

## By royal appointment: Year 7 students give presentation at Buckingham Palace



On Monday 16th March 2015, two students and two teachers from WA went to Buckingham Palace, having been selected to speak about the benefits of Outward Bound. These were Ms Bora, Mr Puffett, Lanre Dada and Abado Jama.

The journey was nerve-racking and was shorter than I expected. When we arrived, there were lots of people staring and wondering, "How come they get to go in?"

We went inside to a very extravagant room where men took our coats and told us when to go upstairs. We went up to a room with oriental decor.

We waited until the guests came and then we gave our speeches. I was so nervous! I was very proud of myself afterwards. We then received a visit from HRH the Duke of York! He asked us about our experiences with Outward Bound. Then we had our lunch at a hotel called Ruben. It was divine.

By Abado Jama, Year 7

## Message from the Principal, Ms Bora

Welcome back to Term 5! I hope all students and families had an enjoyable break with the right balance of **reading, revision, practising questions** and extra-curricular activities. The highlight of my holiday was seeing Year 11 and 13 students attend interventions for their examinations but also hearing about opportunities such as the Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and the Royal Society of Medicine's Innovations Summit to which we received a VIP invite as its link school, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, the Dangooors. As always, we have made some changes to our systems this term so please ensure your child attends Tutor Touch Base sessions on time every morning so you are kept fully informed.



When I went to Buckingham Palace, I was outside and saw all those tourists; I thought about whose house I was going into and thought, 'I am the best of the best!' When I took my first step inside I was instantly amazed. I saw real gold everywhere, red silk and the stairs were made of white crystal. Just one word could define everything: 'amazing'. When I got to the balcony room, I saw Chinese art everywhere. I was *amazed*. I did a practice speech at first and they all said it was great! When everyone else came I started to feel nervous. When I made my real speech I made one mistake but carried on. After I finished, I videoed the entire thing; it was an amazing experience!

Thanks to WA's sponsors, the Dangoor family, who funded our Outward Bound residential, without which I wouldn't have had the opportunity to go to Buckingham Palace!

By Lanre Dada, Year 7

## WA class of 2014 among best in the UK

This month, Westminster Academy received its validated RAISE data for our class of 2014 who collected GCSE examination results last year. RAISE data is what is used by the Department for Education and Ofsted to inform judgements about school performance.

The data confirms the exceptional attainment by the 2014 cohort, **70%** of students achieving five A\*-C including English and maths (**15% above the national average**), with 99% of students achieving five A\*-G grades.

Value added scores, which means the progress students make throughout Key Stage 3 and 4, are **significantly above the national average** in all EBacc subjects: English, Maths, Science, Languages and Humanities. WA is in the **top 1% of schools in the country** for progress made in English and for its 'Best 8 score' including English and Maths. The Academy is in the **top 2% nationally** for progress made in Maths and Science.

**Congratulations,**  
Class of 2014!



## Term-long internship at HSBC culminates in presentation at Canary Wharf

For my spring term internship, I worked at HSBC bank. It was an amazing opportunity and a pleasure for me to do my placement there.

My first day working at HSBC was very nerve-racking but I was excited at the same time. When I met the people I'd be working alongside for the upcoming weeks, my fears were pushed aside and I realised that I needn't have been apprehensive as they were all really nice and reassuring. They showed me around the bank and made sure I knew what I was doing. I was informed of how to treat customers and made aware of all the different parts of the business; it was very beneficial and informative.

The overall idea of banking interests me as I am interested in accountancy and finance and see banking as a possible prospect for my future. Attending HSBC was a very positive experience for me as I learnt lots of new things every week. I shadowed areas of business and finance and had the opportunity to help customers. It has showed me what it is like to work in a bank and how



life will be in the future if I do choose to take on banking as a life-long career! The highlight of the internship was experiencing new things and being out of my comfort zone; I had definitely never done anything like it before and it helped build my confidence.

I learnt many things but one thing that I will take on-board is the life skills I developed. Working at HSBC was such a privilege and I would recommend anyone who is considering becoming a banker or accountant in the future to attend HSBC as part of their internship – even if it does mean waking up early!

