

VERITAS

St Mark's Catholic School

No. 17 - SPRING 2018



Science Week is a wonderful opportunity for students to learn and develop their knowledge of Science. It offered a wide range of engaging activities where it encouraged students to explore different aspects of the subject ranging from dissection to producing blinding flames through the use of magnesium powder.

Science week 2018 at St Mark's kicked off early due to having access to liquid nitrogen two weeks before the actual week. A range of teachers used this for a range of amazing demonstrations in their classes including launching rockets.

This was followed on Tuesday with the pig's trotter dissection with Mr. Crone, Ms Henley, Mrs Kingsland and a group of lower school students. They used scalpels and other tools to get under the thick skin of the pig in order to see the tendons and bones underneath. Whilst having fun dissecting the pig's trotter, they also learned much about the structure of the joints.



The last day of Science Week ended with a bang, literally! Firstly, groups of students from Years 7-9 watched Mr. Shore and Mr Crone conduct an experiment where his 'hands got set on fire'. He covered his hands in soapy bubbles filled with methane, and set fire to them, with flames that touched the ceiling (no damage though!). This was followed by a series of demonstrations, including the production of 'elephant toothpaste'

Following this, the other teachers set fire to hydrogen and methane rockets in the lower school playground, and they were loud! It gave off a series of massive bangs and it was really thrilling to watch: a brilliant way to end Science Week!

The week was a success and it definitely deepened the students' love and appreciation for Science! Thank you to all involved in any of the activities.



Science Week Poster Competition

A few weeks before Science Week some teachers set a homework for Years 7 and 8 to design a poster. The theme for the 2018 poster competition was exploration and discovery and there was a range of very good entries for this.



The five best posters from the school can be entered into a UK-wide competition with the chance for students to win an array of prizes. The winning entry from this year came from Evelyn James who produced a highly colourful effort. Evelyn's entry was deemed to contain lots of ideas on the theme that was celebrated this year. Well done to her for a superb effort!



HeadLine



As the articles and pictures in this edition of Veritas demonstrate, this has been another very busy and successful term at St Mark's. In January

the Department for Education tables were published and confirmed that St. Mark's GCSE and A Level results placed the School among the top Comprehensives in the country. The School's popularity is demonstrated by the 982 applications for admission into Year 7 next September. This is a testament to the hard work and good behaviour of the vast majority of students, the commitment and expertise of staff and Governors and the tremendous support provided by parents.

Effective Catholic Schools are not simply focussed on achieving academic potential as these pages illustrate. Long after students have left they will cherish memories of Duke of Edinburgh walks, Debating Competitions, House Competitions, Charity Activities, Book Days, School trips such as Iceland and so many other activities.

Finally, on a personal note, I am looking forward to my retirement this Summer after seventeen years at the School. I will miss many aspects of school life, particularly working with wonderful colleagues and students and being part of such an active Catholic community. I am delighted that the School has appointed a new Headteacher, Ms Andrea Waugh-Lucas, to start in September. I have a lot of thank yous to say before I leave but I will save these for my final "Headline" in the Summer edition.

Thank you all for your continuing support for the School.

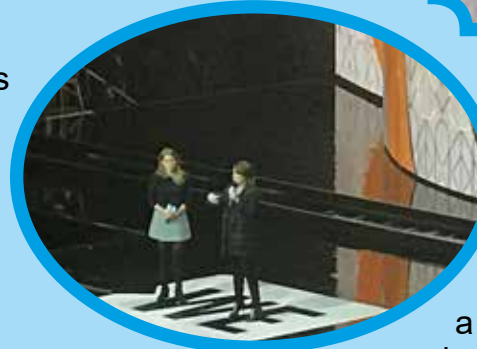
Paul Enright, Headteacher

WE DAY

On 7th March 13 Year 10 students and I were able to attend the WE day event at Wembley Arena. The thing I enjoyed most was listening to the motivational speeches and how people inspired change in their community. I was inspired by how small things could make such a difference, motivating me to do the same. If I were to bring something back to St Mark's it would probably be the inspiring stories for change and people's experience of discrimination.



Annabeth Menezes



The reason why I loved the WE movement event was because at first it seemed like it was only St Mark's involved because I hadn't met anyone else, but after going to the event it showed me how it was a community coming together to help change the world. I really enjoyed learning and listening to other people's stories and what they had been through and what they have done. One of my favourite speakers was definitely Connor Franka! I have watched him for years and seeing him on the stage so confident and so himself made me so happy. My favourite quote was "Your current situation is not a final destination" which showed me that you can get through challenges. My favourite performance was "Hrvy" it was a great way to end the show and to make us energetic to start new things and to go forth and spread the word of the WE movement! They taught me that the smallest things can make the biggest difference and "Gen-WE" as a community can help others together!

