

The
Dr Sergis
Academy

NEWSLETTER

2018/19 Issue 8

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**'Education is our
Motivation and
Learning is your
Inspiration'**



WHAT'S NEW IN 2018/19?



WHAT'S IN STORE FOR THE FUTURE?

Staff at the Academy are pleased to announce that in May 2017 we became an approved registered exam centre for the AQA. We successfully held our first exams at the premises during the months of May and June in 2018. We are at present preparing for exams in the spring and summer of 2019. If you or your child wishes to take their exams at the Academy instead of their school or college, please speak to a member of staff or directly to Gabriella Pace, who is the examinations officer. Please note that there will be a fee to pay. Staff are always on hand to answer any of your questions.

We hope to progress and add more exam boards onto our list such as Edexcel and OCR and we hope to do this sometime in the near future. Any A-Level Chemistry, Physics or Biology practical exams will be conducted in the laboratory located on the second floor of the premises.

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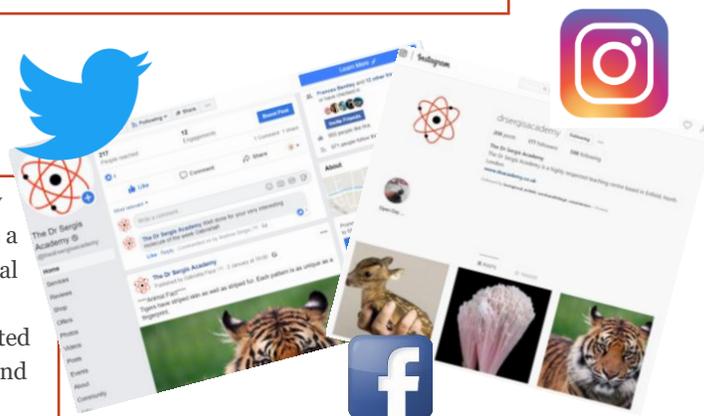
www.dsacademy.co.uk

In 2017, the Academy was filmed, and its staff interviewed for Hellenic TV for an in depth feature film which was broadcast around the world. We have also been uploaded onto YouTube and now have our own YouTube channel, just search 'The Dr Sergis Academy'. Dr Sergis has also been interviewed on two local radio stations, LGR (London Greek Radio) and Greekbeat Radio. You can find all of these interviews and videos on the Dr Sergis Academy's Facebook page, just search for 'The Dr Sergis Academy'.



The Academy congratulates its receptionist Gabriella on completing her Level 2 diploma in business administration. She now plans to complete a Level 3 qualification in Customer Service. Well done Gabriella!

Have you seen our interesting articles and facts? We post new articles on animals, minerals, insects, gemstones and videos on a different scientist every week! Also read about different chemical molecules every Friday. Check them out on our Facebook and Instagram pages as well as the display on the filing cabinets located next to the Beta room. Also, keep up to date with closure dates and opening times which we post on our social media pages.



REVEALED: THE DR SERGIS ACADEMY'S SUCCESSFUL FORMULA

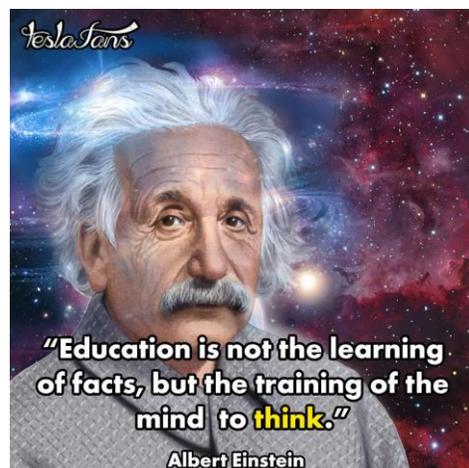
The popularity and success of Dr Sergis' unique style of teaching relies on his informal but thorough, clear and enthusiastic approach, which ensures that the student stays motivated in the subject and becomes increasingly interested as the course progresses.

The flexible programme offered by Dr Sergis' teaching strategy is adapted to the student's ability or convenience. This ensures that the student works at his or her own pace and does not feel under pressure or fall behind other students. Furthermore, Dr Sergis' approach ensures exam success by assessing the student regularly in the form of homework at the end of each session. The student's progress is monitored, and guidance and advice is given throughout in order to ensure that the student always improves on his or her ability. Finally, the student is encouraged to work through actual exam questions from past papers on a regular basis at an early stage, in order to fully acquaint him or her with exam techniques to increase the likelihood of exam success.