By Diellza Hasani, Year 10

As part of our work experience, myself and seven other Year 10 students visited the HSBC building in Canary Wharf along with



Ms. Bora and Mr. Tass. We all gave presentations to Russell Marchant, the West End director of the prestigious bank, and his colleagues about our personal experiences at various branches. We also told them what we thought could be improved and answered all their challenging questions until they agreed our feedback was invaluable. We then enjoyed a three-course fine-dining meal before receiving our references and going on to take a tour of the building. (Thankfully no one felt sick looking down at the view from the forty-second floor!) Overall, it was an excellent day and reminded us of how fortunate we are for all the opportunities available to us.

By Aysha Syeda, Year 10

## Grammar objective of the week: Commonly misused words (part 1)

As we approach – and indeed enter – exam season, it makes sense to spend a little time at WA focusing on commonly misused words. I'm sure you know what I'm referring to: indeed, you may have some of your own favourites. Is it practice or practise? Affect or effect? Past or passed? These potentially confusing homonyms can be excruciating for the unwary reader. Just as importantly, they will lead to lost marks and – sharp intake of breath – damaged kudos for the writer. So, let's nail some common misconceptions in the next 200 words (or so).

Firstly, practice with a 'c' is a noun (thing), event or idea, so we can write about going to football practice or inspire friends struggling with revision through helpful (and certainly not provocative) phrases such as "Practice makes perfect!" Practise with an 's', on the other hand, is a verb – a doing word. Certain teachers – to take an example – will undoubtedly regale you with

stories of how they had to practise exam technique constantly in order to achieve their excellent exam results. It's a similar story when it comes to "effect" and "affect". Effect with an 'e' is almost always a noun: "That film was so poignant... it had a powerful effect on me." On the other hand, affect with an 'a' is a verb: "That film affected me powerfully – it was very poignant."

Finally, then, we come to "past" and "passed". They sound the same but have different meanings: "past" is often used as an adjective, while "passed" is an action. To illustrate, you will of course be practising your exam technique by completing some past papers (that is, exam papers from the past) and hopefully soon all of your worries about exam success will have passed (and will therefore be a thing of the past). With a bit of luck, I haven't confused you with these musings, and you'll now pay very close attention to your use of these words.

By Mr Harris, Assistant Senior Leader - English

## IB artists hold first exhibition at Paddington Basin

March 13th was a very important day for the Year 13 IB art students including me. On this day we proudly presented all the work we had created over our two years of



studying visual arts at an exhibition called 'Ways of Seeing'. We had to curate the exhibition ourselves and think about how we wanted people to see and view our art. This process helped me reflect on everything I have



done in the past two years and I realised that the journey is now coming to an end.

The exhibition was very exciting for me and I was

nervous to see what people would think about the art we have produced. However, all the hard work paid off and the exhibition was a success. I was very happy to

see so many people engage with what we had created by thinking about the messages of the artwork and wanting to know more.

We were able to see the reactions on the 'message wall' where everyone could write their thoughts. This allowed us to get feedback and see how people viewed our art pieces.



I think that we have all come a long way and can be proud of the work we have achieved. Everyone's art work was special and personal to each individual, which



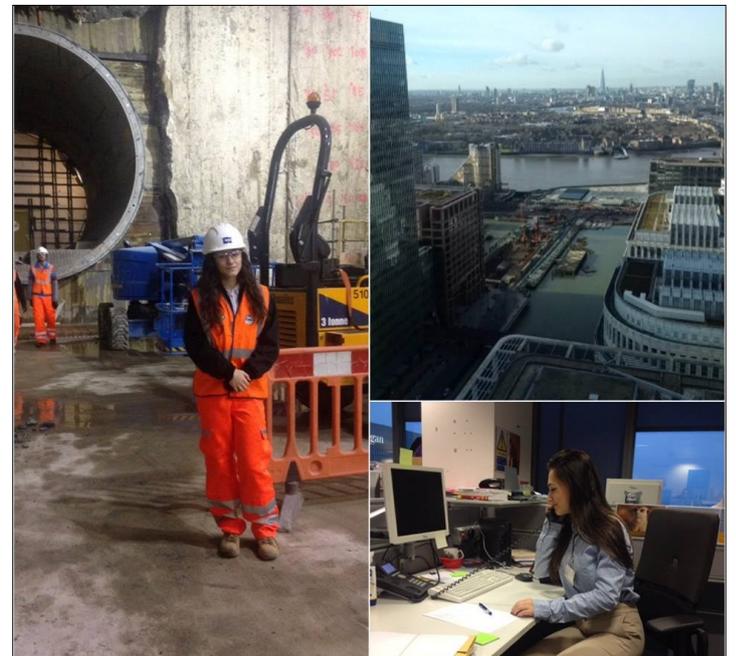
made the whole experience and exhibition much more fun.

