

## **Special Interest Articles:**

- The DSA becomes a Limited Company.
- Relocation to more spacious premises.
- More university students are studying at the DSA!

## **Individual Highlights:**

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## **Incorporation as a Limited Company**

The Dr Sergis Academy had ceased working as a sole trading business and has become a limited company. On the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2006 the DSA was officially awarded its certificate of incorporation as a private limited company. This transition proved inevitable owing to the DSA's popularity and success as an educational centre.

As a company, the DSA employs Dr Andrew Sergis, the founder, as its director. Mrs Stella Sergis is the secretary. The head office of The Dr Sergis Academy Ltd, trading as Dr Sergis Academy, is in Billet Road, East London, where the main administrative work is performed.

## **Relocation of Premises**

As a result of the increasing intake and nearly 100% retention of students, it was felt necessary to move to larger premises. Therefore, in July 2007 the DSA relocated to better premises in Enfield. This move was expensive and time-consuming, but has proved worthwhile for students due to the more spacious surroundings and available facilities for teaching.

The new centre is within reach of many schools and has very good public transport access for those students whose schools are not within walking distance. For example, the main buses and British rail are within 15 minutes walking distance from the centre.

Our new site is still proving convenient for those students that attended our centre in Edmonton. In addition to our previous cohort of students, we are also receiving more students from the Enfield, Southgate and Cockfosters areas.

## **Teaching at the DSA**

The DSA is proving very competitive and popular as a teaching and tuition centre, helping those students who find mainstream schooling ineffective and dull. The DSA endeavours to provide a more thorough and broader education with deeper understanding of the most fundamental issues of the subjects studied.

Consequently, 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.



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*"I have really enjoyed learning here! I am very pleased with my grades. Dr. Sergis explains all the subjects very clearly and enthusiastically"*



## **Group Tuitions Extended**

Due to their increasing popularity, we have extended the days and times of our group lessons, enabling more students to benefit from these sessions. Consequently, we were able to reduce the peak number of students per group from eight to five. Although these sessions are referred to as groups, they are actually one-to-one lessons that accommodate more than one individual per class. Students are taught according to their own needs and pace, rather like in a one-to-one basis.

Furthermore, these sessions are more affordable than the usual one-to-one sessions and provide a unique opportunity for students to interact with themselves as well as with the tutor. This provides a firm basis for preparing students for college or university study, where a group atmosphere in seminars, lectures or tutorials is the norm.

The group comprises students of similar ages, although they may require different subjects and curriculum levels. However, the difference in the subjects taught within the group does not compromise the learning objectives per student as each student is taught on an individual basis. Indeed, the learning outcomes for each student within the group are guaranteed.

## **School and College Students at the DSA**

The DSA teaches and offers advice and guidance to students from a wide range of schools and colleges. These include Enfield County School, St. Anne's Roman Catholic School, Enfield Grammar School, Highlands School, Lee Valley High School, Edmonton County School, Southgate School, Winchmore Hill School, Woodhouse College, Bishop Stopford School, Chase Community School, Palmers Green High School, The Latymer School, Southgate College, Barnet College, Broomfield School, St. Ignatius School, Cuckoo Hall School, St. Andrew's School, Kingsmead School, Salisbury School, Albany School, St. Albans School, Loughton School, College of North East London, Enfield College and Lambeth College.

The main subjects taught are Science, Mathematics and English. The Sciences and Mathematics are taught at Key Stages 1, 2, 3, GCSE, AS, A2 and International Baccalaureate levels. Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Mathematics, Mechanics and Statistics are taught at GCSE and Advanced levels. The DSA also teaches Access Courses in Chemistry for college students. English is mainly taught at KS1, KS2, KS3 and GCSE levels.

## **University Students at the DSA**

The number of students taught from various recognised universities has been increasing over the past two years. Although the main cohort of students at the DSA includes those studying for Key Stage 2, Entrance Level, Key Stage 3, GCSE, AS and A-levels, there is an appreciable number of Chemistry, Pharmacy, Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Mathematics undergraduates.

Furthermore, the number of mature students studying access courses in chemistry, mathematics and the physical sciences at the DSA has also risen steadily over this period. The intake of undergraduates and mature students from science and mathematics courses is welcome news at the DSA as it also wishes to support those students studying chemistry and related subjects at degree level.