TEACHING AT THE ACADEMY

The Academy especially helps those students who find mainstream schooling ineffective and dull. The centre endeavors to provide a more thorough and broader education with deeper understanding of the most fundamental issues of the subjects being explored.

All subjects are taught within a historical and developmental context. This approach enables an appreciation and better understanding of current concepts by learning their evolution from simpler notions. This also helps students understand the most important features of an idea or concept and provides a more solid, sound education and a basis for further study at degree level and beyond.



REVISION CLASSES ARE SUCCESSFUL!

Our revision classes and regular, small group sessions have proved vital to exam success, adding to our winning formula by providing opportunities for students to ask difficult questions.

We believe that a well-balanced combination of our one-to-one and small group sessions have contributed substantially to exam success at the Academy. In fact, some of our students find it beneficial to have both one-to-one and group sessions in the same week!

WHY STUDENTS CHOOSE US

Our students did a remarkable job in their studies last year and should all be praised for their motivation and tenacity. Many of our year 11 students have gone on to college or sixth form and all of our A-Level students are now studying at their first-choice university.

'I have been attending the Dr Sergis Academy for three years and I have always felt welcome and have always received the resources I need to aid my learning. Since I have been coming here, I have seen my grades improve and I have become more confident in Maths, English and Science.' ~Charmaine, GCSE Science, Mathematics and English Student

'I have been going to the Dr Sergis Academy for the past two years, during years 11/12. In my first lesson I was a bit shy and thought that I would be treated as if I was in school, but Dr Sergis has a different type of teaching that allows students to be comfortable in a teaching and learning environment.'

The teaching at the Dr Sergis Academy is exceptional and allows students to actually understand what they are being taught rather than just learning it for the sake of the exam.'

Being a student at the Dr Sergis Academy has helped me gain further background knowledge of Science and learn new revision techniques which actually work. During the lesson you are given learning materials which you read and go through with Dr Sergis, which allows you to fully understand the topic and concept behind it.'

On your way out you are given homework to do for the next lesson or an exam paper, which you can get from the receptionist Gabriella, who is very helpful. I would recommend the Dr Sergis Academy as you are guaranteed exceptional teaching and standards from both Dr Sergis and the receptionist.' ~Matthew, A-Level Biology and Chemistry Student



GETTING MEDIEVAL: MAKING GARGOYLES

All at the Academy were delighted to welcome the wonderful Mr Angelos Zacharia (pictured right), who showcased his brilliant talents and knowledge in the art of producing ceramics. Dr Sergis, his family and receptionist Gabriella all partook in a workshop on two occasions. The first session included preliminary sketches on paper of what we wanted our gargoyle to look like, focusing on grotesque work.

We were also taught the history of gargoyles and their significance. Gargoyles had a particularly important role to play in medieval churches and cathedrals. Spiritually, they served to ward off demons, but in practice

they acted as a form of spout, drawing rainwater away from the walls and roofs of the building, thus preventing the water from running into the walls and eroding the mortar used to bind the building materials.

We were then introduced to clay and were taught how to mould it into our gargoyle character. We first created two bowl like shapes, using our thumbs to shape out the bowl. They had to be the same thickness around the rims as an unevenly shaped rim would mean that the whole creation would be unstable. We also made a fairly large opening in the back of the gargoyle and a smaller one at the

front. This is where the water would come out from!

Later, after a break consisting of fresh homemade cakes and sandwiches, we got back to adding details and features to our creations and any interesting textures we could add; using various utensils such as plastic knives and pen lids. Then it was onto the kiln to be fired. The kiln is the oven into which our clay gargoyles were placed into. This dries out and hardens the clay at high temperatures so that it is ready for painting. A second workshop was organised and it began with various colour and texture experiments.

After this, it was onto the painting of our gargoyles. A myriad of colours were created using acrylic paints and was then applied directly onto the dried clay surface. The gargoyles were then left to air dry at the Academy, where they will be displayed in due course.

