Newsletter

2024-2025

The Dr Sergis Academy

Issue 12

In this issue…

"Education is our motivation, and learning is your inspiration."

Meet Einstein…

The Academy Mascot!

Name: Einstein the Wise Owl

Born: 14th April 2019

Favourite Food: Knowledge! (and coffee)

Einstein became a part of the Academy team in April 2019. Since then, he has been to many different events! He loves to meet new people and learn new things. He publishes lots of interesting facts about the animal kingdom as well as chemical molecules every week on our social media pages. He lives in the receptionist's office. Be sure to stop by and say hello!

A Hello from the Director, Dr Sergis!

Welcome to our latest newsletter!

In this edition, we bring you fresh insights, updates and highlights that matter most to you, including the latest results and trends in exam performance of our students. We also include inspiring stories and historical articles that will interest all of our readers.

In today's fast-paced world, a good knowledge of science, maths and English has become an integral part of many companies and industrial sectors, including the engineering, computer and manufacturing industries. We are therefore proud to report that at least 90% of our science, maths and English students have consistently achieved excellent grades over the last 10 years. Read onto page 2 for the latest examination statistics.

We have noticed an increasing demand in students wishing to study A-Levels in Chemistry, Biology and physics over the last 5 years. Most of our students have taken degrees in electronic, mechanical, chemical and civil engineering.

Our success and reputation for helping students achieve high grades have made us the first choice for many families in the area and beyond, including Potters Bar, Southgate, Palmers Green, Waltham Cross and Edmonton.

Indeed, my success as a teacher of Science, Maths and English at the Academy has prompted several headmasters and headmistresses from local secondary schools to recommend me to many parents whose children were struggling with their studies. I'm also pleased to say that parents have also recommended me to friends and relatives after their own children successfully studied at our now-famous Academy.

Finally, we hope you like this issue of our newsletter and that it helps you to stay informed and inspired! Enjoy!

Dr Sergis
November 2025

The Academy is open Monday to Saturday. Find out more about us at www.dsacademy.co.uk or telephone us: 0208 362 1398

What's New?

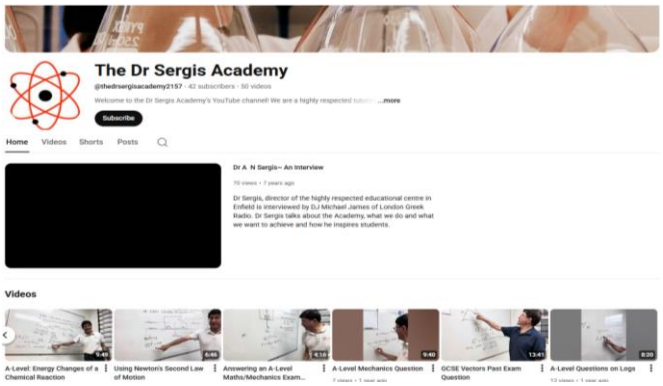
The Latest Updates from the Academy

The Academy's 2025 Student Examination Pass Grades

We are absolutely thrilled and extremely proud to announce that during the 2024/5 examination periods, almost 90% of our students have achieved *at least* a grade 8 in their GCSE maths, science, English Language and English Literature studies. Also, our A-Level students achieved many B's, A's and A*s in their A-Levels in Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Mathematics and Further Mathematics, with many achieving their first choices at university. A very well done and congratulations to all those students!

Dr Sergis on Social Media

Love Dr Sergis's teaching? Well, you can find mini lessons online on our Tik Tok and YouTube channels! We make posts on Dr Sergis solving difficult maths and science past questions as well as clips of experiments from our open days. Let us know what other topics you would like us to cover; email us at contact@dsacademy.co.uk!



In the Spotlight…Frances Bentley

Hey there! I'm Frances, founder of Business Networking North London (BNNL) – the monthly meet-up where Dr Sergis and a whole crew of amazing local businesses come together to connect, grow, and have a great time in a welcoming, friendly space. Beyond BNNL, I wear a few other hats: life-coach, spiritual healer, public speaker, and business coach. I love helping people break free from old patterns and step into the next level of personal and professional success. If you haven't already heard, I just released my newest book "Broken Bones: The Riddle of a Baby with Broken Bones" (May 2025). It's the story of my traumatic upbringing, the abuse I endured, and the long, gritty journey to becoming the resilient, purpose-driven woman I am today. It's a reminder that our past doesn't have to lock us into our future. Feel free to reach out if you'd like to chat about BNNL, coaching, speaking, or anything book-related. I'd love to connect! Warmly, Frances x

Books… and Dinosaurs?