By Marwa Benawi, Year 13

## Abundance of experience gained through Crossrail Internship

Fortunately I got the opportunity to get a work placement at one of the biggest engineering companies in Great Britain: Crossrail. My time at Crossrail has been an unforgettable experience which I have thoroughly enjoyed. For the first five weeks I was based at Canary Wharf, 25 Canada Square, where I got to do office work and make a survey about Crossrail which will be used by the general public. There are a variety of departments within the business; every week the various experiences intrigued me as I tried something different. For instance, I went to a meeting at Liverpool Street with all the CEOs and they took me to the London Transport Museum; I got to see how transport has changed throughout the years. The exhibition brought to life the sheer scale of the work being done to deliver Crossrail. There were many interactive tunnelling games and I got to hear the first hand experiences of those who work underground. Also, I went to a careers day in Silvertown (the first time I have ever used the DRL line) and informed Year 5 pupils about the effects of Crossrail and how to keep safe from lorries, which made me feel honoured. For the other five weeks I was based at Paddington; I got to visit the onsite project and wore the PEE clothing which made me feel like a professional engineer. Canary Wharf and Paddington were two completely different environments but that was good as it opened my eyes to what there is out there. I'm interested in maths and sciences and potentially in studying engineering at university; the internship at Crossrail crystalized what I want to do in the future as well as motivating me with my studies.

By Fiona Qerimi, Year 11



## Year 9 and 10 develop employability skills with top business people

## History students record skits with professional producer



### Mosaic 2014-2015

This year has seen Westminster Academy continue our partnership with Mosaic. Forty Year 10 students have benefitted from after-school mentoring sessions, with professionals from the City and the Civil Service coming in to mentor them on a weekly basis. Students had the chance to learn about a wide range of different careers, participate in mock interviews, develop a wide range of employability skills, and put together a business case for improving the school which they presented to a panel of judges. The mentors have all been really impressed at how many students volunteered to stay behind after school each week, and the quality of their ideas.

Ninety Year 9s also participated in the Mosaic Enterprise Challenge, supported by thirty Mosaic mentors. Students spent the day working in groups with a mentor and participating in a business simulation, where they had to design a product, set different design parameters, develop and implement a marketing strategy and maximise their profit over a simulated two year cycle. Again, I was really impressed by our students' enterprise skills; especially the group who managed to produce a £4m profit through focusing on manufacturing and selling as many cheap, budget laptops as possible.

By Mr Farmbrough, Senior Leader - Sixth Form

On Friday March 20<sup>th</sup>, our history class was given an astounding opportunity to work with a professional producer to create small skits for television which were filmed and then later shown to the class on a cassette player. Many of these skits were interviews of students acting as celebrities. To perform these skits we were placed into groups of our choosing; my group consisted of Misbah, Abd-Elrahman and I. To record our skits we were trusted with professional video recording equipment such as: a camera, a microphone and a tripod. This workshop lasted all of period 2 and was a great opportunity for many of us to express our talents and creativity on camera.



I personally really enjoyed the course because it was a chance for me to express myself and my ideas, and then also see

what ideas my fellow classmates had. In addition it was also a break from the normal Friday history lessons. I would like to thank the producer for all his help and advice, and I hope we will be provided more opportunities like this one in the future.

By David Goldfields, Year 9

## WA news goes global: BBC School Report 2015

On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March students participated in the BBC School report, a nationwide event where schools are encouraged to create a news broadcast. Students from Westminster Academy were fortunate to have had training from the BBC due to links the Media department



a really strong position. On the day Team WA rose to the challenge of working with a tight deadline through excellent teamwork, thorough planning and technical expertise. The students were really happy with the end product which can now be seen on the News pages of the Westminster Academy website; bring on next year!



this put them in

By Mr Rahman, Head of Media

## Margaret Mountford launches Career Academy for IBCP students



Last term, thirteen Year 12 IBCP students had the privilege of attending WA's Career Academy launch. This

programme involves us being mentored by people from various businesses, attending a series of employability masterclasses and completing a four to six week paid internship over the summer holiday.

