

Year 8 Science challenge at Lammas school

To kick off national Science and Engineering Week, four of our Year 8 Gifted and Talented students attended a Science Challenge at Lammas school on Friday 12 March. They were pitted against seven other Waltham Forest schools and tested on their teamwork and planning abilities. After winning the Egg Throwing competition hands down, we were on track to take home the medal. Unfortunately our weight support contraption looked worse for wear and we were pipped to the post, coming joint second, behind Lammas school. Please congratulate Ashleigh Killin (8A), Raj Sriskandarajah (8A), Hayder Morsel (8B) and Charlotte Cullen (8C) in their excellent efforts and an enjoyable event! Roll on 2011!

Ms Xia Tran
Zic Science: KS3 Coordinator

PERFORMANCE POETRY

Students in Year 7 Stretch English had the opportunity to showcase some of their brilliant creative writing skills this term in an Assembly on Poetry. They used their own work written during the unit, 'Introduction to Poetry', and incorporated it into their explanations of some poetic devices and forms, such as limericks, haiku and sonnets. They were challenged to be creative when it came to performing their poems, using a range of dramatic skills to bring their writing to life, and working together as a team to produce a highly entertaining assembly. Thank you to Mr. Savage for his guidance and training, and to our class for all the hard work in producing an educational and fun Assembly.

Miss Megan Vidal, Year 7 Student

INTERNET SAFETY

There are many dangers to personal safety on the Internet. However, Facebook has recently changed its recommended settings so it's worthwhile bringing this to your attention.

If you or your child uses Facebook, you may have noticed that a warning about their changes has been appearing recently. You should think very carefully about accepting their new recommendations as you could potentially be giving out personal information and photographs to everyone. If you make your information available to "everyone", it actually means

"the whole of the internet, forever", because even if you change your mind later, it's too late - and although Facebook say they will remove it from your profile they will have no control about how it is used outside of Facebook.

Keep your privacy settings private. Go through each setting to check. To report internet abuse click on anywhere you see this sign, including the Academy website.



Mr Geoff Walker
Technical Services Coordinator

English Revision Classes

The English Department has been overwhelmed with requests for revision sessions. These have now started and will continue up to exam time. Students have been very keen to participate in these and parental support would be really valuable as examinations dates approach.

They take place every Thursday from 3.40-4.30pm

Sessions will cover:

- planning for answering reading questions**
- tackling exam questions**
- essay writing skills**
- interpretation of writing questions (Purpose/ Audience/ Format)**
- exam strategies**

Ms Rosangela Reyes
Second in English Department – Interventions

Girls HPV vaccinations

protect you from cervical cancer.

To get the best protection it is important you receive all three injections over six months.

Have you started your course?

If not, there is an opportunity on

Thursday 22 April.

Collect a consent form from the Medical Room /Reception or ask your Form Teacher.

For more information go to www.immunisation.nhs.uk/hpv

Ms Juliet Wyatt, Academy Nurse

Breakfast Club

Start your day the best possible way!

Breakfast Club is the best,

It helps you pass that school test.

Fruits are really good,

They keep you healthy like they should.

Junk food is bad,

It makes all your insides real sad.

So in the morning when you go to eat,

Have yourself a healthy breakfast treat!

At breakfast club!

Runs Every Morning

Two slices of Toast
£0.30



Cheese on toast
£0.50

Cereal £0.40



Milk £0.30

Juice £0.35



Fruit £0.35

Opening times

Monday

7:30-8:00

Tuesday

7:30-8:15

Wednesday

7:30-8:15

Thursday

7:30-8:00

Friday

7:30-8:15

Grade Breaker Programme

Club Xtra is part of the Grade Breaker programme and it is a chance for all Year 11 students to get extra support in the lead up to their exams. The sessions run from 10am-12pm on Saturdays.

Year 11 Club Xtra!

These sessions cover:

exam skills

exam practice

time management

English and Maths practice

study skills

stress control

College preparation

coursework completion

Hope to see you there!

