

Etiquette class helps East End pupils win top school places

THE rain in Spain... is really quite a gain for east London pupils winning scholarships after being put through a modern version of 'finishing school'.

Like Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady*, students at the Cumberland School in Newham are being taught how to improve their appearance, etiquette and communication skills.

But headteacher Omar Deria insists the tuition 'isn't about changing who they are or the way they act. It's about making sure they are as confident as

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they can be during interviews, and, if successful, at their new schools'.

Guided by Laura Akano, who was on BBC2 documentary *Back In Time For School*, pupils have six weeks of lessons covering everything from the 'Duchess Slant' - the sitting position favoured by Kate Middleton - to table settings, greetings and posture.

Since starting their Prestigious Colleges Programme two years ago, the school has sent dozens of



disadvantaged students to fee-paying schools. This year Ella Wellingbrook, 16, has won a place at the highly exclusive Francis Holland school on a £42,000 scholarship. Last year seven students won scholarships to sixth-forms including Eton College.

Ms Akano said: 'This is not about putting on airs and graces. It is about giving them the confidence to excel during interviews. These are skills that people from middle and upper-class backgrounds have by birthright. The students at Cumberland do not.'



Level-headed students: Ella Wellingbrook (above middle) joins a class in department with Laura Akano SWNS

Ex-rugby pro tried to swallow bags of drugs



Back behind bars: Lewis Szweczyk

A FORMER professional rugby player tried to swallow 50 packets of crack cocaine and heroin after being tackled by police, a court heard.

Lewis Szweczyk, who played for London Irish before a knee injury and attended St Paul's Independent School, turned to dealing after becoming addicted to Class A drugs.

The 27-year-old was seen 'making a hand-to-hand exchange' with two suspected drug users near a children's park in Reading on October 14, the town's crown court heard.

Police gave chase as he climbed over fences before a witness filmed him being restrained in a garden and encouraged to spit out the bags.

One officer said: 'Spit them out, there's loads coming out of your mouth. Another 20 is not going to make any difference.'

Szweczyk, of no fixed address, who has been to prison before, had admitted possession with intent to supply and possessing criminal property. He was jailed for 28 months and has to pay a victim surcharge of nearly £200.

Pair are arrested over 'Broadmoor break-in'

A MAN and woman allegedly tried to break into Broadmoor Hospital yesterday.

The pair, both 45, were arrested after a police helicopter and patrol cars were sent at 2am.

The emergency response sparked fears a patient had fled from the site in Crowthorne, Berkshire, known for treating dangerous offenders. But police were called about intruders at the original Victorian building there, which is no longer in use.

PayPal 'failing to give full protection from scammers'

by VICKY SHAW

PAYPAL should offer customers more protection from scams, a consumer group urges.

The online payment system has its own protection policy, which safeguards against goods that do not arrive, are fake, faulty or not as expected, but is not part of a voluntary code that reimburses victims of authorised push payments (APP), says Which?

Many banks have signed up to the code, which commits them to reimbursing blameless customers who have



Payment platform: PayPal is used online around the world PICTURE: PA

been tricked into transferring money. Which? said it has heard from PayPal users who struggled to get a refund.

One said he was locked out of his account by scammers who spent £1,619 on smartphones in the US before his

bank blocked his accounts. PayPal told Which? it has refunded the customer £1,574.50 for unauthorised transactions and unlocked his account.

It also placed restrictions on the account at one point 'as a precaution'.

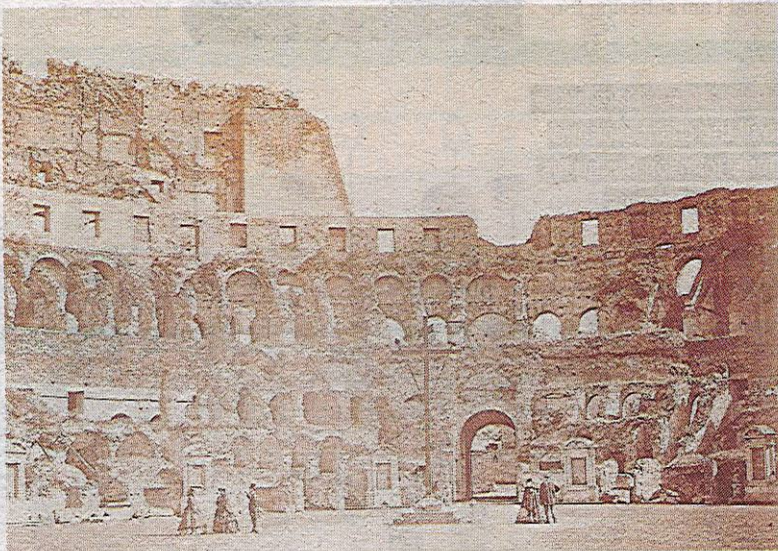
Another customer told Which? he had problems getting reimbursed after paying £800 to a holiday home scam.

PayPal would not refund him as he authorised payment using its 'friend or family member' option, said Which?

If he had paid directly from his bank account, he was covered under the AAP code that Which? Magazine believes should be mandatory for all banks and payment platforms such as PayPal.

Editor Harry Rose said: 'Consumers should feel confident their money is protected however they choose to make a payment.'

180-year-old Roman photos set to sell for colossal £120k



Italy in focus: An interior view of The Colosseum, taken around 1860 LEMPERTZ/BNPS

PHOTOS thought to be among the oldest ever taken of Rome could sell for up to £120,000.

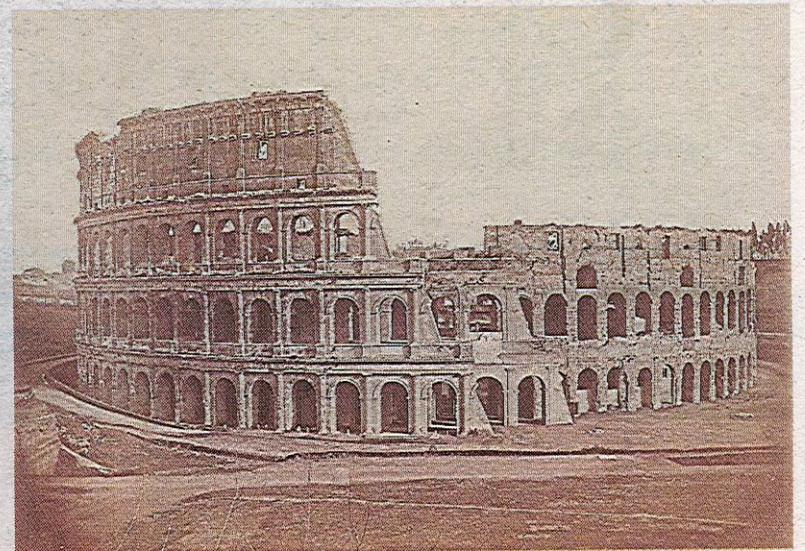
The 78 images date back to between 1840 and 1860 and were snapped by some of the earliest professional photographers.

They feature historic sites including the Colosseum - free of the huge queues usually faced by modern visitors - and the Trevi Fountain.

The set, put together by a European couple who collect antique photos, will be sold today by auctioneers Lempertz in Cologne, Germany.

Photography expert Maren Klinge said she expected 'huge interest' as the prints were in 'extraordinarily good condition' and were very rare.

She said: 'Prints from the early days of photography often show traces of usage or damage but in this respect the collection is truly remarkable.'



Historic site: A photo of The Colosseum taken around 1855 by Tommaso Cuccioni