To be selected for this programme, we had to pass an interview round, which was quite nerve-racking as the interviews were with very senior people; for example, I was interviewed by the Head of UK, EU and African banking at Citibank.

It was an extremely exciting event in the evening, with lots of directors and CEOs present; in fact, there were far more adults than students! Mr Farmbrough started the evening by talking about the programme, and then I had to give a talk on why I applied for Career Academy; it was nerve-racking but I really enjoyed the experience. After this, David Dangoor (the school's Sponsor) came on and spoke about why he chose to support the Academy, and then he introduced Margaret Mountford (one of Alan Sugar's advisers on The Apprentice, although she prefers to be known for her own legal and business career!). She gave us some excellent advice:

**"It's not cool to be dumb; it's cool to be smart! Remember to think before you speak and we were all given two ears and one tongue, so listen more and speak less. A CV does not make you employable, everyone has a CV but it is who you are, your uniqueness, your ambition, your hunger, your drive that will help you succeed in reaching your life goals."**

After Ms Bora had thanked everyone, we got to enjoy canapés and network with the guests, who were all really interested in our stories. We're all looking forward to continuing to participate on the course, which is proving to be one of the highlights of the IB Career.

By Ahmed Abbas, Year 12

## Arabic students read the news with BBC Radio

In March three WA language students had the opportunity to visit BBC Arabic. As the only school invited, we enjoyed the undivided attention of the BBC Arabic editor. Mohammed Baqer and Ali Wali created headlines - a two-minute report of the trending stories - and Omar and myself created a report on social media trends, which Omar translated. The students then got to record the stories in Arabic for radio.

All three students asked very good questions and made excellent contributions to the day: Ali was incredibly curious and chatty, Omar was extremely hard-working on the reports and the media editor for Arabic news said Mohammed Baqer is a natural and should definitely consider a career in journalism!



We saw the main news room, and also got to see the BBC world news drones and hear about how they are used for filming in combat or in tough terrain. It was an amazing afternoon!

By Mr Nel, Inclusion Team

## Team effort for Comic Relief

Last term WA held a non-uniform day and bake sale, raising **£854.10** for Comic Relief! Thanks to all who contributed and a particular thanks to Tasnim, Aureta, Sarra and Marwa in Year 11 who organised the event with Ms Cockar.

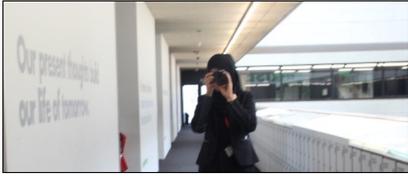


On 19th March, myself and Mr Tass took a group of Year 9 business studies pupils to Grant Thornton for the day.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the event and took part in a range of activities including a game about debt, mock interviews, a realistic budget for life and also a personality quiz. Over lunch the students were given lots of tasty sandwiches and snacks. Grant Thornton thanked the students for their high levels of zest and look forward to working with WA again in the future.

By Mr Dodd, Teacher of Business and Economics

## IBCP Creative Media Production



I have been really impressed by the work of the Year 12 IBCP Creative Media Production students of late; after a tricky start to the course with lots of new skills and knowledge to develop, the students have really started to come into their own. In particular the progression in the standard of practical coursework has been really impressive with students constantly assessing their own work to make it as good as possible. The signs are very positive for the rest of the year and their progression into Year 13.

By Mr Rahman, Head of Media

## Young Enterprise team launch Kobrä London



At Kobrä London, we specialise in real snakeskin iPhone covers and aim to create a unique yet distinguishable brand name and product for our customers. Our business

was initiated with the help of Young Enterprise and gave us the opportunity to run and expand our business in a professional and realistic manner.

Throughout this time, we have been to two markets and endless meetings, but the Young Enterprise competition was by far the biggest challenge Kobrä has come across. Lubna, Kelly, Gabriela, Betina and Rahman went out to represent not only our company "Kobrä London" but also our school, as we are the first year group to take part in 'Young Enterprise'. The competition was the culmination of all our hard work. Every moment of the day was crucial so that we could leave the competition with some sense of success. Most of the rest of our Kobrä team came to support us for our presentation and see the trade stand which we all worked so hard on.