Ms Lucy Sinclair

Higher Level Teaching Assistant



United Learning Trust

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Walthamstow Academy NEWS

The best in everyone

Issue No. 56

Tuesday 16 March 2010

Message from the Principal



Dear parents and carers

It has been lovely to meet with so many of you at the recent Parents' Evenings and the Options Fayre. I look forward to the other opportunities for you to visit the Academy over the rest of this term.

I would also like to thank you for your continued support of Walthamstow Academy and for all the positive feedback we have had about everything we do. In order to get opinions from you all on a more formal basis, we have commissioned a questionnaire. Your son / daughter should have brought this home last week. Please do take the time to complete the questionnaire, as the outcomes will inform our plans for the rest of this year and beyond. All staff and students have also completed a questionnaire and this

will enable us to triangulate information, cross reference and get a really clear understanding of what is important to you, to our students and to our staff.

On the morning of 24 March, Walthamstow Academy will have its official opening ceremony! This event will be attended by a large number of invited dignitaries and local public figures. There will be a tour of the school, performances by students and the unveiling of a permanent commemorative plaque. Attendance at the ceremony is unfortunately by invitation only and we are trying to reserve a small number of spaces for parents so that all of our Academy community is represented. If you would like to come to the ceremony please do contact me at the Academy and I shall make every effort to accommodate you.

Ms Emma Skae BSc BEd MA NPQH
Principal



Year 7 Stretch English (Performance Poetry, page 4)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 24 March
Official Opening Ceremony

Thursday 25 March
Year 10 Parents Evening

Wednesday 31 March
End of Spring Term

Monday 19 April
Start of Summer Term
Students return at 8.30am

The Academy Specialism Update

Here at Walthamstow Academy we are incredibly fortunate to be a specialist school for 3 different subject areas. They are:

Business & Enterprise
Maths
Science



How does this affect you?

As a specialist school our overall aim is to:

Raise attainment for all students both in the specialist subjects (Maths, Science and Business & Enterprise) and across the whole curriculum;

Extend opportunities for vocational learning and enrichment activities throughout the school community;

Work collaboratively with partner schools to provide or facilitate high quality learning opportunities and outcomes;

Improve student achievement and enjoyment at Walthamstow Academy;

Deliver extended activities in the classroom;

Deliver events in the Hall run by external agencies and/or businesses and

Deliver week-long activities, like the existing Science week in the Summer term and Business and Enterprise week in the Autumn term.

Which Specialism events and activities have been completed so far this year?

Business and Enterprise

Year 10 took part in the Lionheart Enterprise Challenge event.

Year 7 took part in creating a business plan for a new zoo as a joint venture with Maths during Enterprise week

Maths

BP came in for a day with Year 9 looking at the trading of Oil and how that affects and is affected by world markets.

We have a team entered into the borough competition and race game, Maths in Motion so please watch out for us in the Summer term.



Science

Students in Year 10 and 12, have attended exciting Science Master Classes by leading scientists at University College London (UCL).

Students from Years 9-11 have received One to One tuition and mentoring from UCL Science students.

The Future

We are planning many exciting events that will enhance student learning. These include a Specialism week in the summer term, which has too many activities to mention.



Keep checking the Newsletter regularly to see updates on what the Specialisms are doing and how you can get on board.

If you really enjoy any event or have any ideas or would like to help out the Specialism team speak to Ms. Agboola, Ms. Blanch or Mr. Ogbe.

Ms Stacey Blanch, Head of Maths

Jack Petchey's "SPEAK OUT" Challenge!

On Monday 8 March 25 of our Year 10 students were trained by Speakers Bank in the art of Public Speaking. This is the 4th year we have taken part in this Jack Petchey sponsored activity.

At the end of this exciting and demanding day our Year 10's delivered their final polished speech to the group, observed by a panel of staff & student judges. Six finalists were selected - Hauwa, Rayah, Ayesha, Layla, Kira and Sayid. Congratulations to all 25 students for the excellent standard achieved!

This week sees the six finalists battling it out in Assembly against each other for coveted places in the Borough final.

Expectations for our students are high. In 2008 Raifa Rafiq (now Year 12) was awarded 3rd place in the Borough heat, and in 2009 Jack Norman (Year 11) achieved 2nd place at this level.

The next Newsletter will include an update of the progress of these Year 10s in their quest for supremacy in Public Speaking!