If you are interested in joining the next workshop or would like to make a gargoyle of your own, please speak to a member of staff at the Academy. We thank Angelos for taking the time to do this event with us and look forward to many such events and talks in the future. We also thank him for his gift of two beautiful ceramic pieces which are also due to be displayed at the Academy.



USEFUL EXAM AND REVISION TIPS FROM DR SERGIS

I write useful articles for a local magazine called Cherubs, to advise both parents and students on educational matters. This article was featured in the Spring 2019 edition.

The exam season is nearly upon us yet again and for all those of you who are feeling anxious about this tricky time of year, I have an important selection of revision tips. I'll list these in order of priority.

1. Start your revision as early as possible. The earlier you start revising, the more likely your exam success because you are simply giving yourself more time to analyse the key areas of your subjects and reflect on these. It's important to spend some time initially planning out a revision timetable for each subject that includes the time you should spend revising on each topic every day. It's important to include regular breaks, about 15 minutes, otherwise you'll stress yourself and burn out.
2. Decide the best environment for your revision. Some people prefer to revise at home in their bedroom with complete silence, some with music, but some prefer the public library. You also need to figure out when you learn best, which may be in the morning or at night- each person has different requirements. You must plan your revision accordingly.
3. Work out what type of learner you are. Everyone learns in different ways. Some prefer spider diagrams, some mnemonic aids (revision memory aids), some revision cards and others actively make notes and I suggest you reflect on the information that you write about in order to understand it fully. Some students find that mobile apps help with revision techniques or YouTube quite helpful, so you can try some of these as part of your revision strategy.
4. Be strict with yourself. Although revision is not something you may look forward to, you have to be strict with yourself. Stick to it on a regular basis, otherwise it would be a complete waste of time. It's important that you don't have any distractions and to keep to your revision timetable. Revising should be a serious endeavour if you're going to have any exam success!
5. Practise past exam papers regularly. It's important to do as many exam papers as possible, as this would be an opportunity to apply and test your knowledge and become familiar with exam techniques and enable you to identify any topics/areas you still need to revise. Practising exam papers is a very important key to exam success!
6. Seek advice from your teacher/tutor! Finally, don't feel embarrassed or shy to ask your subject teacher or tutor for advice or help in any areas that you are struggling with, because a good teacher/tutor should always be approachable and only too happy to help.

Very best of luck!