Two brand-new social media series have popped up on our pages! If you love dinosaur facts, head over to Facebook and Instagram! We will also be sharing our favourite educational books monthly. Facts on minerals, animals and chemical molecules will continue as normal. Tag someone you know who may be interested in our fabulous facts!

Our AQA Examinations Candidate

In 2024, our student Lily sat her AQA GCSE examinations with us. She was attending lessons at the Academy in place of full-time public schooling five days a week. She was entered for the summer examinations of that year and passed, achieving grade 6's in all five subjects. Lily achieved her wish to study English Literature in a sixth form of her choice. Her parents were thrilled with the outcome and were happy to see their daughter complete her year 11 studies.

Students are welcome to book for AQA examinations at the academy, providing that they attend tutoring lessons for at least six academic months with us, to ensure a successful pass. Students will sit the real examinations and complete any relating coursework at our centre in our welcoming classrooms or laboratory. All examinations are conducted strictly to JCQ and AQA regulations with trained invigilators.

Work Experience at the Academy

The Academy hosts students from many schools across the borough. Students are welcome to have experience in Business Administration and will shadow the receptionist, or they can take on some teaching help in the classroom, alongside Dr Sergis. In July 2025, we were happy to have Kamuran from Highlands School. Kamuran did some great work organising the Academy resources including the many books and science periodicals. He successfully organised all these resources and tidied up the laboratory. Staff were very impressed by his respect for the centre and his willingness to help. Well done, Kamuran!

Bake Sale for the Mental Health Foundation

In May 2025, receptionist Gabriella organised a small bake sale for students and their parents to raise money for the Mental Health Foundation. 'Wear it Green Day' is the foundation's annual day dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of mental health. It also highlights the support and information offered by the foundation. You can learn more about the foundation at https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/.

From our Blog: Margaret Cavendish: A Seventeenth-Century Marvel

I was once flicking through many images of portraits from the seventeenth century, and I was stopped in my tracks by a stunning portrait of a lady. The gorgeous shine of her blue silk and velvet dress, the attention to detail and her striking gaze made this woman shine illustriously from the screen. She looked so lifelike, yet so dreamlike. I had no idea who she was. I saved the image onto my camera roll for a long time, and then I decided to see what I could find out about this captivating lady. Little did I know that she would have the most fascinating backstory.

Margaret Lucas was born in 1623 to a wealthy family in Essex. She was surrounded by strong, independent female figures from a young age and, like many of the female subjects of my blogs, she was surrounded by books. Her family also had a large library, and she had a private tutor, which was not common at the time for women of her station. At the age of twenty, she went to serve in the household of Queen Henrietta Maria, the French Catholic wife of King Charles I, against her mother's wishes. During the uncertain times of the Civil War, Margaret was exiled with the Queen and her royal court to France and lived at the court of Louis the fourteenth. However, she struggled with the social aspect of life at court.

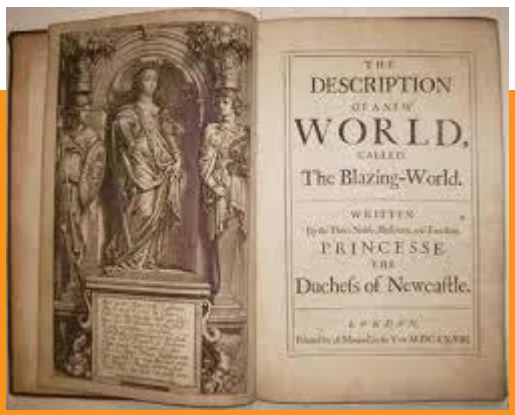
Whilst in exile, Margaret met a man named William Cavendish (a Marquess, later made Duke of Newcastle by King Charles II) who became drawn to her shyness. William was thirty years older than Margaret and despite objections to the marriage, they married in 1645. In 1653, during the time of Cromwellian rule, Margaret would write Poems and Fancies. In this work, she began to explore ideas of natural philosophy, a precursor to modern day scientific thinking. She laid out her theories on atoms through her poetry.