The presentation that we had to give was not only in front of judges, (who, frankly speaking, were not very nice) but also the other 100 guests. The nerves got to all of us; we were practising our lines all morning and even on our way to the event. We can proudly say that we didn't come back empty handed! We came back winning the "best trade stand" award, which was a very big success for us as a company.

By Kelly Matos and Lubna Hussain, Year 12

## Year 9 script write with Tricycle Theatre

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March, Year 9 returned to the Tricycle Theatre in Kilburn for the final part of a script writing project kindly sponsored by the Dangoor family.



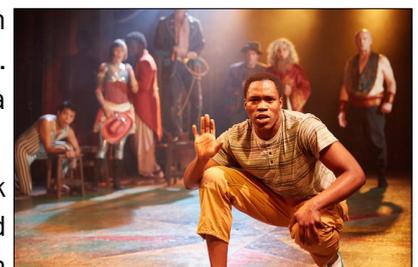
The project began in January when Year 9 visited the Tricycle Theatre to watch a performance of 'Lionboy', a fantastic adaptation of a novel by Zizou Corder about a young boy, Charlie Ashanti, who can speak the language of cats. He goes on an epic journey to recover his scientist parents who have been kidnapped by a multinational pharmaceuticals company. It was colourful and fun and a unanimous hit with the Year 9 students.

We were then visited by Evan Placey, a professional script writer working in London, who introduced a script writing competition and gave us some helpful pointers on how to write for the stage. The winning scripts would be performed by professional actors when we returned to the Tricycle Theatre the following term. In the intervening weeks, all Year 9 students worked hard to create an original script to be entered for the competition.

We were all very excited to return to the Tricycle Theatre on 18<sup>th</sup> March to watch a performance of the winning scripts: 'Modern Art Wars' by Nadira Kossar and 'Chance to be a Star' by Cristian Gonzalez Lopez. Both scripts were very funny and contained absurd comedy that had the whole of Year 9 laughing.

We then watched a hard hitting new play called 'Multitudes' about a liberal British Muslim called Kash who is trying to create a sense of harmony in his community and family. We were all especially taken with the story of Kash's daughter, Qadira, who became radicalized and committed a rash act that left her with permanent injuries. All in all, it was a very gripping story.

We'd like to thank Evan Placey and Kate Young from



the Tricycle Theatre and the Dangoor family for their kind funding of this fantastic project.

By Ms Wasley, Teacher of English

## Year 7 Football Report



### WA 2 - 2 SA

On Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March the Year 7 Football Team kicked off their league campaign against St Augustine's. Within the first few minutes WA conceded a sloppy goal which put them instantly on the back foot. The goal seemed to wake the WA boys up and after much persistence Jahmai Desir-Oti slotted the ball in, taking the score to 1-1 at half time.

WA then came out after half time 'all guns blazing' applying some immense pressure, asking multiple questions of the St Augustine's defence. Quite surprisingly, St Augustine's fired home a controversial free kick totally against the run of play to take the game to 2-1.

With the backing of their Year 10 peers on the side line cheering them on, the WA boys deservedly pulled it back to 2-2. The St Augustine's manager recognised the dominance of WA and adopted a Mourinho style defensive tactic described by one as 'parking the bus' which subsequently resulted in the game finishing 2-2.

Good first game boys!

**Team:** Saaim Ahmed (GK), Jahmai Desir-Oti, Levi Desir-Oti, Taha Abdirizak, Dion Malollari, Rumel Miah, Edward Sesay, Ali Salloub, Jamal Nzinga, Kevin Hyseni.

By Mr Troupe, Teacher of PE

## Table Tennis



WA competed in an individual table tennis tournament on 6<sup>th</sup> March at Chelsea Academy.

Reo Hin-ho Fung n (Year 8) was the only

person to get through to the second round after winning his group, however, Correy Simms (Year 8), Yousif Omer (Year 7), Hussein Hussain (Year 9) all played well and competed against many different schools.