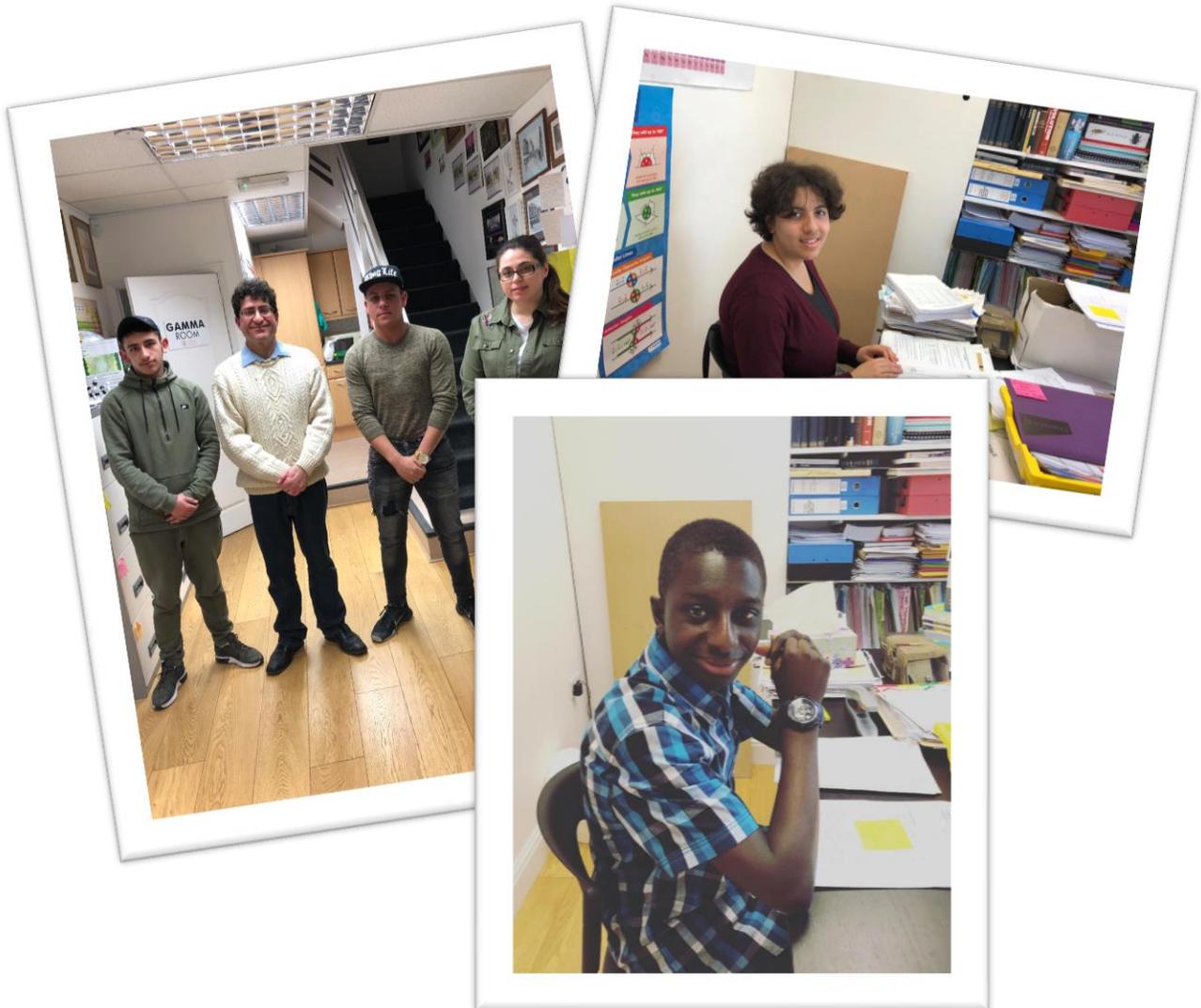
Dr A.N Sergis



WORK EXPERIENCE AT THE DR SERGIS ACADEMY

The Dr Sergis Academy seems to be growing in popularity with work experience students and attracts pupils from many schools across Enfield. We have had many in the last three years and we are due to have our next intake in April of 2019. Working at the Academy gives a valuable insight into how businesses are run and managed on a day to day basis. As we know, a good business is run like a Swiss watch and students get a chance to experience this at the Academy.

Students help with the filing and organizing of the Academy's resources, including worksheets, books and past exam papers. They are also taught how to properly collate and index these resources into an effective filing system. From this, students learn key organizational skills and time management techniques; invaluable tools in any workplace.



SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE ACADEMY

The Dr Sergis Academy has been out and about meeting many people of all ages, from babies, grandads, to grandmothers! Since last year, Dr Sergis himself and Gabriella Pace, his secretary and receptionist, have been running stalls at various events, from the well-known Enfield Business Expo event at the Dugdale Centre in February 2018, to the Southgate School careers fair in January 2019, where many students were buzzing like bees, excited to learn more about the Dr Sergis Academy.

Dr Sergis and Gabriella visited three schools in 2018, Forty Hill and Trent school for their Christmas Craft Fayres and Chace Community school, where they set up stalls to showcase the Academy and its unique teaching approach.

Open Days at the Academy

The Dr Sergis Academy also held Open Days in July and September 2018, where a special guest, Angelos, spoke and demonstrated the art of making clay gargoyles (see page 5). During the Open Days, many visitors had opportunities to see the Academy and its educational resources and join in with many activities, including exciting experiments and demonstrations in the Dr Sergis laboratory, such as making one of the first ever historical batteries and the amazing Volcano Experiment!

Dr Sergis, his family and Gabriella also showcased the Academy during the two-day Cyprus Wine Festival in July 2018. During this event, Dr Sergis was interviewed by Hellenic TV about his Academy.

Macmillan Coffee Mornings and Charity Events at the Academy

The Academy has held Macmillan coffee mornings at its premises every year since 2016 to raise money for cancer research. Cakes of all kinds are made and a small donation from guests is given on the day. These usually take place in September of every year. In March of 2019 the Academy hosted a charity shopping event to raise money for the wonderful charity 'In Sue's Name'. This charity was started in 2014 by David Taylor, in honor and remembrance of his beloved daughter Sue who passed away in 2011, just six weeks after she was diagnosed with legions on the brain. She was 42. You can learn more about this wonderful charity by visiting their website at www.insuesname.org. Stalls were set up around the Academy from local businesses and sales representatives, who all showcased their fabulous wares. All the money made, which was £200, went to the charity.

