

LIVING OUT OUR FAITH

Dear St Mark's Community,

I am delighted to share the news that St Mark's has been recognized as one of the top 14 'Happiest schools in the country,' by The Sunday Times. The ranking is based on Ofsted surveys from parents and students, so thank you for contributing to this success.

With public examinations approaching, Year 11 students have been working hard, completing their second set of exams in March and receiving valuable feedback at Parents' Evening. Our Sixth Form students are balancing studies with enrichment activities—Year 12s preparing for crucial exams, and Year 13s celebrating university offers, interviews for competitive courses and navigating the final phase of exam preparation. We encourage students to stay motivated, seek support, and maintain a healthy study-life balance during this pivotal time.

Our Catholic ethos and mission continue to guide our daily work. On Ash Wednesday, we held services in the morning for all year groups, to mark the beginning of Lent. Ms Rouse and a group of KS3 students have been working hard to prepare a dramatisation of the Stations of the Cross for us. [You can watch the video here.](#)

Our mission of the month this half term has been focused on Dignity of the Worker. Students have been invited to lunchtime sessions to learn more about Fairtrade, and have explored LinkedIn profiles, and been learning about some of the amazing careers our staff members had before working at St Mark's.

On Tuesday 1st April, five local Catholic primary schools visited St Mark's as Pilgrims of Hope to take part in our annual Choir Festival. This is always a highlight in our school calendar and it was a fantastic display of music and talent



Enrichment activities

After presenting to Years 7–10 in November, the Black Swimming Association has been running workshops for the students chosen to be water safety ambassadors. They will lead water safety sessions in primary and secondary schools, as part of our first-ever Water Safety Awareness Month in June.

We celebrated World Book Day with brilliant staff costumes, a Festival of Reading, book swaps, short story writing, and literary quizzes. Students also participated in a Readathon for 'Read for Good', providing books and storytellers for children in hospitals. KS3 students joined the Hounslow Teen Read, exploring new novels and voting for their favorite authors, and Year 10 students began the '5 Books in 5 Months' challenge to boost reading for pleasure and academic success.

The House Debating competition took place on Monday 24th March. Each house had to research their house saints and engage in debating rounds. The Y7 & 8 winners were Fisher House, with Becket winning the Y9 & 10 competition.

Science week was a great success with a fantastic array of opportunities during science week! You can see photos and videos on our Instagram page.

The Biology Scholarship Programme at St Mark's Catholic School continues to inspire students with academic challenges. Over 100 students attended Mr. Shore's lecture on bird mating behaviour, and many students then participated in the Big Question workshop, engaging with diverse academic materials. Ten students excelled in this, and I was delighted to present their prestigious Gold Awards.

There have been a wide range of trips this term including: the Brilliant Club trip to Keble College, Oxford, Art trip to the Design museum in London, a Drama trip to the National Theatre, and a Sixth Form trip to Parliament. The KS3 book club visited the National History museum after reading 'The Lost Whale' by Hannah Gold. They had a wonderful day out visiting the whale skeleton and model.

We are delighted that the Eindhoven football tour is back up and running after Covid. This year we have 50 boys and girls who will experience training at PSV Eindhoven's training ground, playing against local Dutch opposition. They will also attend an Eredivisie fixture.

Thank you for your continued support, and we wish you a very Happy Easter.

Ms Waugh-Lucas
Headteacher

KEY dates

- 22nd Apr - Year 13 PPE2 begins
- 28th Apr - Year 12 exams begin
- 2nd May - Year 11 retreat and last day
- 2nd May - Year 11 & 13 Prom
- 8th May - Year 11 GCSE exams begin
- 8th May - Scholarship lecture
- 9th May - Year 13 Liturgy and last day
- 12th May - Year 13 A-level exams begin
- 22nd May - Year 10 parents evening

HOUSE

LEADERBOARD

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

Bedrock Winners

Congratulations to our winning
Bedrock classes
7 Clitherow, 8 Pole & 9B1

and our individual winners
Y7 - Joylyn (7CA)
Y8 - Aloysius (8PO)
Y9 - Lynelle (9A4)

SAFEGUARDING BULLETIN

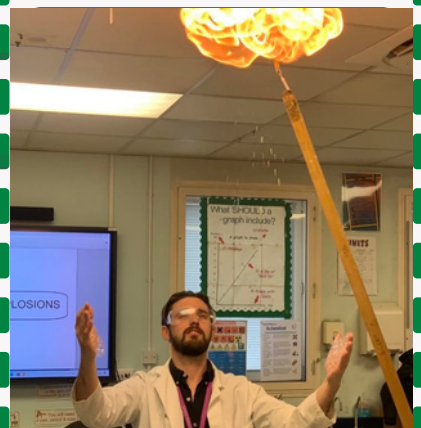
Safeguarding Bulletin

CHAPLAINCY UPDATES

Chaplaincy Newsletter

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Alumni Newsletter



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