Ella Cody

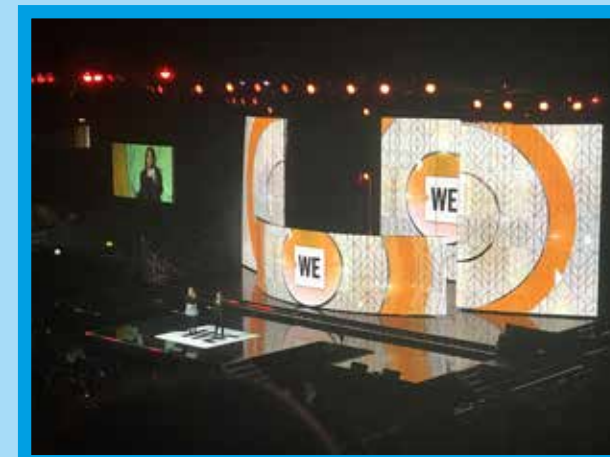
My favourite part of WE day was when different people came and spoke about the difficulties they experienced in their lives but managed to overcome anyway. The troubles ranged from not fitting in to their community to being in an abusive relationship. I thought it was very inspiring that you can overcome anything as long as you put your mind to it.

Marlena Zaplata



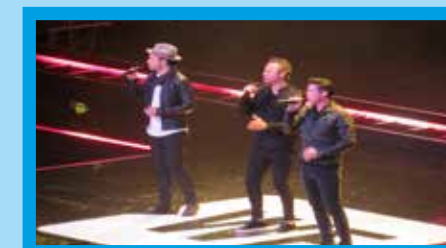
I really enjoyed WE day, it was such a great experience. It was so inspiring especially hearing the motivational speakers talk about their struggles in life and how they overcame their troubles. It was an amazing feeling to see one of my favourite musicians perform live.

Isobel Eriaku



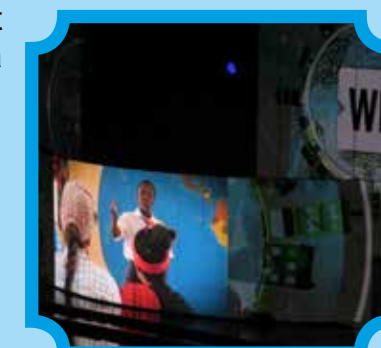
WE Day was a great experience for me. I was given the opportunity to listen to other people's experiences which were all inspiring. Seeing some of my idols and also discovering some new role models has encouraged me to carry on their messages and make a change.

Wynovee Gamueda



When we arrived at the arena I remember seeing the blue carpet and keeping my eye out for the stars speaking at the event. As a whole the day was inspiring, hearing all the different speakers and celebrities talking about their struggles and how they overcame them and how we can overcome ours. I loved when everyone was standing up as WE praised different achievements and all the music performances such as Alexandra Burke and Hrvy. Overall it was such a memorable experience and one that I was so thankful to spend with my peers.

Rosie Robertson



SPRING CONCERT

On Wednesday 14th March, one of the coldest days of the year, the Music Department staged its 'Spring Concert' in the School Theatre. The programme included an eclectic range of musical styles from J.S. Bach to Bruno Mars with performers from Year groups across the school.

The orchestra opened the concert with the ever-popular theme from 'The Pirates of the Caribbean'. Ciaran Collins's bold trumpet melodies soared over the other instruments to portray the 'Jack Sparrow' theme with great expertise. The orchestra returned later on to perform an up-beat version of 'Uptown Funk' that had everyone in the audience tapping their feet!

The Upper School Choir gave an accomplished performance of 'Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Tells Your Story' from Hamilton. Justin Soriano's rich bass-like voice opened the song with the quality not dissipating with the numerous other soloists that followed. The choir sang the harmonies with precision and warmth and it was a truly captivating performance.



Students who have demonstrated excellent progress in their music making this year were asked to perform. Antonio Mascarenhas in Year 9 performed a jazzy tenor sax piece by James Rae called 'Rachel and the Boys'. Year 10 students, Marine Munier and Jamie Cavill, both performed pieces by the Baroque composers Handel and Vivaldi respectively whilst Eryk Gembalik played Tarrega's 'Gran Vlas' on the classical guitar (although, most of us recognised it as the original 'Nokia' ringtone)!!!! The Year 10 Rock Band (Erwin Stanley, Eugene, Rae Taruc, Nuttriacha Ngarmskullert, Cherie Amponsah and Nilaish De Almeida) gave a stylish rendition of The Eagles favourite 'Hotel California'.



