Making the Leap
Mock Interviews

You never get a second chance to make a first impression in an interview, but there’s nothing stopping you practicing making it! In December Year 10, 12 & 13 students took part in mock interviews arranged by our partners at MAKING THE LEAP. Across the day volunteers from both the public and private sector met our young people asking them questions about their career aspirations, their personal qualities and attributes, as well as reviewing their current academic performance. Each student received personalised feedback about the way they presented themselves, engaged with the interviewer and on the quality of their responses to the questions.

Our students represented the Walworth Academy family superbly, showing themselves as confident and articulate; of course, we have a few things to work on, so make sure to practice those handshakes, remember to stand up tall and make positive eye contact with the interviewer. Practice makes perfect!

Term Dates

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<th>Term Dates</th>
<th>Spring Term 2 (2018)</th>
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<td>Friday 16th March</td>
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<td>Students return</td>
<td>Monday 19th February</td>
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The Principal’s Message

I am delighted to introduce you to the first newsletter of this academic year. As we approach the Easter break, I am sure you are all looking forward to spending some quality time with your families and friends whilst enjoying a well-deserved rest.

We are very proud of our recent Ofsted Inspection, with the inspectors highlighting that ‘You put the well-being, learning and progress of pupils at the heart of everything you do. You have developed the school as a family, confident of its place in the local community but never complacent and always striving to do better’. This is very much a reflection of the strong partnership between school and home, and we continue to be very grateful for the support and trust of all our parents and carers especially as we continue to demand 100% from our students on our journey to ‘outstanding’. We have worked hard to create a culture of hard work and progress, not just focussing on results; the measure of your child’s effort and determination just focussing on results; the measure of your child’s effort and determination is very much a reflection of the strong partnership between school and home, and we continue to be very grateful for the support and trust of all our parents and carers especially as we continue to demand 100% from our students on our journey to ‘outstanding’. We have worked hard to create a culture of hard work and progress, not just focussing on results; the measure of your child’s effort and determination.

We do hope that your child is continuing to take full advantage of every opportunity available within school as well as conducting private study at home. As we all know, the very best outcomes are achieved from working hard, never giving up, facing things that are difficult and challenge us, and being determined to conquer them. It starts with us, our partnership, and the shared drive and vision we have for your child. We need your support to ensure your child is working hard both in school and at home and that they are completing all homework that has been set, are maintaining 100% attendance and are demanding the highest of expectations from both themselves and others. Once we know your child is working as hard as possible, there is no more we can ask of them.

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I do hope that your child is continuing to take full advantage of every opportunity that the Walworth family works hard to offer and I wish you all a wonderful and happy holiday!
Shakespeare
Globe

Year 8 Drama students got their Shakespeare project off to a flying start when they visited theatre leaders at Shakespeare’s Globe. The combined classes were working with some of the nation's top directors to develop their own version of ‘As You Like It’. On their visit to the Globe, the students met with photography specialists who recorded the project and with Fe Drummond (resident Director at The Globe). Fe delivered a stunning one woman show retelling the story and playing all of the characters. Our school rehearsals started on March 23rd and our own full performance will be in school during June, with a further performance at the Globe’s Wannamaker Theatre in July. We look forward to greeting parents at one of the upcoming events!

Donmar
Warehouse

Pictured are Year 10 students who are taking part in the Donmar Warehouse ‘Take the stage’ Project. On February 21st, they had their first rehearsals and master classes with directors and with award-winning playwright Elinor Cook. For their response piece to ‘The York Realist’, they will be performing their work at the world renowned theatre in Covent Garden on March 16th. Huge thanks to Phil McCormack and the Donmar team for organising the question and answer session with the actors after a stunning and very moving performance (exclusively for schools and theatre directors) in the evening.

Rowing
Competition

Ten Year 7s went to their first indoor rowing competition. We travelled to The Southbank Sports University on the school mini bus and for most of the pupils it was their first time on a secondary school trip. The ten pupils I took were Zarah, Sarah, Kelechi, Lydia and Semi, Samad, Richmond, Kallie, Samuel and Jevaughn. Jevaughn won a silver medal in the Year 7 individual boys race and the day was finished off with the five boys and five girls competing against all years in a relay competition.

DLD: Religious Studies

In December Year 10 students at Walworth Academy took part in a day of discussion, debate and competition around the terms ‘big question’ which was: ‘Religion and the Media: a help or a hindrance?’. The day began with a talk by experts Father David and Mother Anna, the priests-in-charge at St Philip’s and Imam Kazeem from the Old Kent Road Mosque. Students had the opportunity to ask the experts questions about Christianity and Islam and their roles in modern society. They came up with some thought provoking questions that the visitors were hugely impressed by! The students then worked in groups to investigate the opportunities and challenges that the media creates for religions. The day culminated in a competition where they presented to their peers about what they had learned. They conducted themselves maturely and revealed in the opportunity to discuss the changing role of religion in society.