In the 1650s she frequently discussed notions of gender and sex and gender inequality. She questioned whether gender inequality was inherent in the sexes themselves or if it was caused by social restrictions within society. She was considered unusual by her contemporaries, and many considered her ridiculous. They criticised her sumptuous fashions and publications. She would often wear men's dress.

She asserted herself within the sphere of men, not just through her clothing, but her writing too. Intellectual and creative writing was considered only a man's domain. In the fabulous 1665 portrait I refer to in the beginning of this blog, Margaret is wearing her most sumptuous feminine court attire, but she is also wearing a cap - something men usually wore. She certainly made a statement!

Margaret and William returned to England after the Restoration of the monarchy in 1660 and Margaret would go on to write Observations upon Experimental Philosophy in 1666. It provided a detailed criticism of what would become a major scientific and philosophical movement of the Early Modern era.

Along with the recently established Royal Society, the age began to embrace scientific experiment and observation and moved away from mere theory. However, Margaret was against the idea of cold scientific thinking and suggested that our own senses and thinking were far more reliable and well suited to understanding the natural world around us than the new instruments of observation. This went against the great experimental philosophers of the day, such as Robert Hooke and Robert Boyle.



To her, the entirety of the natural world was more soulful and self-aware than the popular cold, mechanical view of it. Margaret had immense courage and self-conviction by doing this. At a meeting held by the Royal Society in 1667, Margaret became the first woman to attend. Diarist Samuel Pepys was also in attendance but didn't think much of her. He commented on her 'comeliness' but to him, it seemed that she had not much of worth to say.

To make her ideas more accessible, and most importantly accessible to women, she published the fictional The Blazing World in 1668, an early form of science fiction writing. She hoped that it would inspire women to take an interest in the study of science and philosophy. The story follows a young lady who is kidnapped and then left stranded in a mysterious new world that can only be reached via the North Pole. The lady marries the emperor and as Empress she wields total power, establishing a calm and ordered civilisation. The universe is filled with human-like creatures

who practise various intellectual disciplines; birdmen are astronomers, spider and lice men are mathematicians, and bear-men are experimental philosophers. Margaret also published her work under her own name which, again, was very unusual for her time.

Margaret was an eccentric figure that stuck out of her time. Seeing herself as lacking the proper feminine skills of the time, she decided to use her position to think and to pursue intellectual endeavours. She wanted to utilise her thinking ability and hoped to inspire others to do the same. Remarkably, she asserted herself in the male-dominated academic and intellectual realms, and she seemed not to care much of what people thought of her. Margaret was a prolific writer and thinker, and I do not have enough space to discuss all her work in this blog, but I hope it gives you a small glimpse into just some of her most famous works and perhaps, her personality.

I also think that she did believe that women could be powerful thinkers and that it should not just be the occupation of a man. It also seems that she was concerned with being remembered and leaving a legacy, perhaps because so many talented women of her day went voiceless and nameless into the sea of history. In her own words, she would ‘endeavour to spin a garment of memory, to lapp up my name that it might grow to after ages’.

G. G. Pace

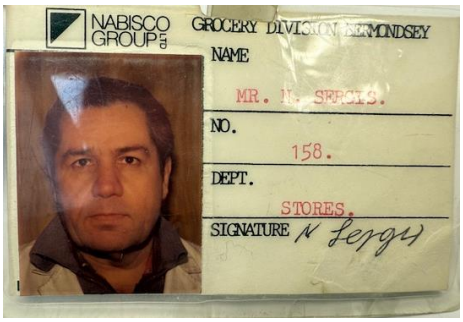
Our blogs are written monthly by Dr Sergis and receptionist Gabriella. They publish on various topics and people that relate in some way to learning, education and knowledge. All blogs are published on our social media pages and on our website. Please visit https://www.dsacademy.co.uk/blog-enfield to read!

Dr Sergis' Visit to the Peek Freans Biscuit Factory Museum

My dad Neophytos was always a working man. I remember him getting up early to leave at 5am and walk to work, where he started at 7am or 8am. Although he was originally a painter and decorator, he also served in the British Army as a Lance Corporal in the Cyprus Regiment. He was also occasionally a builder's supervisor and later a Police Marshall in Cyprus, until he decided to emigrate to the UK with my mum and I when I was 18 months old. In London he worked for many years usually as a foreman in meat and biscuit factories. From all accounts, my dad's presence at work made a real difference to people, not just through his work on a task, but through the kindness and humour he showed his colleagues every day.