Dr Sergis, Gabriella and staff are eager to run more stalls, raise money for charity and meet more people along the way; moving closer towards becoming a centre of excellence!



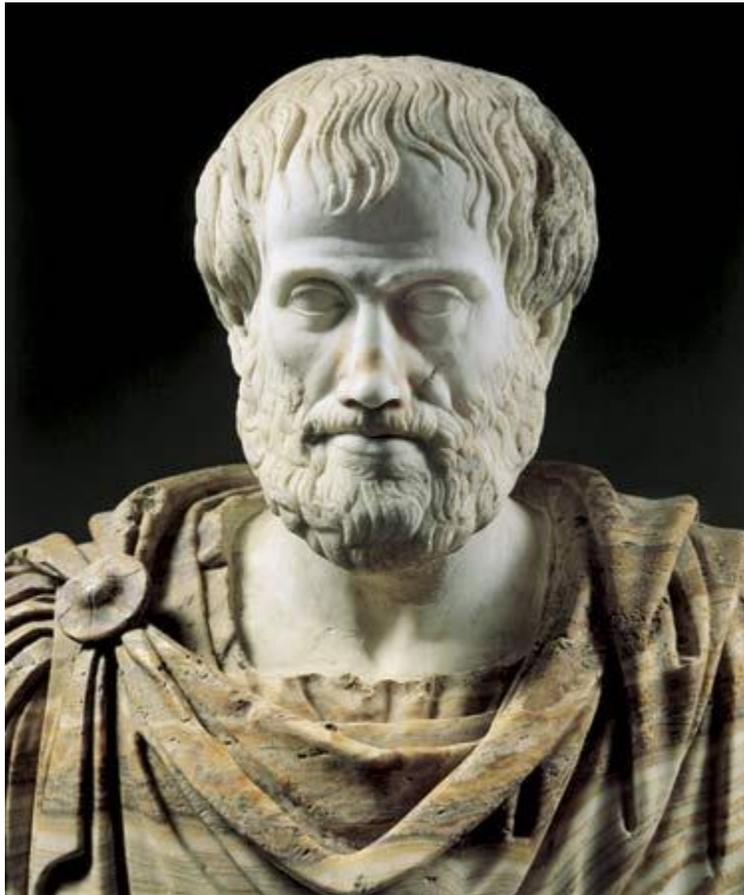
ARISTOTLE (384-322 BC)

ANCIENT GREEK PHILOSOPHER AND NATURALIST

Along with the philosopher Plato, Aristotle is considered one of the most important ‘dialecticians’ of antiquity and the creator of ‘logic’ that along with his philosophical thought influenced the entire ancient civilization. His systematic analysis of a wide range of subjects still inspires Western thinking.