Royal Court
‘Young Court’

Walworth drama were delighted to welcome the Royal Court ‘Young Court’ Theatre company to perform their stunning and very hard-hitting piece about FGM in contemporary Britain. First performed at the Royal Court and then transferred to the ‘Young Vic’, this two-handed performance kept year 10 and 11 students enthralled as the intertwining stories of two Somali girls raised in different countries became increasingly, and frighteningly linked. 110 students took part in the question and answer session and all of the Year 9-11 Drama students took part in high-quality workshops with actors and theatre practitioners from some of London’s leading theatres.

It was a sheer delight to host this major piece of touring theatre. Alongside a 10 - strong crew to ensure the intricate set, lighting and sound cues were so beautifully executed.

Meet the Employer

In the first of a series of Meet the Employer events scheduled for 2017/18 Year 9 had a carousel day of workshops enabling them to develop some knowledge and understanding of a variety of employment sectors. Students heard from the Thames Tideway Projects about the massive civil engineering efforts being made to dig vital new sewerage under London, with one of the major sites situated at Chambers Wharf, Bermondsey. Civil Service FastStream colleagues introduced the young people to the variety of opportunities for demanding and rewarding work in local and central government. Providing a contrast Airos Architects led students through the work of building conceptualisation and design, whilst Globe Theatre exposed the diverse range of professional required to make sure a modern theatre is successful. Our final partner on the day, GroupM one of the largest digital media agencies in the World, showcased the different aspects of their work, again challenging the young people to address their misconceptions about the types of employment available in this industry.

Over the coming months students will have further opportunities to engage with a variety of employers through a combination of in-school workshops and workplace visits; watch this space!
International Women’s Week

So to celebrate the 100 years since Women won the right to vote I was entasked with organising the commemoration at school. The week involved daily panel discussions with supermodels (see Jack Guinness in the photo), leading academics, tv producers and celebrity manicurists all lending their wisdom to our students. The day itself involved multiple events, with students out at the Southbank WOW festival, a bake sale raising £150 for Care International and 4 selected students attending a VIP ceremony at Clarence House. An all-round stellar week.

NFL Game
Jacksonville Jaguars versus Baltimore Ravens

This year the Walworth Academy PE team have made a huge international link in the sport, American Football. The Jacksonville Jaguars have been a prominent fixture on the academy enrichment programme this year and as a result the students (and staff) were rewarded greatly. The Jags sent Walworth Academy to the NFL London Games in September. The trip took place on Sunday 24th September and was an amazing event, the students got to sit in the front row at Wembley Stadium and watch their first ever NFL game.

Students were excited to see that they had been left supporter’s flags and also the gift of a Jags t-shirt. The Jacksonville Jaguars continue their work within the academy and now have a satellite club operating with the academy – Friday evenings from 5-6pm.

LGT Vestra Grid Iron grant launch event

Students at Walworth Academy were selected to go to the launch event of the LGT Vestra Grid Iron grant. The Grid Iron grant is a programme that follows from the Jacksonville Jaguars enrichment session at Walworth Academy where students get the opportunity to apply for university scholarships to play American football. At the event Walworth students got to play the game with hall of fame – Mark Brunell. The session took place outside the Mayor of London’s office next to Tower Bridge. The session was great and the students really enjoyed meeting an ex superstar.

Ark Senior debate competition

Thanks to the hard work of Miss Wade’s old teacher, we have been training five talented Year 10’s for the Ark Senior Debate competition at the English Speaking Union. After a terrific day, the student’s won an award for best point of information and are excited for the next opportunity to debate.

What does Brexit mean for me?

Times are uncertain as the Government negotiates Britain’s exit from the European Union, an event which promises to be one of the single biggest upheavals in the legal, governance and economic structures in the UK for generations. Brexit is a challenging topic to understand, but one that it is vital that we all make the effort to do as best we can to understand with this in mind, the Sixth Form Team were determined to find an opportunity to engage Year 12 and 13 with a topic that they are most certainly going to be impacted by and will, without doubt, be called upon in the next few years to vote upon the consequences.

With thanks to Ms Lawlor, the Academy was fortunate to receive a visit from Sir Ivan Rogers, former UK Permanent Representative to the European Union. Sir Ivan’s in-depth understanding of European Politics and the working of the European Commission enabled him to present a succinct history of the developments since the Second World War, as well as providing a powerful overview of the events building referendum on 2016.

Walworth Academy was delighted to welcome Sixth Form students from across the Ark network of schools to the event, which after the presentation by Sir Ivan afforded the opportunity to ask questions. Students asked challenging and insightful questions demonstrating a clear interest in what the future might bring; anyone observing the event could not help to recognise the political engagement that this issue has developed amongst our young people.
Year 13 UCAS Applications

It’s that time of year again when Year 13 students have completed their applications to university through UCAS – the University and Colleges Admissions Service. Over half a million students – that’s one in every two eighteen year olds will apply to university this year. Our Year 13 students have really done their research, visiting a range of universities before making their choices. With university now costing just short of £50,000, you need to know you’re getting value for money and that your degree will really move your job prospects forward. As usual, we have a small number of students interested in Healthcare (We already have students at university studying Medicine and Nursing.) This year students secured offers to study paramedic medicine, child nursing and physiotherapy which all require interview and are extremely competitive to get on to. Other students, who are happy in the lab, than with patients will study Bio-paramedic medicine, child nursing and physiotherapy which all require interview and are extremely competitive to get on to. Other students, who are happy in the lab, than with patients will study Bio-technology, Bio-Chemistry and Neuroscience.