The DSA teaches students from various universities and institutes, including University College London; King's College, The Strand; Kingston University; Middlesex University; London Metropolitan University; University of East London; The School of Pharmacy, University of London; and Queen Mary, University of London.

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## Comparison of Exam Results for 2007 and 2008

The DSA is very pleased to report excellent results from our students at Key Stages 3, GCSE, AS and A2 levels in both 2007 and 2008. These results agree well with those obtained in previous years and provides evidence that the teaching methodology at the DSA is effective.

In 2008, about 90% of our Key Stage 3 students obtained levels 5 and 7, while the rest obtained mainly level 4 and 8. Around 90% of our GCSE Maths students at Higher Tier obtained grades A and B, and 10% grade C. About 80% of our GCSE Science students (all syllabuses and awards) at Higher Tier obtained grades A to B, while 20% obtained grade C. Our students at GCSE Higher Tier in English obtained grades A to B (about 70%) and grade C (30%). Approximately 100% of all our AS students obtained grades A to C, while around 90% of A2 students obtained grades A to C.

This year's results compare favourably with those in 2007, where about 90% of Key Stage 3 students obtained levels 5 and 7. In 2007, 100% of GCSE Maths students at Higher Tier obtained grades A to C and 100% of Higher Tier Science students received A to C. Again, last year's AS and A2 results are similar to this year's, when 90% of AS students obtained grades A to C and about 80% of A2 students received grades A to C.

The number of year 6 students that passed their Entrance Level exams this year is also similar to last year's. About 65% passed their entrance exams this year for Latymer School, Queen Elizabeth's School and St. Michael's School. Last year, about 60% passed their Entrance Exams, mostly for Latymer School. Therefore, there has been a slight increase in the pass rates for Entrance Exams this year. Many year 6 students find these rather challenging as the subject matter for the questions are not taught at school and are generally above Key Stage 2 level.



Dr. Sergis is very friendly and approachable to all his students

## New Courses Taught at the DSA

In addition to the standard Key Stage, GCSE, AS and A2 level courses taught, a number of new courses are now being taught at the DSA. These include the increasingly popular International Baccalaureate and Access Courses. These courses have been taught at the DSA since 2007, and the DSA is very pleased to have helped these students obtain excellent results.

The subjects taught at the International Baccalaureate level are currently Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics. The main subject presently taught at the Access Course level is Chemistry. Most students initially find these courses difficult, particularly the International Baccalaureate. However, the teaching strategy at the DSA, which emphasises understanding of the subject by a developmental approach, has succeeded in encouraging and inspiring students to obtain very good results for both these courses.

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*"Thank you very much for all your help. I would not have obtained my excellent grades if it hadn't been for you!"*

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## **Pharmacy and Chemistry Undergraduates**

The DSA has also been helping students who study Pharmacy, Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Chemistry Courses, especially Organic Chemistry, from various universities (see page 2). Dr. Sergis' knowledge of biochemistry and analytical methods has proved valuable for those undergraduates struggling with the first and second years of their pharmacy degree.

Dr. Sergis' wide knowledge and experience in general, organic and synthetic chemistry is also proving useful for those undergraduates studying courses in Organic Synthesis and Organic Chemistry. His extensive experience in research techniques, analytical and mathematical methods have also been very useful to undergraduates. Furthermore, his skills and extensive knowledge in research methods, instrumentation and chemical analysis are proving indispensable to chemistry undergraduates.

## **Publications at the DSA**

Dr. Sergis regularly keeps up-to-date with recent advances in scientific research by subscribing to many scientific publications, which are available to all students at the DSA centre. These publications include Scientific American, New Scientist, Organic Syntheses, Nature, Chemical Biology and chemistry publications from the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) and the Society of Chemistry and Industry (SCI), including ChemistryWorld and Chemistry & Industry.

He also attends many conferences organised by the RSC and the SCI. He incorporates the latest advances in science from these meetings into his lessons and discusses them with his students in order to inspire them further into appreciating the benefits and importance of science in society.

## ***Looking Forward to 2009...***

We at the DSA are encouraged with the continuing high grades obtained by our students and look forward to 2009 with even greater optimism!