

Jack Petchey SpeakOut Challenge

Ms A Gallagher

On Monday 24 January a group of Year 10 students took part in a public speaking training day. The *Jack Petchey SpeakOut Challenge* is the world's largest public speaking competition and is now in its sixth year. The training develops students speech writing and delivery skills.

Every student who attended the event will receive a certificate and the top five speakers from Walthamstow Academy will present their speeches in Year 10 Assembly. The winner will represent the academy in the Waltham Forest Regional Final.

The day was a great success with 92% of students rating the training as *Very Good*. One student commented:

"Today's training made me more confident in myself and it showed me that there are no barriers in public speaking"

Good luck to Alex Roffey (10A), Keziban Sahpaz (10D), Amber Murray (10C) and Connor Gardner (10F).

Free School Meals (FSM)

If you think you may be eligible for FSM there are many ways in which you can complete the application form. For example: you can apply on-line at www.walthamforest.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals, or you may call 020 8496 8550 for further information.

Parent Pay

Mr G Hodgson

Unfortunately the *Parent Pay* facility will no longer be available to top up students lunch account. This is due to higher administration costs imposed by *Parent Pay*.

Students can still use the machines situated around the academy

ULT Fish Challenge

Dr D Srikanthan

Taylan Gumus (8D), Jay Ocuneff (7D), Brianna McEwan (7C), Kai Tooley (7C) and Roland Bodzasi (7C) are officially the Walthamstow Academy 'Aqua Squad'.

The students are taking part in a challenge organised by the *United Learning Trust* to train a goldfish.

Our goldfish (pictured right) Squirt has been exploring his tank, which is based in Science Room 10 and has already proved that he can be trained to follow his feeding wand.

In the following weeks the Aqua Squad are going to train him to play football, slalom and maybe even do the limbo!



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Monday 28 February

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10 March

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Friday 08 April

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Tuesday 26 April

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Young Chef Competition

Ms A Gallagher

Congratulations to Ty Brooks (9D) and Natasha Walsh (9D) who represented Walthamstow Academy at the Rotary Club Young Chef Competition on 2 February.

The competition which was held at Caterham High School in Ilford challenged students to prepare a healthy one-course meal for two people costing less than £4.50. Marks were awarded for budgeting, cooking skills, taste, personal organisation and presentation.

Both of our students were commended for their excellent efforts and especially the standard of presentation of themselves and their table settings.

Despite not making it through to the next round it proved to be a positive and enjoyable experience for both of our students, who were presented with a recipe book and certificate to mark their achievement.



Maths Challenge

Ms S Blanch

On Thursday 3 February students took part in the *National Maths Challenge*.

The event, which is organised by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust, receives over 600,000 entries every year. Students had one hour to answer twenty-five, increasingly difficult, Maths puzzles.

Over 100 students from years 9, 10 and 11 represented Walthamstow Academy. The highest scoring students will receive gold, silver and bronze awards. The top students in the country will be invited to take part in an Olympiad round in March.

We will keep you informed of our students' progress.



Imperial College Science Fair

Ms A Gallagher

On 3 February Ashleigh Campbell (9D), Kyron Webb (9D), Eboni Senior (9A), Kelyce Brown (9E) and Emmanuel Anatoye (9D) attended a Science Fair at *Imperial College* in Kensington.

The event, which was part of the academy's *Aim Higher* programme, aimed to support students' understanding of scientific principles.

Students took part in a number of activities including a challenge to build the tallest tower from spaghetti within a given time limit in order to explore the theme of structures, stress and triangulation.

Our students' participation and behaviour throughout the day was exemplary.

The Holocaust Exhibition

Mr B Bujarh

On 25 January a group of students from the academy visited the Holocaust Exhibition at the *Imperial War Museum*.

Students took part in an orientation session with an educator from the museum and had a tour of the exhibition with audio guides.

The event which marks *Holocaust Memorial Day* (27 January) aimed to put the events of the holocaust into a context which young people could understand.

The students were well behaved and engaged in the learning process.



Message from the Principal

It has been another busy half term at the academy with a wide range of activities taking place including: year 9 students making important choices about which courses they wish to study at Key Stage 4, year 11 students starting their one-to-one tuition on Saturday mornings and year 13 Performing Arts students premiering their short film entitled "Extinction and Discovery". As we reach the mid-way point in the academic year it is important for all of our students to reflect on their achievements so far and to return from the half term break refreshed and ready to rise to the challenges that the remainder of the year will bring.



Emma Skae—Principal

We are Oversubscribed!

Ms R Ward

635 year 6 students have applied to attend the academy next year. 182 students put us as their first choice—making us officially oversubscribed.

WA Tracksuit — SALE!

Until the end of March we are selling Walthamstow Academy tracksuit tops for only £5! These will be available at break from the PE Department.



Safer Internet

Tuesday 8 February was *Safer Internet Day*.

The day encourages and empowers parents to support their child's online activities, especially around online gaming and internet chat rooms. You can get more information at www.saferinternet.org.uk

Get Set for 2012

Ms G Clare

Walthamstow Academy have signed up to Get Set - the official London 2012 education programme.

The benefits of registration include: a plaque for our reception, a tour of the Olympic Park, a range of educational resources and opportunities to win free tickets.

You can find out more about Get Set at www.getset.london2012.com

RSC Bill Bryson Prize

Students are invited to enter the Royal Society of Chemistry's Bill Bryson prize. This national competition encourages young people to engage with Science through writing, creating posters and PowerPoint presentations or web-sites.

If you would like more information about the competition see Dr Srikanthan.