In April last year, I visited a small museum on the site of a former world-famous biscuit factory in Bermondsey, South-East London, where my father worked as a factory worker, then a foreman for over 16 years. The museum was dedicated to the history of the Peek Freans biscuit factory and had many memorabilia and historical archives, including documents and old pictures of the life and times of the factory's long 168-year-old history, before it closed in May 1989.

The Peek Freans Museum is located at the junction of Drummond Road and Clements Road. The former factory is now a large development site that is being redeveloped into the Bermondsey Project, which will include new homes, retail and community spaces. When I arrived at the museum, I was given a guided tour of the historical archives of the former factory by Gary, who showed me unique artifacts, such as a replica cake gifted to the late Queen and innovative biscuit tin designs. Gary also gave me captivating stories and anecdotes about the factory's history and its impact on local culture.



Among the exhibits, he showed me an impressive collection of vintage tins, recipe books filled with long-lost biscuit creations, and heirloom treats that evoke nostalgia. I took many pictures and found my visit thoroughly enjoyable and worthwhile, and I felt that I shared some of my late father's experience of working at Peek Freans. The factory was so popular as an industrial biscuit manufacturing centre that the area was known as Biscuit Town for many years.

I enjoyed this personalised and guided tour by Gary, and I thoroughly recommend a visit to this unique museum!

Dr A. N. Sergis

The Peek Freans Museum is located at: 100 Drummond Rd, London SE16 4DG. You must ring the museum to book your visit.

The Influence of Euclid in Mathematics and Science

Euclid (fl. 300 BC) was a Greek mathematician and is considered as the “Father of Geometry”. He devised the modern process of abstract mathematical thinking, including the technique of proving theorems from propositions and axioms by deductive reasoning. He is mainly known for his 13-volume treatise entitled “The Elements”. This treatise established the foundations of geometry that dominated the field of mathematical teaching until the end of the nineteenth century, although it is still used in modern schools up to A-Level mathematics.

His “Elements” became the second most widely read book for over 2000 years, after the Bible. It deeply influenced the development of modern mathematics. The “Elements” was also instrumental in the development of the field of mechanics and applied physics, as well as projective geometry, including the construction of technical drawing in engineering and the development of steam engines during the Industrial Revolution.

In fact, Isaac Newton read Euclid’s Elements widely and he constructed his laws of motion using Euclidean geometry. In the Elements, Euclid deduced the theorems from a small set of axioms. He also wrote many works on perspective, conic sections, spherical geometry, number theory and mathematical rigour. Furthermore, Euclid wrote a central early text on “Optics,” on the properties of light and works on “Data” and “Phenomena”.

His works on optics and Aristotle’s notion that light consisted of particles produced from a light source was translated by Early Arabic scholars from the classical Greek into Arabic, then eventually into the Latin-speaking world of modern European civilisation. Indeed, Isaac Newton’s work on optics and his theory of light being corpuscular (particle-like) was indirectly and directly influenced by both Euclid and Aristotle, including the notion of light exhibiting the properties of reflection, refraction and dispersion.

Unfortunately, Euclid is known to have written many other mathematical and scientific works that have since been lost. As with many classical Greek mathematicians, the details of Euclid’s life are mostly unknown, but he is believed to have lectured and taught in Alexandria at the prestigious Museum of Alexandria in Egypt where the Greeks established a major research and teaching university in the fields of science, mathematics and the humanities. It is also believed that Euclid founded a mathematical tradition in Alexandria. The city was founded by Alexander the Great in 331 BC. Ptolemy, Alexander the Great’s trusted general, sponsored, commissioned and constructed the massive museum and research institution. Ptolemy became the first Hellenic King of Egypt, Ptolemy I.

Euclid is speculated to have been among the Museum’s first scholars. There are numerous anecdotal stories about Euclid, who was described in old age as “a kindly and gentle old man”. The best-known anecdote about Euclid is when Ptolemy I, who was tutored by Euclid, asked whether there was a quicker path to learning geometry than reading his “Elements”, upon which Euclid replied with “Oh king, there is no royal road to geometry”. This should be a lesson to us all when studying any subject, as if we try to find a short-cut to learning rather endeavouring to study it thoroughly, we place ourselves in danger of not fully understanding the subject in depth, and, consequently, not learning it properly.

