

LIVING OUT OUR FAITH

Dear St Mark's Community,

Our mission, "to live out our faith", continues to guide us in all that we do, and throughout the half-term, students have demonstrated dedication to their studies and participation in extra-curricular and enrichment activities.

Catholic Mission

This half term's Mission of the Month focused on Solidarity and Peace. The school has been united in praying for world peace, with students' prayers transformed into origami peace doves. Students have been working on well-being challenges, and they have reflected on the importance of gratitude. One highlight has been their thoughtful thank-you messages to staff, which have brought so much joy.

Academic Progress

Our Sixth Form students completed their examinations in January, displaying resilience and commitment. Year 11 students began the term with Mock Results Day, followed by a successful Parents' Evening, and I have been very impressed with their excellent attendance and engagement in Period 7 sessions.

We have high expectations of all our students, and we were delighted to receive a letter from Bridget Phillipson, Secretary of State for Education, congratulating us on the excellent outcomes the disadvantaged pupils at St Mark's achieved last year. In her letter, she states: "Your school's performance places it among the very best nationally, and this is a significant achievement."

Student achievements

'Speaking for Tomorrow' Public Speaking event

A group of Sixth Form students delivered powerful speeches about building a sustainable future, climate change and AI at Imperial College. One group won 3rd place and has secured a place in the finals.

Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge

Congratulations to Stella in Year 10 for winning the St Mark's final of the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge. She will represent St Mark's at the Regional Final.

Sporting highlights

- Year 10 girls' netball team remain unbeaten
- Year 8 girls' netball team – currently top of the league
- Year 7 girls' netball team – unbeaten in all their games so far
- Year 7 boys' football – currently 2nd place
- Year 9 boys' football reached the last 16 of the Middlesex football cup
- Year 9 boys' basketball – runners-up in their league

House Chess Championship

The House Chess Championship returned this week, bringing together strategic minds from Years 7 to 10. After a three-year winning streak by Champion, Pole House claimed the top spot this year. More House provided stiff competition, finishing in a narrow second place.

Other Enrichment Activities

Speed Read Event: We welcomed schools across Hounslow to take part in the Hounslow Speed Read event. The students were buzzing, sharing their favourite reads and learning about new books to read.

MFL: Year 10 French students and Year 12 Spanish students attended study days at the British Film Institute. These events are designed specifically to support language learning through cinema and interactive activities.

Art Exhibition: Our recent art exhibition showcased an impressive range of work from students across Key Stages 3, 4, and 5. Highlights included KS3 collaged landscapes, Basquiat-style identity portraits, tasks exploring Japan, and AI, together with GCSE and A Level artwork.

Ypres Trip: On 7th February, Year 9 students visited Ypres, Belgium, exploring local museums, Bayernwald trench system, and Tyne Cot Cemetery, where they laid a wreath in remembrance. It was a deeply moving and insightful experience.

Finally, as Lent begins during the half-term break, we are inviting you to join us online in reflection and prayer each Tuesday at lunchtime for Lectio Divina, reflecting on God's Word and preparing our hearts for Jesus' suffering, death, and Resurrection. Further details are attached.

Thank you for your continued support.

Ms Waugh-Lucas
Headteacher

KEY dates

24th February - Year 9 Options Evening
3rd March - Choir Festival
5th March - Year 12 Parents Evening
26th March - Year 11 Parents Evening
27th March - End of Term (half day)

HOUSE LEADERBOARD

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

Bedrock Winners

Congratulations to our winning
Bedrock classes
7FI, 8MO, 9BI

and our individual winners
Y7 - Rheanna (7CA)
Y8 - Klaudia (8CL)
Y9 - Olivia (9MO)



Well-Being Ambassadors



Live out our faith



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