

Pupils get a lesson for life in how to manage their money

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YOUNG pupils at a Victoria school have taken their first steps on the often-rocky path to financial independence.

While Eurozone leaders battled to find a solution to the deepening financial crisis, children at Westminster City School, in Palace Street, held their own one-day summit last week to learn how to deal with the pressures they may face later in life when they have their own bills and mortgages to pay.

Working in teams, they managed their own finances using different sources of credit, prepared CVs and underwent job interviews as they looked to fund their chosen lifestyles.

The Keep the Cash simulation was created by education company Ambitious Minds, to help students develop the techniques needed to manage their life-long relationship with money.

Secma Solani, assistant headteacher, said: "I've seen this in action and was really impressed by the way it engages students and gets to the heart of the issues that every young person will face when they start to build their own independent lives."

Sean McGuire, chief executive of Ambitious Minds, added: "Young adults today are preparing themselves to enter a fragile jobs market or fund an expensive university degree.

"It is crucial for them, and for us all, that they are all able to make financial decisions for themselves which they can sustain and manage."



■ MONEY SAVVY: (clockwise from above) Kainan Tenkolang (left), 14, celebrates after getting a mock job after an interview, with classmates Charlie Burns, 14, Ellis Hamer, 15, and Neil Casana, 14; a group manage their money; and Hussein Majid, 14, takes part in a role play managing household income

Photos by Matt Grayson
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News in brief

Signs up to help

VICTORIA: Finding your way around SW1 has become even easier.

Street signs have been installed around Victoria under the Legible London scheme by Transport for London and Westminster Council, making it easier for pedestrians to get around.

Victoria BID, an organisation set up to improve the area, has recruited more members to its multilingual bowler-hatted team of 'street ambassadors', who can give directions and hand out pocket-sized guides of the Victoria area.

Their base is near the Victoria station taxi rank in Terminus Place.

A new iPhone app has also been launched by Victoria BID, which showcases visitor attractions and provides information about places to stay, eat, relax and enjoy. It is available through iTunes and at www.insw1.com.

All star opposition

WESTMINSTER: Tom Conti, Dame Janet Suzman, Jenny Seagrove, Linda Bellingham, Bill Paterson, Roger Lloyd Pack and other stars of the stage and screen have added their names to a 7,700-signature petition against evening and Sunday parking charges in parts of the borough.

Earlier this year, Westminster Council announced it would introduce charges until midnight on weekdays and from 1pm to 6pm in parts of the West End, Mayfair and Marylebone.

From January 9, drivers will be issued with warning letters if they do not comply with the new measures, and parking tickets will be introduced from January 23.

The petition is due to be submitted to Westminster Council at a meeting on November 2.