

Grammar Objective of the Week: Reporting using the passive voice

Well, here we are: the final week for our Year 11s and my last opportunity to bombard them with subtle points of grammar. This week we are looking at how passive verbs are used (did you notice that passive verb?) to report what is said (another passive!) or thought and to relay what happens. Perhaps I'll also manage to squeeze in a final word from Year 11's very own Yasin Kashif – although that won't be on grammar.

It is reported that the damage is extensive. Here the phrase *is reported* is in the passive voice and allows the writer to report an event formally and without stating the source of the information. An alternative to this is: *The damage is reported to be extensive.* This construction permits the subject (*damage*) to move to the front of the sentence, which also has an objective and formal tone. You can perhaps see why the passive voice is used in reports that need to be objective and factual. Can you now turn the following into a passive sentence? *The police revealed who was responsible for the accident.*

Finally, let's dispense with grammar just for a moment and hand over to Yasin, who wrote this in a reflective moment last week. *Our final days at WA are edging closer and our reign as Year 11s is drawing to a close. It's time to hand over the crown and face a new challenge. WA is an experience that will remain with me for the rest of my life. My friendships, the teachers, all the highs and lows: I shall remember each one, but it's now time to say goodbye.* There are no passive verbs here, but that is not surprising since this is a subjective piece of writing. Do you think making one or more of these sentences passive (where that's possible) would change its impact?

By Mr Harris, Assistant Senior Leader - English

Internship at Paddington Arts

As a Year 10 student, I undertake three internships throughout the year. For one of these, I chose to work at Paddington Arts, which is really fun to do. I work with Zaya and we both have fun every Wednesday. Sometimes we do office work and sometimes we go to see sessions like dance classes. We saw where they keep the bees and were able to have a look at them. The manager, Steve Shaw, sent us to take some photos around the area to put in our memory book, which was really exciting.



By Layla Saman, Year 10

WA half price Book Fair - coming soon!



On Wednesday 8th July, WA is hosting a Scholastic Book Fair where students and their families will be able to browse and buy a big selection of exciting new books. All of the books on sale will cost half of the price that you would pay in a shop! If you are looking at the Book Fair leaflets, then divide the price of the books by 2 and that's what you will pay.

Keep your eyes open for more information regarding book titles, times and competitions in the coming weeks!

By Mr Kearns, Teacher of English

Message from the Principal, Ms Bora

As Year 11 are about to celebrate their Prom this Friday, Years 7–10 are preparing for their FINAL EXAMS which start next week. There will also be an important reading and spelling test in the last week of term. The RANKING of your child in their year group will determine



which subjects he/she will be studying next year. So, please encourage your child to **READ, REVISE and practise questions** daily. Examination results will give you a REALISTIC picture, showing you which career pathways your child should aim for.

Watching Peter Pan brought to life in Regent's Park

On Thursday 5th June a group of Year 8 students, including myself, went to watch 'Peter Pan' performed as a play in the open air theatre in Regent's Park. After travelling by bus to the park, we had some lunch and then went to the theatre which was in the middle of the park. The weather was very nice but the sun was very hot!

The play was very good. It told the story of how Peter Pan met Wendy and her two brothers, before taking them to Neverland to meet the Lost Boys, live as a family, swim with mermaids, and fight pirates. The way the actors used wires to help them 'fly' was amazing! My favourite moment was when Captain Hook was eaten by a crocodile that appeared from under the stage.



We all enjoyed this fantastic trip; thanks to Mr Kearns who organised it.

By Kimia Khojasteh-Abbasi, Year 8

Life lessons from professional singer



Have you ever thought about what it would be like to be the one in the spotlight, to be the one with all the fame?

Well, during Thursday period 5, in the Green Room, a few of us got the chance to get a taste of what the music industry is like when professional singer, Iman Osman came in to give students an insight into her journey to being a singer and as well as the journey of finding yourself.

This was an interesting discussion on how to make your way to the top, to be the best musician you can be. Everyone was so intrigued by Ms Osman's passionate speech and story of ways to get noticed by record labels, producers, Radio 1 and even other artists. She taught students that the internet is a powerful weapon that can be used to get noticed. A lot of people have become famous just from their videos blowing up on YouTube! She also inspired students to take business seriously and told us that the music industry is a business with many aspects that you need to be fully aware of - for example, the consequences of signing to the wrong label. She filled all students with motivation and the grit to carry on and try to pursue the career of their dreams.

As well as all the perks of her fascinating journey, she also taught students the downside of this path and how to conquer fears and nurture confidence. So how does one pick oneself up when life knocks you down? Ms Osman taught us to always look straight ahead and to believe in yourself. We all agreed that this is a fantastic life lesson for all, regardless of what career you wish to pursue.

By Fairouz Ameer, Year 8

What's on:

FREE IT classes for parents - Thursdays 4 - 6pm; WA Library

FREE Art classes for parents and community

FREE Adult English classes - every Wednesday

To express interest in any of the above, please email Mr Gothard: AGothard@westminsteracademy.biz

Year 6 Induction Day - Friday 26 June

Year 8 Parents' Evening - Wednesday 8 July

Science Fair - Wednesday 15 July

Football coaching sessions
Paddington

Are you aged between 8 and 14 years old?

Do you have a flare for football or want to learn how to play like a pro?

Then join our free football coaching sessions, from Thursday 18 June to 29 October 2015, on:

Tuesdays
4.30pm - 5.30pm

Thursdays
4.30pm - 5.30pm.

We meet outside Paddington Green estate office, Hall Place, W2 1XS at 4.20pm on both days.

For more information contact:

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