Ms Anne Gallagher
Coordinator, Gifted & Talented

CHILE EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

Following the recent devastation to hit Chile, Walthamstow Academy has been raising vital funds. On Friday 5 March, Sixth Formers helped run a raffle, where students had the chance of winning an HMV voucher, as well as having the chance to guess 'how many million sweets are in the jar!' The whole day received an amazing response and **Walthamstow Academy raised £364.11!**

Thank you to all the staff, students, parents and carers for their very generous donations.

Miss Kathryn Levere
Teacher of Sociology
Charity Representative

Tesco Vouchers for Schools

Please bring your Tesco vouchers and place them in the collection box in reception. One voucher is given for every £10 spent in Tesco stores and petrol filling stations.

We aim to purchase IT equipment with the vouchers collected.

Mr Metin Zekia, Network Manager

LANGUAGES

ORAL EXAMINATION SEASON

The Oral examinations season has just begun. There are many Oral examinations that will be happening in the near future. Here is a summary of dates already confirmed:

PORTUGUESE
Monday 22 March 2010

SPANISH
Tuesday 27 April 2010

FRENCH
Wednesday 28 and
Thursday 29 April 2010

Arrangements are still being made to finalise a date for Turkish, Urdu, Bengali, Polish and Dutch orals. Please encourage your child to revise rigorously for these examinations as they account for 25% of the final GCSE mark. All pupils entered for a language are encouraged to revise role-plays, their presentations and attempt all questions in each topic area. Sample answers (A-A*) to questions on different topics in French have been posted on the VLE. Encourage them to go through these. They must make good use of all the resources they have been given and in addition use educational websites like SamLearning and Linguascope.com to reinforce their knowledge of various topics.

Mr Julius Kejem
Head of Languages

Claues Oldenburg Pop Art Project



Students in Year 8 have been working really hard on three dimensional artworks inspired by Claues Oldenburg. Students' work featured here, included a huge packet of McDonalds chips. Yummy!

Ms Hayley Durkin
Learning Manager for Year 7

Learning Resources Centre News



World Book Day

The LRC has had a fantastic week last week Celebrating World Book Day with lots of event and competitions.

On Wednesday students had to find members of staff wearing silly badges, write down the book title and author printed on each badge and return their forms to the LRC. All the forms were put into a prize draw.

Congratulations to Munira Alinur 9B who has won a super bundle of books! Prizes include: H.I.V.E by Mark Waldon, Scarlet by Cathy Cassidy, Why Eating Bogeys Is Good for You by Mitchell Symons and Skulduggery Pleasant by Derek Landy

On Thursday students entered another competition where they had to guess who was coming to dinner. A table was laid in the LRC at lunchtime and students had to guess which book characters were coming to a fantasy feast from the props and clues around the table. There was lots of excitement but luckily no one was tempted to try the cold porridge!

Congratulations to Amber Tamcken 7F who won the competition. Prizes include a bundle of fiction books and a copy of Sam Sterns' Get Cooking with great new recipes from the world famous teenage cook.



On Friday we had a very special visit from author Joe Craig who came to Walthamstow Academy to speak to Year 8s about his books, the Jimmy Coates series. Joe talked about how to plan stories and give your characters problems to overcome. He then made up stories on the spot using the audience suggestions with hilarious outcomes. Students really enjoyed the session. "Joe was really entertaining and very funny" said Adam Tracy 8E. Afterwards he signed books in the LRC and entertained students by making up songs with them.

Scholastic Book Club

The latest catalogues from Scholastic have been given out to year 7 and 8. There are some great offers inside including the whole Twilight series for £14.99 (saving £22), Darren Shan's Demonata series, all 9 books for £24.99 (saving £37), and the usual new titles from Jacqueline Wilson, Robert Muchamore, Anne Cassidy and the Simpsons!

Spare catalogues can be collected from the LRC. The deadline for orders is March 19.

Ms Kathryn Barker
LRC Manager

Maths revision class Wednesday 3.30 – 4.30pm.

We have 5 different intervention classes on each week. Please check with me which room to go to for your tailored support.

Ms Stacey Blanch, Head of Maths