

Westminster Academy Sixth Form celebrates most successful year ever!

Westminster Academy students were celebrating this week after smashing a series of records for the Academy in the IB Diploma, IB Career-related Programme, and vocational courses.

In the IB Diploma, students achieved an average of almost 35 points, **well above last year's world average** of 30.1, with 100% of students passing the diploma. There was particular success for three WA students: Gabriela Jaroszewska, Bence Koranyi and Zakri Zulkurnain; all achieved scores of 41 points, putting them **in the top three thousand IB students in the world**. Their grades are **equivalent to more than 4 A*s at A Level**.

Sarah Al-Saad, who scored an impressive 39 points to take her on to study Pharmacy at UCL, reflected on her experience: *"Since I started in Year 7, the school has been steadily improving each year and I feel privileged to have been part of this progression. The IB challenged us to move beyond our comfort zones, and now we feel like we can tackle anything which comes our way."*

Mr Butler, IB Diploma Coordinator, commented, *"The Class of 2015 were quick to appreciate just how challenging this course is but they worked independently, with each other, and with their teachers to produce an exceptional set of results. I'm incredibly proud of them*



all."
There was great success for WA's largest yet co-



hort of IB Career-related Programme students too, with 100% of students set to pass the programme and meet their university offers once BTEC results are confirmed later this summer. One student celebrating was Labinot Krasniqi, whose depth of knowledge of ICT has seen him regularly tutoring his peers. He reflected, *"The support I've received at Westminster Academy has been incredible. I had considered A Levels but can say for certain that if I hadn't chosen the IBCP, I wouldn't be heading to Kings College London next year to study Computer Science."*

The results round off an extremely successful year for the Sixth Form at Westminster Academy, which celebrated topping the Westminster league tables in January. Mr Farmbrough, Senior Leader for Sixth Form, commented, *"We're all thrilled by the progress made by this year's cohort; they have thrown themselves in to their courses, worked extremely hard, and they fully deserve their success. We're looking forward to hearing about all their future achievements."*

Ms Bora said, *"As the only non fee-paying IB school in the Tri-borough, I'm delighted that this year's results have proved that we are offering a Sixth Form education on a par with some of the most exclusive independent schools in the country."*

Message from the Principal, Ms Bora

Looking through the International Baccalaureate Diploma and Career-Related Programme results on Monday made me realise that I am the luckiest Principal in the world. I was in awe of the students' successes, which included students **scoring the top grade (7) in subjects such as Higher Level chemistry and English**. I was also delighted to see the range of universities our students will be going to. The combination of hard work by students, parents and staff, coupled with support from our sponsors, governors, community and business links, made all the **reading, revision and practising questions** worth it. CONGRATULATIONS!!!



Annika meets First Lady Michelle Obama!



Recently Year 9 student, Annika Carlson had the incredible opportunity to meet US First Lady, Michelle Obama. Mrs Obama was present at an event involving US families at Winfield House, which is the home of the US Ambassador to the Court of St. James, Mr. Matthew Barzun. Mrs. Obama commended the crowd for the work they do on a daily basis representing America here in the UK. Her remarks were so thoughtful; her sense of humour had the crowd laughing along with her.

After speaking, Mrs Obama moved from the podium to shake hands and speak with some of the attendees. One of those lucky people was Annika Carlson! Mrs. Obama came over to speak with Annika and Annika immediately hugged Mrs. Obama, who hugged her right back. Annika was dressed in her Westminster Academy uniform, which the First Lady asked her about. The First Lady is a world leader in promoting girls' education and Annika and her mom told her how proud they are that Annika attends Westminster Academy. They informed Mrs. Obama about the composition of the Academy, its rapid rise to the rank of Outstanding, that Annika's teachers were phenomenally supportive of her, and that one of the best things about WA is its cultural diversity, with many students able to speak so many languages other than English. At the conclusion of the conversation, which lasted several minutes, a smiling Mrs. Obama gave Annika a big hug!

By Annika Carlson, Year 9, and her family

Grammar Objective: Giving reasons using *as*, *for*, *since* and *inasmuch as*

This week we are experimenting with different ways of giving reasons. All too often we limit ourselves to 'because'. *Mr Harris is tired because he has marked so many exam papers. Divine is tired because she has worked hard at school today.* However, there are in fact many other ways of expressing reasons! Read on and then experiment with some of these this week.

To begin with, *for* is a formal way of saying "because", while *in that* or *inasmuch as* are used to make what has just been said clearer by adding more detail. For example: *The experiment must be planned carefully, **for** the results will not test our hypothesis if the results are inaccurate.* Here's another: *The experiment must be planned carefully, **inasmuch as** experiments that are not planned in this way will not give accurate results.* (I must admit, I had not realized that *inasmuch as* could be used in formal writing in this way, but I'm excited to start dropping this phrase into my feedback to students... *Your writing would benefit from being more clearly organised, **inasmuch as** a tighter structure would enable you to develop your ideas in more detail.*)

Apart from *for* and *inasmuch as*, another nifty way of giving a reason is to start your sentence with *since*. For example: ***Since** she planned her homework carefully, she managed to complete it quickly and accurately.* (Did you notice the comma?) Finally, then, you can certainly see that providing reasons for your ideas or conclusions is an essential skill in all subjects. This is why it's so important to consider the best way of introducing these details to your readers through a clever choice of one of these connectives: *since*, *for*, *inasmuch as* or *because*.

By Mr Harris - Assistant Senior Leader, English

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, and for times and venue please email Mr Gothard: AGothard@westminsteracademy.biz

Year 5 Open Mornings - Thursday 2 July, Friday 10 July, Thursday 16 July 9.30-10.30am

Science Fair - Wednesday 15 July (all day)

Enrichment Day - Friday 17 July (all day)

Final exams for all year groups continue - Week commencing Monday 20th July