By Mr Troupe, Teacher of PE

## What's On for parents

**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](mailto:AGothard@westminsteracademy.biz)**

**IB exams begin** - Monday 4 May

**May Day Bank Holiday** - Monday 4 May

**Year 9 Parents' Evening** - Wednesday 6 May

**GCSE exams begin** - Monday 11 May

## Parent Council

The Parent Council is run **by parents for parents!** If you need any support regarding your child at Westminster Academy, or if you would like to get involved with the Parent Council, please contact the team on:

[parentcouncil@westminsteracademy.biz](mailto:parentcouncil@westminsteracademy.biz)

## Chelsea and Westminster Hospital Open Day: Saturday 9 May (11am-3pm)

A great opportunity for people of all ages to learn more about their local hospital: educational and fun!

Activities include:

- Live music including a steel band, jazz and musical theatre music
- Tours of the hospital
- Volunteer/work experience stands - interested in a career in the NHS?
- Free health checks/health MOTs
- Test your omelette making skills against Michelin star celebrity chef, Mark Sargent!

For more information, visit [www.chelwest.nhs.uk/openday](http://www.chelwest.nhs.uk/openday) or contact Caroline Pooley: [caroline.pooley@chelwest.nhs.uk](mailto:caroline.pooley@chelwest.nhs.uk) / 020 3315 6829



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# Sports News - hold the back page!

## Handball



The WA Year 10 handball team qualified for the London Regional Finals of the England Handball Championships with an unbeaten record in their division. They will now go through the next round which

is being held at Leyton this month.

**Squad:**

Rakinur Rahman, Leon Lekiqi, Suweilem Rodriguez (c), Zayd Granahan, Oliver Griffiths, Jack Manning, Gramos Hashani, Ben Syla, Kevin Yeboah

**Boys U15 North:**

1st Place - Westminster Academy (12 points)

2nd Place - St Aloysius (7 points)

3rd Place - The Compton School (3 points)

4th Place - Fortismere School (0 points)

By Mr Compton, Head of PE

## London schools cross-country

Awa Ndiaye and Edward Sesay both represented WA in previous Westminster competitions and as a result were selected to represent Westminster in the London Schools Cross-Country finals! The students came 11th and 26th respectively, out of all of the top students in Westminster, Lewisham, Southwark, Hackney, Greenwich, Islington, Wandsworth and Kensington & Chelsea.

Well done both; an excellent achievement!

By Mr Windmill, Teacher of PE

## Rowing



Westminster Academy held the Westminster Sports Unit London Youth Rowing (LYR) competition and gained some great performances. A select squad will now represent Westminster in the National Junior Indoor Rowing Competition (NJIRC). Below are the LYR results.

Below are the LYR results.

Position	Lane	Name	Time	Distance (m)
<b>Year 9 Boys</b>				
1	5 Lane 5	Filmon Tekle	04:00.0	1038
2	4 Lane 4	Kirubel Alaiyn	04:00.0	1024
3	3 Lane 3	Ron Kavaja	04:00.0	1001

<b>Year 9 Girls</b>				
1	4 Lane 4	Awa Ndiaye	03:00.0	722

<b>Year 8 Boys</b>				
1	2 Lane 2	Kurt Musa	03:00.0	719
2	1 Lane 1	Gueladje Djalo	03:00.0	706
3	4 Lane 4	Darnyll Reid	03:00.0	676

<b>Year 7 Girls</b>				
2	1 Lane 1	Elizabeth Alavidza	02:00.0	410

<b>Year 7 Boys</b>				
1	1 Lane 1	Jaylin Simoes	02:00.0	511
2	4 Lane 4	Edward Sesay	02:00.0	459
3	2 Lane 2	Lanre Dada	02:00.0	451

By Mr Windmill, Teacher of PE

### Upcoming fixtures

Boys Secondary Athletics	5/05/2015	9am - 4:15pm	Battersea Park
Girls Secondary Athletics	12/05/2015	9am - 4:15pm	Battersea Park
Year 7/8 Tennis	20/05/2015	1pm - 5pm	Regents Park TC
Year 7/8 Rounders	09/06/2015	1pm - 5pm	Pad Rec
Year 9/10 Rounders	16/06/2015	1pm - 5pm	Pad Rec
Year 7/8 Kwik Cricket Tournament	25/06/2015	1pm - 5pm	The Hub, Regent's Park