This year has brought a number of firsts: for example two students will be studying Animal Biology with a year abroad and two more students have opted to come into the teaching profession and study Primary Education with QTS. Another first is one of our students studying Architecture following work experience that confirmed his interest.

Alternatively, students have opted to study Psychology, English Literature, Economics, Business Management, Accounting and Finance, Civil and Chemical Engineering, History, Politics and Law. In order to improve employment opportunities, a number of our students have chosen a degree which offers a placement year, for example, Physics with a year in industry; Marketing with a year abroad; Computer Science with an Industrial Placement. And all students have aimed high, securing offers from Russell Group universities including Queen Mary, Southampton, UCL, Exeter, Warwick and King’s College London.

Other universities which have made offers include Royal Holloway, Brunel, Westminster, City, SOAS and Goldsmith. It’s a sign of the times that UCAS is also offering Level 3 Higher Level Apprenticeships in addition to university applications. A number of our students are considering the apprenticeship route—a job with training— but are also sensibly applying to university to cover their bases.

Mike Higgins, Head of Year 13

Students find themselves in court

Two Year 12 Ark Walworth Academy students interested in studying Law: would you like to receive mentoring, paid internship throughout sixth form and university and help with pupillage and Sixth Form training contracts from criminal barristers at Garden Court Chambers? If so, please meet in Baggage Hall…

This was the email sent out to Year 12 students a year ago which led to two lucky Walworth Academy pupils – Ms Joey Lui and Mr Tomi Adagunodo, securing this opportunity. They became the first students of the Garden Court Chambers Access to the Bar Scheme, the aim of which is to encourage more students from ethnic minorities to become barristers. It came about through the support of Mark Gatley, one of the criminal barristers at Garden Court, who regularly took Walworth Academy Year 12 students for work experience. It was during the setting up of yet another work experience placement that Mark suggested we formalise the scheme and put in within a mentoring framework. Six students would be chosen from three sixth forms. They would receive regular mentoring from a barrister, a two week internship during the summer and one week in October-every year during from Year 12 to the end of university-followed by advice to secure training contracts for solicitors or pupillage at the bar.

For Ms Joey Lui, it has proved to be a great success. She attended work experience in July (2017) where she was introduced to different areas of law and in October, she opted to focus on immigration cases. This confirmed her intention to study Law and thereafter work as a barrister. She has secured offers from Warwick, Exeter, Kent and Manchester to study Law. Ms Tomi Agunodo also enjoyed both internships. She too values the support of a professional mentor and is looking forward to attending work experience throughout university. Tomi has chosen to study Sociology at university followed by a one year law conversion. Thereafter she will decide whether to work as a solicitor or barrister. The success of the scheme has led to Garden Court Chambers committing to a new cohort of Year 12 pupils every two years.

Photo-shoot Ready IWW

On March 5th I (Busayo Twins, University Access Officer from The Access Project) organised a photoshoot for a handful of girls in Year 12 in celebration of International Women’s Day. I thought it would be a great idea to showcase the amazing diversity of Walworth’s student body and provide the Year 12 the opportunity to literally wear their culture with pride. Following the recent release of the Black Panther film some students in the school had told me they felt a great sense of empowerment. I wanted to make sure that feeling lasted a lot longer and so suggested we put together a little photoshoot to express those very sentiments. The theme was identity and so the girls brought in their own traditional clothes. Some also drew on some cultural face designs to compliment their attire.

It was a great success! Everyone was in high spirits throughout and really committed to the evening. The girls involved did each other’s make-up and hair. We played music and really had a chance to connect. I think this is what they needed straight after having a week of tiresome mock exams. It was well deserved! I just want to thank everyone who took part and who helped organise it. To Ms Wade who supported the idea from the get go and made it happen! Thanks to the Photography department for allowing us to use the equipment and room. The Year 12 who helped take pictures and film behind the scenes – great job, incredible skill!

Written by Busayo Twin

Hockey Stars!

Year 7s handpicked for the chance to be coached by an England Hockey coach took part in their first training session after school. The sun was shining and they were fantastically well behaved and they were a shining example of what we are all about in PE at Ark Walworth Academy.

Those that attended were: Nahum, Matthew, Carls, Ewin, Sebastian, Ruhul, Semi and Teni.

The picture shows: Rachael Bishop who will be studying Child Nursing, Skye Campbell who will be studying Physiotherapy.

Emmanuel Akinfenwa and Anders Varca will be studying Animal Biology.

Written by Busayo Twins

Ark Walworth Academy NEWS.