In conclusion, Euclid’s work not only provided a logical framework for geometry but also demonstrated the power of logical deduction and systematic organisation in mathematics and science. Indeed, his method of systematic and logical analysis has proved indispensable in the way the modern world practises both mathematics and the Scientific Method!

Dr A. N. Sergis

The Academy's Annual Trip to Lab Innovations 2024

The Dr Sergis Academy paid its annual visit to Lab Innovations in Birmingham last October. The exhibition showcases the latest scientific and engineering technology and laboratory services available. It is always exciting to see the incredible automated machines as well as amazing new vehicle technologies. The Academy always conducts live videos on the day, showcasing some of the amazing exhibitors and their equipment. There are also great talks and lectures given throughout the day as well as games and lots of freebies!

Celebrating the Cyprus Wine Festival's 40th Birthday

The Academy attended the 40th Cyprus Wine Festival in June of 2025. The festival has a rich history of community involvement, cultural preservation, and commercial promotion. It was founded in 1982, inspired by the Limassol Wine Festival. It then evolved from a small meeting at the Cypriot Community Centre in Harringay to a larger event, finally moving to Alexandra Palace in 1991 and expanding to include a business show. It later moved to Lea Valley Athletics Centre in 2017.The festivities this year were held at The Decorium in Wood Green, an historic building that was built in August of 1911. Various stalls showcased traditional Cypriot food and wine and much more. There was also live Greek Cypriot music sung by notable Greek singers that played late into the night.

Did you know?

The Decorium was originally built as a swimming pool!

The Academy's Open Day 2024

The Academy held another successful Open Day in October of 2024. As ever, it was a bumper-packed day full of things to see and do! Dr Sergis conducted experiments in the laboratory throughout the day, and the Academy team were hosting workshops in the classrooms. Guests were able to partake in some fun colouring, or they could make some coloured playdough. In the morning a special guest showcased their art pieces, which could be purchased. In another room there was some of our bug and mineral collection, which students could look at and touch. As always there were refreshments on hand, including freshly made sandwiches and wraps from Sainsbury's, which were bought on the day. We wholeheartedly thank everyone who came to visit and support us, and we hope that you had a wonderful day.

Maria Montessori 1870-1952

“The goal of early childhood education should be to activate the child’s own natural desire to learn.”

I was recently talking to a friend who wants to become a primary school teacher. One lady came instantly to mind. “Have you heard of Maria Montessori?”, I asked. “She might prove to be a great inspiration to you,” I added. We then proceeded to send some beautiful quotes back and forth, like the one mentioned in the opening of this article.

Maria Tecla Artemisia Montessori was born in August of 1870 into a middle-class family in Chiaravalle, a commune in the Province of Ancona, Italy. Her father, Alessandro Montessori, was an accountant in the civil service. Her mother, Renilde Stoppani, was an unconventional woman for her time. She was well-read and had a love of books. In 1886, Maria, against her father’s wishes and going against the social standards of the time, enrolled in an all-boys school to study engineering.

After graduating, her parents wanted her to become a teacher, but she was set on becoming a doctor. This would prove to be difficult, as it was a heavily male-dominated profession during this time. Nevertheless, Montessori would ignore these social mores and applied to a medical school but was rejected. Not at all dissuaded, she applied at the University of Rome, where she studied physics, mathematics and the social sciences. After two years, Maria graduated and then entered the Faculty of Medicine at the university, becoming the first woman in Italy to do so.

She was also the first woman to study at the university, too. She graduated from the medical school in July 1896. After spending a brief amount of time in Berlin advocating for the equal pay of women at the International Congress for Women, she began working as a surgical assistant in Rome. She was noted for the kindness and compassion she showed to her patients. Later, she began work at the psychiatric clinic at the University of Rome.

As part of her work at the clinic, she would visit Rome's asylums for children with mental disorders (as they were known back then), looking for patients to treat at the clinic. She describes how, during one such visit, the caretaker of a children's asylum told her with disgust that the children had grabbed crumbs from the floor after their meal. Maria realised that in such a bare, unfurnished room, the children were desperate for sensory stimulation and hand activities, and that this deprivation was exacerbating their condition.

