

# LIVING OUT OUR FAITH

Dear St Mark's Community,

As this half-term draws to a close, I find myself reflecting on the number of opportunities and experiences offered to our students to live out their faith and enrich their education beyond the classroom.

Our distinctive Catholic ethos remains at the heart of everything we do, and it was wonderful that so many of you were able to attend our Year 7 Mass, a special occasion to pray for God's blessing on our Year 7 students as they begin their journey with us. Our Year 7 students also valued the time to reflect during their recent Retreat days on the theme of 'Called by God'. Students across the school participated in the Rosary Challenge this month, and we welcomed the opportunity to pray the Rosary with many of you during lunchtime on Tuesday.

If you have visited St Mark's this half term, you will have seen our new Catholic Social Teaching murals in reception. Designed and painted by our talented Year 10 students with support from our Art technician, Ms Leung, they visually connect our Catholic Social Teaching themes with the breadth of subjects taught across the school.

During October, we celebrated Black History Month 2025 under the theme "Standing Firm in Power and Pride." It was inspiring that over 140 students created powerful profiles of influential Black figures for our challenge. The finalists' work is now a permanent, invaluable resource in our LRC, a lasting legacy of their commitment and research. Furthermore, our weekly prayers have deepened our appreciation for the diverse saints within the global Church.

This focus on heritage culminated in our wonderful Cultural Dress Day. It was a truly vibrant display of the many cultures that make up our St Mark's community. By wearing clothing representing their heritage and raising more than £1800 so far for the Catholic Children's Society, our students lived out our Mission of the Month: Human Dignity. The energy during the lunchtime music, dance, and song showcases was fantastic!

Our students have also had invaluable opportunities to engage with the world of politics and careers. We were delighted to welcome our local MP, Seema Malhotra, for a "Life After St Mark's" masterclass. Students from Years 9 to 13 took part in an engaging session on Parliament and current affairs, followed by a lively Q&A and networking with local leaders, including the Mayor of Hounslow, Cllr Amy Croft. Our Year 12 Politics students also benefited from a visit by Twickenham MP, Munira Wilson, with discussions covering a range of important topics, from Heathrow expansion to lowering the voting age.

The Year 11 Mock Interviews provided crucial real-world experience. Students' hard work preparing CVs and cover letters paid off, and they impressed professional volunteers from our community with their confidence and preparation—a fantastic step toward their future pathways. Thank you to all parents and alumni who supported this initiative.

Students have participated in a huge range of activities from Geography fieldwork and a History visit to the National Archives, to a Film Studies trip and the Music department's visit to Wicked. In addition, with more than 40 extra-curricular clubs to choose from, there is something for every student, and the engagement has been high.

The spirit of community and friendly rivalry shone through in our first House Event of the Year: a fantastic, fast-paced quiz! Congratulations to Pole House for a well-deserved victory. And huge congratulations to the Year 7 Boys Football Team on their excellent 5-1 win in the Middlesex Cup!

Finally, thank you to all parents and visitors who attended our Whole School Open events, Expectations evenings, Into Sixth Form evening, and Year 7 tutor meetings. We really value these opportunities to strengthen our partnership with you all.

I wish you all a restful and peaceful half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming your children back to school on Monday 3rd November.

Ms Waugh-Lucas  
Headteacher



# KEY dates

- 13<sup>th</sup> Nov - Parent & Teacher drug webinar (6.30-7.30pm)
- 27<sup>th</sup> Nov - Year 9 Parents' Evening (4-6.30pm)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Dec - School closed
- 9<sup>th</sup> Dec - Advent Carol Service
- 11<sup>th</sup> Dec - Christmas lunch
- 12<sup>th</sup> Dec - Year 12 & 13 Christmas liturgy
- 18<sup>th</sup> Dec - Prizegiving evening
- 19<sup>th</sup> Dec - End of term

## HOUSE LEADERBOARD

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

## Bedrock Winners

Congratulations to our winning  
Bedrock classes  
7CA, 8CL, 9a1

and our individual winners  
Y7 - Rheanna (7CA)  
Y8 - Jennelle (8CA)  
Y9 - Patrice (9BE)

## SAFEGUARDING BULLETIN

[Safeguarding  
Bulletin](#)

## CHAPLAINCY UPDATES

[Chaplaincy  
Newsletter](#)

## ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

[Alumni  
Newsletter](#)



## Connect With Us



St Mark's is now on LinkedIn. Please connect your profile and follow our page.



Follow our Instagram Page for updates on school life.



Spread the word about our Alumni Network and encourage past pupils to register via the [link](#) on our website.