback from the students is that this is a positive experience and one that they value.



BBC Young Writer of the Year 2016



Massive congratulations go to Hilla in Year 12, who's poem 'Home,' has been selected for publication in the South East England edition of 'The Poetry Trials' out of over 16,000 creative writing entries!

Hilla has also recently been nominated for the BBC Young Writer of the Year 2016, which in itself is a fantastic achievement.

Stay tuned for updates whilst we wish her best of luck.

Extra-curricular

Year 8 Experience the Great Outdoors

The Year 8 residential to PGL Osmington Bay in Dorset was a fantastic success.

Over 100 students spent 3 days by the coast in Wales and for some this was the first time away from home. Students left on Friday morning and returned on Sunday evening tired, but having had a once in a lifetime experience and having learned so much from their time away.

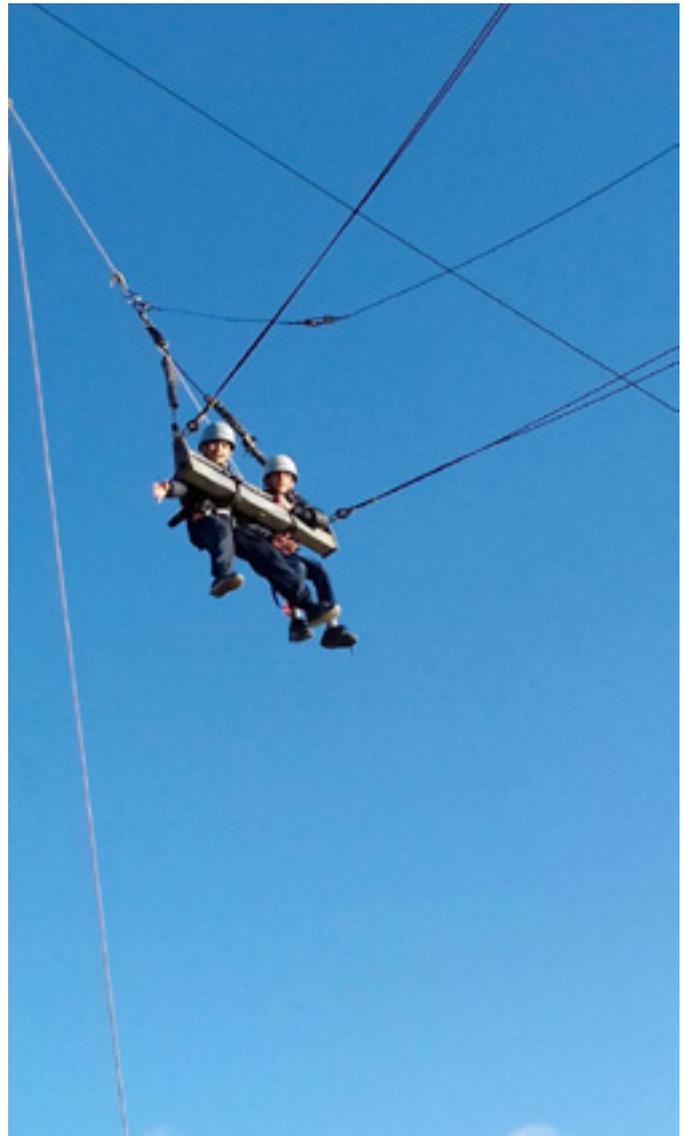
This visit was generously financed by three Wards in Westminster, Queens Park, Westbourne Park & Harrow Road and aims to fulfil a part of the 'Paddington Promise' which gives students the opportunity to go on a residential during their time at PA.

The weekend was filled with a number of activities such as Wall Climbing, Problem Solving, Zipwire, Aeroball, Giant Swing, Archery, Abseiling and Tunnel Trail. Within these physical activities students were pushed to their limits and were placed outside of their comfort zone as they had to conquer fears and work in teams to successfully complete activities, a change to the monotonous London life that our students are all too comfortable in.

Throughout the weekend key skills were promoted and built on such as independence, resilience, time-keeping and interpersonal skills.

On Friday evening, students took part in the "wacky races" which saw groups compete in a number of different (and increasingly crazy-funny) events against staff – this was a real highlight for our students.

On Saturday evening the students enjoyed a pyjama themed disco which was DJ'd by our very own head of year Mr Wegbe.



The Year 8 students represented Paddington Academy incredibly well throughout the weekend and a number of members of the public commented not only on students' manners, their dedication and willingness to be courageous but also on the relationships between the students and the staff.



Evaluation guidance

The terms and holidays dates are available for your information to help you better plan your future holidays. Please be reminded that 100% attendance is crucial for your child's progress and achievement.

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

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!