She began to read everything she could about children with learning disabilities, focusing on the pioneering work of two early nineteenth-century Frenchmen, Jean-Marc Itard, who had made his name working with the 'wild boy of Aveyron,' and his student, Edouard Séguin. In 1897, Montessori's work with asylum children gained traction. The 28-year-old Montessori was invited to speak at the National Medical Congress in Turin, where she advocated the contentious theory that inadequate provision for children with mental and emotional disorders was a contributing factor to delinquency.

She expanded on this by speaking at the National Pedagogical Congress the following year, presenting a vision of social progress and political economy based on educational measures. She requested the establishment of medical-pedagogical institutes and specialised training for teachers working with special needs children. This concept of social reform through education grew and matured in Montessori's thinking throughout her life.

After some experience working with typical children too, Montessori opened a Casa dei Bambini, or a ‘Children’s House’, in January 1906. Deep within herself, she knew that this project was going to be groundbreaking in some way. She later wrote: “I had a strange feeling which made me announce emphatically that here was the opening of an undertaking of which the whole world would one day speak.” The opening gained some publicity, but many were doubtful it would achieve much. She introduced a variety of activities and items into the children's environment, but only those that piqued their interest remained.

Montessori realised that children who were placed in environments with activities meant to assist their natural development had the ability to educate themselves. She eventually referred to this as auto-education. In 1914 she would write, “I did not invent a method of education; I simply gave some little children a chance to live.”

“The Casa dei Bambini's youngsters made amazing progress, and by the age of five, they were writing and reading. By the autumn of 1908, there were five Casa dei Bambini’s, four in Rome and one in Milan.

The news of Montessori's innovative approach travelled quickly, and guests arrived to see for themselves how she was accomplishing such success. Within a year, the Italian-speaking region of Switzerland began transforming its kindergartens into Casa dei Bambini, and the new teaching model expanded. Montessori taught her approach to approximately 100 students for the first time in the summer of 1909. Her notes from this period became her first book, which was published in Italy the same year and was translated into the United States in 1912 as The Montessori Method, attaining second place on the non-fiction bestseller list. Soon after, it was translated into twenty different languages.

The book has exerted significant influence in the sphere of education. A period of significant expansion in the Montessori approach ensued. Montessori clubs, training programmes, and schools arose all over the world, and Maria’s life became committed to propagating the educational method she had devised by offering courses and talks in a variety of nations. She visited America three times before and during World War One, where her unique approach to schooling sparked widespread interest. After a period of restraint in her successes and developments due to the rise of fascism and World War Two, Montessori travelled to England in the summer months of 1936. In 1939 she travelled to India, along with her son Mario, and would not return for seven years for a trip that was only supposed to last for three months. She was to give a training course and a lecture tour in Madras.

Their time in India proved to be extremely beneficial for Montessori, as it allowed her to expand her philosophy and approach to education. She met Gandhi, Nehru, and Tagore and was impressed by the spirituality of the Indians, as well as their generosity and kindness to her. Later, in 1949, she got the first of three nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize. One of her final major public appearances was in London in 1951, where she attended the 9th International Montessori Congress.

She died on May 6, 1952, at the family holiday home of her daughter-in-law in the Netherlands, with her son Mario by her side, to whom she left the legacy of her work. The life of Maria Montessori is one of tenacity, courage and resilience. She was truly a fascinating woman. She left a legacy that is still so incredibly important and relevant today. This brief look at her work does not even do her incredible life and contribution to early education justice, but I hope it has inspired and educated you, dear reader.

“The child is both a hope and a promise for mankind.” ~Maria Montessori, Education and Peace, 1949

G. G. Pace

Dr Sergis Meets Some Alpacas

As a member of the business networking group BNNL, Dr Sergis was invited to a fun outing to see some cute alpacas at Botany Bay Farm. At first Dr Sergis and other members of the group were given a short talk on alpacas and their care on the farm and how they came to be a part of the farm family. After this, Dr Sergis and the group had a chance to feed them and take pictures. What a fun day of networking!