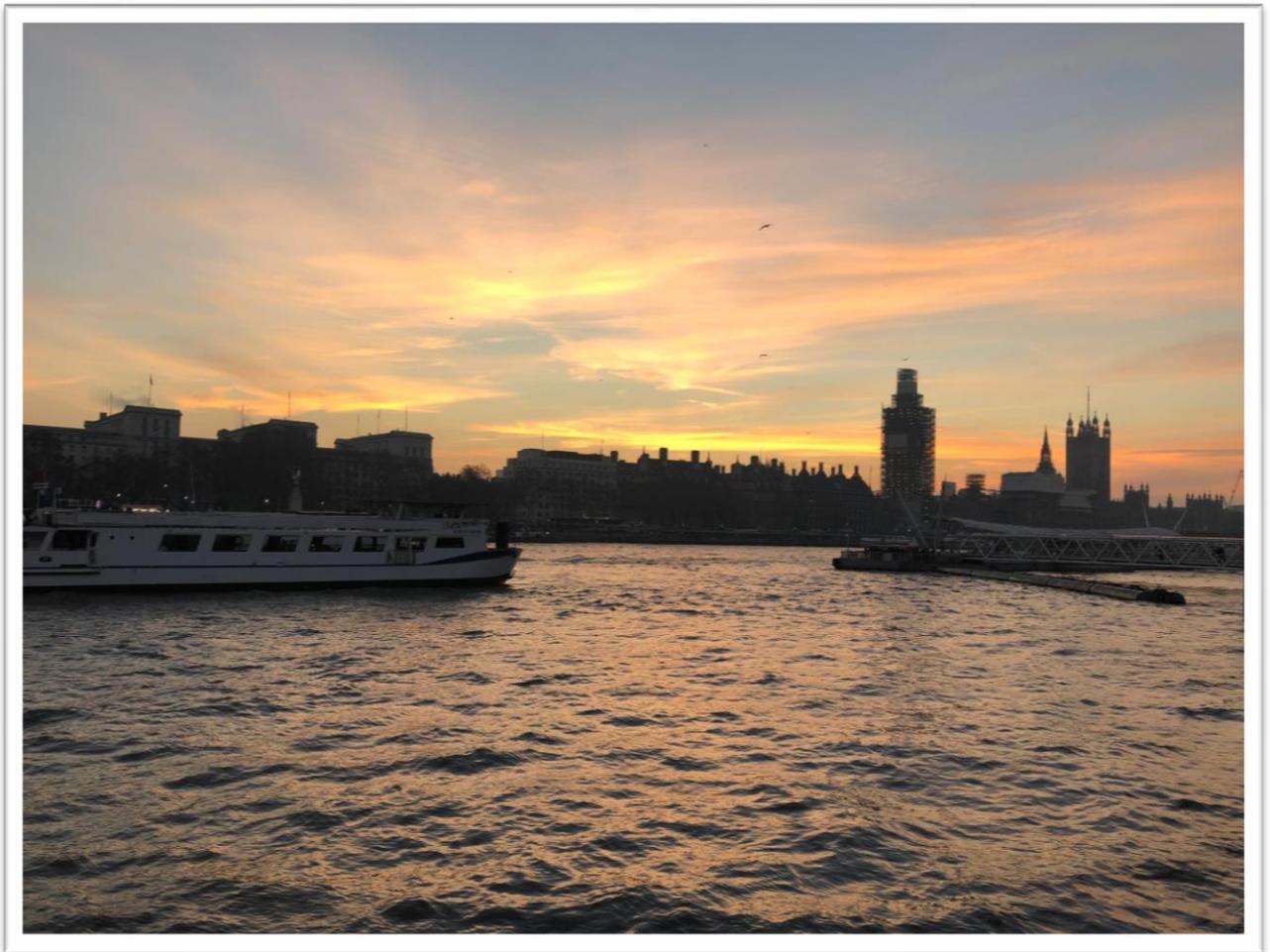
His contributions to the Scientific Method, especially his emphasis on the empirical approach, and other fields such as psychology, biology and ethics still continue to have an immeasurable influence in the Western world. He was also the tutor of Alexander the Great. In 335 BC, Aristotle founded a school, the Lyceum in Athens, where he spent the majority of his adult life studying, teaching and writing.

‘Knowing our self is the beginning of human wisdom.’



PICTURE PERFECT

A wonderful image taken by Dr Sergis of the sunset over the River Thames at the Southbank in London.



Academy Word Search 1

G A E G A U G N A L S X V N A
A S V N L P U S E R G I S O H
B T A K G C X Z G E Q Y V I G
R R F X T M E C H A N I C S Z
I O G N I N O S A E R Q N I N
E N N O I T A C U D E T N V J
L O R P H Y S I C S L U B E H
L M L L Q N V T S N Z T S R E
A Y R O E H T A Y A T O M M C
A C A D E M Y M U X C R A N N
M A R I T H M E T I C B X R E
A O X S E N E H T S O M E D I
H S I L G N E T K R U Y J Y C
V M Z P Z Y C A R E T I L O S
V H Y R T S I M E H C A E X J

DEMOSTHENES
REVISION
SCIENCE
EDUCATION
GABRIELLA
DR
SERGIS
ASTRONOMY
PHYSICS
REASONING
ENGLISH
LANGUAGE
LITERACY
MATHEMATICS
MECHANICS

ARITHMETIC
THEORY
EXAMS
ACADEMY
TUTOR
CHEMISTRY

