

IB research progresses at UCL libraries

On Friday 5th September, I accompanied the Year 13 IB Diploma cohort to UCL Libraries for a follow-up visit. Students spent the day split between the Main and Science Libraries conducting extensive research towards their Extended Essays. I visited each library periodically to check on the students' progress and was extremely impressed to see them engaged in serious independent research. They were utilising the stock, computer facilities and making the most of the beautiful study space. The behaviour of the Year 13s was exceptional and the feedback from UCL Library staff was extremely positive. Muhibur was the star of the show! Ros at the Science Library Issue Desk praised his IT skills and was amazed at his mature approach in helping her find a workable solution to the IT problems she was having. Ros also said she enjoyed helping the WA students and described them as 'wonderful!'

Overall, the Year 13 IB students felt they had a productive day and will be presenting their essays at the Westminster Academy Extended Essay Exhibition soon.

By Ms Sealy, Sixth Form Administrator



Message from the Principal, Ms Bora

Our **strategic aims and priorities 2014-2015:**

Challenge 1 Encouraging Enterprise - CHARACTER e.g. Grit, Curiosity, Optimism, Self-Control

Challenge 2 Moving Towards a Zero Waste Society - SYSTEMS - *parents are reminded that we have information in this newsletter every Thursday, in curriculum booklets, in planners, on our website and on the SLG (passwords were posted out this week)*

Challenge 3 Fostering Resilient Communities - PERSONALISATION - *all parents should have met tutors and resolved any queries about timetables and/or our behaviour policy*

Challenge 4 To Develop a Capable Population - PROGRESSION - *reading, writing and practising questions every night*

Challenge 5 Advancing Global Citizenship - LITERACY including *reading, writing, speaking & listening, spelling, punctuation and grammar*



International venture for WW1 War Centenary tour

On 14th September, I had the exciting opportunity to be one of two students who had the privilege to go on a three night break to Belgium and France.



At midday, we met at Twickenham and we took a coach along with students from all over the country. We went to Kingswood, which is located in Ashford, England, for the first night and we had a brilliant time at the Adventure Residential Centre.

Then we left early the next morning and went by coach via the Eurotunnel to Calais and went to Tyne Cot Cemetery. This was a British cemetery where there were the graves of many soldiers from countries all around the world:



India, Egypt, China, Scotland and England, to name a few. Then we went to a German cemetery called Langemark Cemetery which was nearby and there were only Germans buried there. After this we went to a museum before heading to our hotel in Flanders Lodge, Belgium. We also got the chance to be part of a ceremony which commemorated those who died in World War 1 at the Menin Gate, Belgium. Additionally we got to shop and have a look around Belgium and we were also part of a commemoration art programme, where we made pottery figures in remembrance of those in the Great War.



of those in the Great War.

We had a great time on this unique trip and we are very grateful for this opportunity, specifically to Mr Chartorizhsky.

By Fahmi Mohamed, Year 11

Zip wires, camp fires and pasta for 60: the Sixth Form residential



On the first Friday of term, 60 new Year 12 students travelled down to Orpington in Kent for a three day inductive residential. After a slightly cosy coach journey (which did at least force us to sit close to each other), we arrived at the Activity Centre.

We were split into smaller groups and immediately given our first challenge; we had just 30 minutes to design a menu which we would later be cooking for everybody else. We were then thrown into our activities. Our programme consisted of a mixture of study skills activities and outdoor team building activities. The Study Skills lessons taught us to be more reflective about ourselves, and some of the skills we needed for studying at a higher level. The team building activities were great fun, and included zip wires and aerial assault courses. Some of us were more scared of heights than others (it would be mean of us to mention the one student who made very close friends with a tree and refused to let go of it...), but we all supported each other through it and we all got round in the end!

We were cooking that evening and this probably was the hardest part of the weekend – cooking for so many people is a lot harder than we realised (pasta for 60 people takes several people to lift the pan!), but we all learned a lot about teamwork, and the food went down well too!

The next evening was even better – we were taken on a long walk at night, which meant we had to rely on all our senses to find our way through the dark – and we arrived back to find a massive camp fire for us to spend the rest of the evening around. The evening was only slightly spoiled by our defeat to the teachers' volleyball team.

After a busy Sunday morning, we reluctantly boarded the coach home, having made new friends and come to understand ourselves better. It was a fantastic way to start our time in the Sixth Form – thank you to all the staff and students who made it such an enjoyable weekend!

Ali Fatahipoor and Rafah Mohamed, Year 12

Afternoons of opportunities under the spotlight

What do **medicine**, **martial arts**, **chess** and **politics** have in common? When was the last time you tried Parkour at the world's largest managed **Parkour** park? Or learnt the secrets of **debating** from a coach who has competed at debating championships all over the world? Have you ever been part of a **Steel Pans** Group so successful that they were invited to perform during an international test match at Lord's?

These are just some of the acts appearing at an Academy near you every day from 3.40pm, starring alongside a whole host of others ranging from such leading household names as **football** and **film** club to the as yet undiscovered talents of **Philosophy of Science** and **Matilda the Musical**.

"But I'm just a poor student! How can I possibly get to do all these amazing activities?!" I hear you cry. Well, dear students, you are in luck: our good friends in the timetable department and a worthy cast of teachers have done their utmost to produce the star-studded line-up of clubs that were **requested by you**, and are inviting you to get involved in any of these for free, all because you are a lovely WA student!

Since your timetable is personalised, if you have a period 5 available, you can take your pick of clubs at that time. The timetabling team are sadly lacking mind-reading from their repertoire of skills, so if you are interested in joining a club, do **tell your personal tutor**.

The opportunities are waiting in the wings, friendships are waiting to be made and new skills are about to be put on show... bring your academic, physical and creative capacities centre stage; see you in Period 5!

Would you like to write a review of your club? Email it to Miss Pitt: SPitt@WestminsterAcademy.biz



Parents: What's on

FREE IT classes for parents

FREE Art classes for parents and community

FREE 'Parent Gym' for parents to support students to learn faster, do better and be happier

FREE Adult English classes - every Wednesday 1-3pm

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

Year 6 Open Evening - Thursday 2 October 5-7pm

Year 12 Parents' Evening - Wednesday 8 October