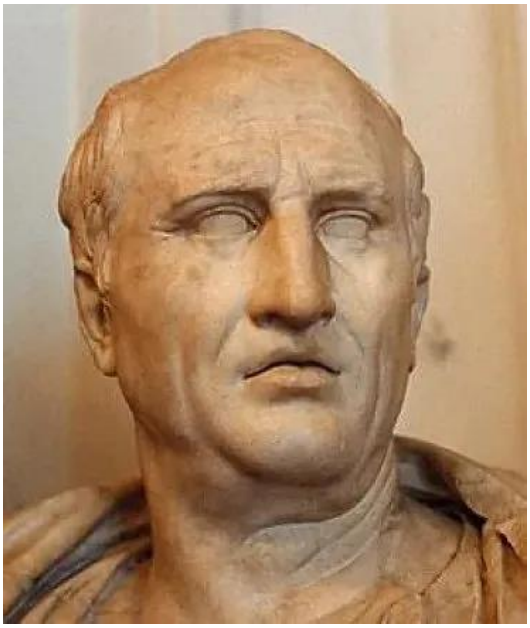
Did you know?

You can buy handmade clothes made from the wool of the alpacas in the Botany Bay Farm Shop!

A-Level Physics Experiment in the Academy Lab

In May 2025, Dr Sergis and his A-Level Physics student Rayyan conducted an experiment using Ohm's Law in the Academy laboratory. The student was asked to test resistance and plot a graph with the results. This practical contributed to the required knowledge for his AQA examinations.

Cicero, the Orator



As a young man, Cicero (106-43 BC) studied under the best minds in Rome. The youth of the aristocratic nobility in Rome were commonly taught by Greeks, and this was no exception for Cicero, who was a brilliant student. He rose swiftly and was renowned for the brilliance of his mind and his dazzling oratorial skills.

Cicero was never troubled by false modesty, but the Roman people generally reflected his high opinion of himself. Although an outsider to the patrician-dominated political system, he eventually won election to the highest offices of state at the earliest permitted age. In 63BC, he quickly established himself as a national hero. When he discovered a plot to overthrow the republic, he swayed the senate to decree the death penalty to the conspirators.

Cicero was the greatest orator Rome ever produced. In a few sentences, he could move juries and crowds from laughter to tears, anger or pity. His renowned declaration 'civis romanus sum' ('I am a Roman citizen') came to encapsulate the defence of a citizen's rights against the overbearing power of the state.

A century after Cicero's death, Plutarch eulogised him as the republic's last true friend. Idealistic, yet consistent, he was convinced that virtue in public life would restore the republic to health, in a time of civil unrest. Taking his lead from the renowned Athenian orator Demosthenes, Cicero delivered the philippics, a series of four orations against the tyranny of Caesar and against his faithful henchman Mark Antony. It was magnificent, although ultimately a forlorn cry for political freedom.

Having been taught by the famous Greek philosophers of the day, Cicero's knowledge was as broad as it was deep and was unmatched in Rome. Cicero introduced to Rome Greek ideas that formed the basis of Western thought for the next two thousand years. He translated Greek works into Latin and endeavoured to Hellenise the Roman world, as he believed Greek ideas of democracy and virtue were far superior to Roman values that were mainly subservient to the Roman state.

He wrote to a friend that 'my writings are transcripts…I simply supply words, and I have plenty of those.' It is a humble statement for a man who made such an extraordinary contribution to Western philosophy; he translated Greek works, invented Latin words to explain untranslatable Greek words and concepts, and elucidated the main philosophical schools. His vast discourse amounted to an encyclopaedia of Greek thought.

