

# LIVING OUT OUR FAITH

Dear St Mark's Community,

Our students have continued to thrive due to the wide-ranging opportunities that they have been given to live out their faith, and to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding in so many areas. I am sharing some of the highlights in this newsletter.

## Mission of the Month and Faith in Action

As part of our Mission of the Month, Dignity of the Worker, students have participated in Rainforest Alliance Kahoots during lunchtime, learning about how this organisation cares for the planet and protects and educates workers. Students enjoyed a Fairtrade and Rainforest Alliance chocolate sale, with funds raised for the charity 'Just Small Change'. We have a long tradition of supporting those who are disadvantaged through collections and donations, and this Lent was no exception. We are grateful to all who contributed much-needed food and resources for our school's 'In this together' charity and the St Vincent De Paul (SVP) society at Ss Michael and Martin Church.

## Choir Festival

One of the highlights of our school calendar is the annual Choir Festival involving St Mark's choir and 5 local Catholic primary schools. The theme this year was 'The Goodness of God', and all choirs performed a spiritual piece and then a more upbeat pop or musical number. Our choir medley 'finale' celebrated famous musicals from 1939 to 2018.

## Music Trip

This half term, 20 students from Years 7–10 visited the Barbican Centre to hear the London Symphony Orchestra perform 'The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra'. The concert supported Key Stage 3 learning by introducing orchestral instruments, while also reinforcing GCSE content, including the Star Wars theme as a set work. The programme also featured music by female composers for International Women's Day.

## Music Recital

This was a wonderful evening of performances from students in Year 7 to 13, covering a wide range of genres from Bach to West End Musical pieces and music from films. We were particularly impressed by the talent displayed by our GCSE and A Level music students, and we wish them every success in their performance exams.

## Science Week

This year's Science Week was packed with exciting, hands-on activities that allowed students to explore science in engaging and memorable ways. From rockets to slime making, students showed great enthusiasm, curiosity, and a willingness to get fully involved in every activity. We look forward to making next year's Science Week even bigger and better.

## Cine School and Water Safety

St Mark's Film makers from Cine School are creating a documentary about our Water Safety Campaign. This has included interviews with some of our fantastic Water Safety Ambassadors and speaking with a spokesperson from the RNLI in Teddington, sharing important advice on staying safe around water. We're looking forward to seeing the finished documentary and continuing to raise awareness about water safety in our community.

## World Book Day

World Book Day was a great success, and many staff dressed up as key literacy characters. The programme included the sharing of a story, a book swap, a quiz and an ongoing festival of reading. Thank you to everyone who donated books for the book swap.

## House Event

Our Easter House Event was a celebration of creativity, colour, and new beginnings. Students from each house designed, made, and modelled their own wearable art, including fantastic Easter bonnets, to represent the spirit of Easter. From bold designs to beautifully crafted details, the effort and imagination on display were amazing. The competition was fierce, but Clitherow were the overall winners.

As we prepare to celebrate Easter, our community has been united in prayer through Sixth Form Holy Week Liturgies, Stations of the Cross reflections in form time, and celebration of Mass for students in Year 7–10.

Thank you for your continued support, and we wish you all a very happy and holy Easter.

Ms Waugh-Lucas  
Headteacher



# KEY dates

- 13<sup>th</sup> Apr – Year 13 PPE2 begins
- 20<sup>th</sup> Apr – Year 12 exams begin
- 1<sup>st</sup> May – Year 11 Retreat and last day
- 1<sup>st</sup> May – Year 11 & 13 Prom
- 8<sup>th</sup> May – Year 11 written GCSE exams begin
- 3<sup>rd</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> May – MFL GCSE speaking tests
- 8<sup>th</sup> May – Year 13 Liturgy and last day
- 11<sup>th</sup> May – Year 13 A-level exams begin
- 21<sup>st</sup> May – Year 10 – parents evening
- 22<sup>nd</sup> May – Half term begins

## HOUSE LEADERBOARD

- 1st – More
- 2nd – Fisher
- 3rd – Clitherow

## Bedrock Winners

Congratulations to our winning  
Bedrock classes  
7CA, 8MO, 9b1

and our individual winners  
Y7 – Joel G (7FI)  
Y8 – Mariana F (8FI)  
Y9 – Amitho S (9BE)

## SAFEGUARDING BULLETIN

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Bulletin](#)

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