

# LIVING OUT OUR FAITH

Dear St Mark's Community,

There has been so much to celebrate this academic year, and I am incredibly grateful to our dedicated and wonderful staff who are committed to promoting 'Everyday Excellence' in so many different ways. Academic excellence in the classroom encourages our students to work hard and make excellent progress. Beyond the classroom, students have embraced a rich variety of clubs, sports events, trips, House Competitions, charity initiatives, and other enrichment opportunities. It is inspiring to see how they live out their faith, participate so fully in the wider life of the school, and remain so committed to their learning.

This half term has been one of the busiest yet, with a fantastic range of trips and activities, including:

- Year 10 Geography fieldwork investigating quality of life around the Olympic Park in Stratford.
- Year 12 A Level Spanish trip to Madrid.
- KS3 trips to Hounslow Golf Club, Chessington World of Adventures, and Horsenden Hill Activity Centre.
- KS3 Book Club visit to the South Bank and Tate Modern.
- Year 12 physicists and biologists presenting research at an ORBYTS conference at UCL.
- Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions.
- 'Festival of Hope' at Westminster Cathedral, attended by our Student Chaplaincy Team, with highlights including faith-based activities and a beautiful Liturgy led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols.
- Year 8 Retreat Day on the theme of Care for Creation – a wonderful day of prayer and connection with nature.
- Year 10 Careers Speed Networking Event in partnership with Spark!, giving students a unique opportunity to meet professionals from a wide range of industries. Thank you to parents and alumni who volunteered to support this event.
- 'St Mark's Got Talent', showcasing incredible student talent, from singing and dancing to comedy acts and even a Rubik's Cube challenge!
- Art Exhibition featuring work from students across all year groups.
- KS3 Sports Day – congratulations to Clitherow for winning this year's trophy!

- Literacy events, including a poetry slam with Hounslow schools, a debate competition, an author visit, a reading challenge, and our popular Spelling Bee, where Catholic primary schools challenged St Mark's Year 7 champions.

Our competitive spirit continues to shine through in House Competitions. Congratulations to More House, this year's overall winners, who celebrated with a House party this week. Students who earned the highest St Mark points also enjoyed special activities in recognition of their achievements.

One of our proudest achievements this year is our Water Safety Campaign, led by Ms Thomas in collaboration with the Black Swimming Association. The campaign, developed in memory of Brian Sasu, who tragically died three years ago today, raised awareness of water safety within school and across the wider community. Our fantastic student ambassadors from Years 8, 9, and 10 presented to local primary schools, and last week we welcomed MP Seema Malhotra to St Mark's to watch their presentations. She was hugely impressed and is now exploring ways to support us in taking the campaign even further.

Sadly, we also say farewell to a number of staff leaving this year for promotion, relocation, or retirement. In particular, we acknowledge and thank the following colleagues who are retiring: Ms Green (LSA), Mrs Bandarian (MFL), Mr McConnon (Technology), Mr Greensmith (PE), Mr Gold (Maths), and Mrs Jenkins (SENDCo – who retired at Easter). We are deeply grateful for their commitment and wish them all the very best for the future.

Finally, thank you to all our parents, carers, and alumni for your continued support. We truly value our partnership with you. I wish you and your families a restful and enjoyable summer break, and we look forward to welcoming students back to school in September.

Ms Waugh-Lucas  
Headteacher



# KEY dates

1<sup>st</sup> Sep - Inset Day  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sep - Year 12 Enrolment  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sep - Year 7 Start  
4<sup>th</sup> Sep - Year 7-11 & Year 13 in School  
8<sup>th</sup> Sep - Year 12 in School  
10<sup>th</sup> Sep - Year 12 Expectations Evening  
11<sup>th</sup> Sep - Year 10 Expectations Evening  
18<sup>th</sup> Sep - Year 11 Expectations Evening

24<sup>th</sup> Sep - Early Finish at 2.15pm  
25<sup>th</sup> Sep - Open Morning & Evening  
26<sup>th</sup> Sep - Inset Day  
1<sup>st</sup> Oct - Open Morning  
2<sup>nd</sup> Oct - Year 7 Welcome Mass  
21<sup>st</sup> Oct - Year 7 Tutor Evening  
23<sup>rd</sup> Oct - Into 6<sup>th</sup> Form Day

## HOUSE LEADERBOARD

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

## Bedrock Winners

Congratulations to our winning  
Bedrock classes  
7MO, 8BE, 9A2

and our individual winners  
Y7 - Weronika (7CA)  
Y8 - Keziah (8CL)  
Y9 - Caden (9MO)

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