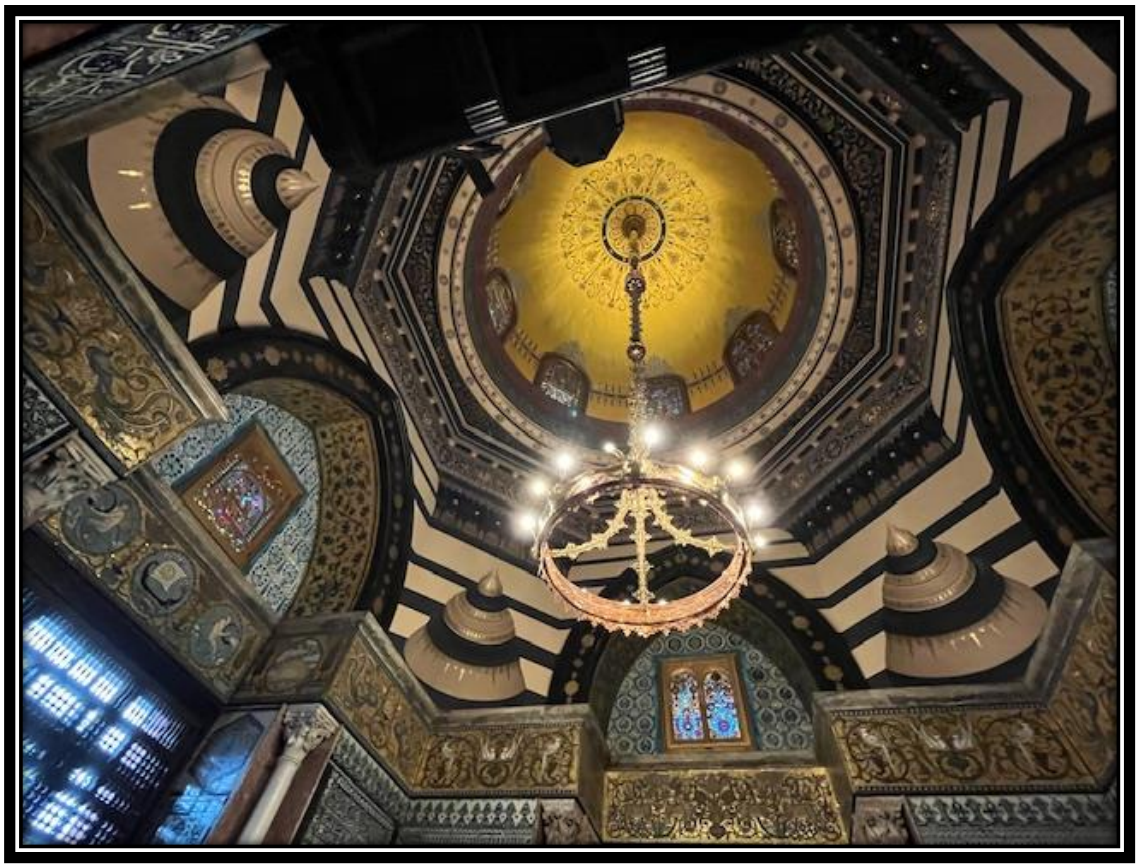
In the end, Cicero's inability to hold his tongue proved his undoing, when Octavian, Caesar's adopted son and the future emperor 'Augustus' learned of Cicero's remark about him- 'the young man should be given praise, distinctions and then disposed of'- it spelled doom for Cicero. Octavian, Mark Antony and their staunch allies declared Cicero an enemy of the state.

Pursued by soldiers as he half-heartedly fled Italy, Cicero was brutally murdered, his head hacked off, and the hand with which he had written the offending speeches displayed in the Roman forum. 'There is nothing proper about what you are doing soldier', Cicero reportedly said to his assassin, 'but do try to kill me properly'. The rhetorical skill of the statesman was undimmed to the last.

Ardent defender of the Roman Republic, principled and unbending in life, in death Cicero was dignified and fearless!

Dr A. N. Sergis

PICTURE PERFECT



The Arab Hall at Leighton House, London. Taken by Dr Sergis in 2024.

The hall was built in 1877 and built mostly with tiles from Damascus dating to the 16th and 17th centuries.

About Leighton House (taken from the website at https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/museums/history-leighton-house).

It is the former home and studio of the leading Victorian artist Frederic, Lord Leighton (1830-1896), from its first construction in the 1860s up until shortly before Leighton's death, his studio-house on the edge of Holland Park was a constant preoccupation. Absorbing large amounts of his time, money and effort, the house combined spaces for living, working and entertaining and the display of Leighton's collections. Regularly featured in the press, his home came to embody the idea of how a great artist should live.

PUZZLE PAGE

Academy Wordsearch 5

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

Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden →, ↓, and ↘.

ACHIEVEMENT
ALGEBRA
BISCUIT
COLOURFUL
DECORATIONS
FLASK
FUN
LABORATORY
OWL
PLANTS
POSTERS
PRINTER
TEA
UNDERSTANDING
WHITEBOARD