However, the night belonged to the outstanding Year 11s who have been the backbone of the Music Department for many years. Max Snell opened the solos with a delightful performance of Stachak's 'Parisian Waltz' on the classical guitar. This was followed by Hayden Fernandes performing a Grade 6 piece on the violin accompanied by the string group. He played the piece with grace and finesse.



Joe Krajewski performed his winning piece from the House Music Festival by playing the traditional 'Spanish Romance' which is still a favourite for many guitarists. Hayden then swapped the violin for the drum kit as he, Jaden Vales and Gareth Gbesemete-Kusenu got the audience grooving with their version of Coldplay's 'Adventure of a Lifetime'. The audience were hooked as soon as Jaden started the now famous guitar riff whilst Gareth made the vocals and bass guitar parts look easy as he stylishly led the rock band through the performance.

In comparison, Vernon Fernandes and Gabby Simon-Phillips performed the beautiful, but technically demanding, 'Concerto for Two Violins' by J.S. Bach - a must for any string player!! Accompanied by the ever-stellar string group, this was a sensational performance of ability and very enjoyable to sit back and listen to. The final Year 11 performance was an emotional performance of Eva Cassidy's version of 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow' this time sung by Kaya Ilksa. Kaya's voice was perfectly suited to this song as each note was delivered with precision and complete control. Kaya drew the audience in with her outstanding performance leaving the audience spellbound.

The concert ended with the choir singing the positive and life affirming song 'You Have Been Found' from Dear Evan Hansen.

As ever, Mr Shore did an outstanding job of ensuring everyone was heard by making sure all the sound was working properly!! The drum mics on the solo violins and guitars were an epic idea!!! We especially thank Miss Goldberg for coming and playing with us on the night.



My favourite part of the Big Bang Fair was exploring the different stalls with my friends. They all talked about different science related jobs ranging from medicine to astrophysics. There was also a career cabin where you could take a quiz that gave you good suggestions for what you should be in the future; I got marine engineer. There were lots of other interesting activities like finding out how attractive you are to mosquitoes. The shows we saw were also fantastic – they ranged from making nitrogen ice cream and shooting marshmallows at us to heavy metal marine biology. The whole day was amazing and allowed my friends and I to learn about fascinating subjects and find out how much STEM could help us in the future. I would recommend it to anyone.

Marlena Zaplata



My favourite part of the Big Bang Fair was that we got to explore with our friendship group. I liked going to the different types of stalls; I also found out how many mosquitoes liked me! I learnt about the different career paths you can take with STEM.

Giselle Pereira

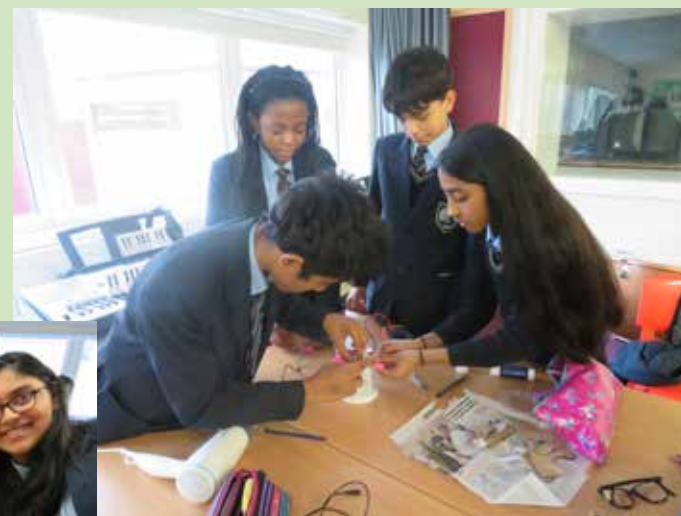


On Thursday 15th March, girls from the Year 9 STEM club went on a trip to the Big Bang Fair in Birmingham. When we got there we watched a show called the Quantum Mechanical Chocolate Factory. During this show quantum mechanics was explained using various food and drinks. After the show had finished we were free to have lunch and walk around the different stalls. The fair was huge and there was a lot of stalls covering different aspects of STEM. We were able to learn a lot about the different careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The last stage show that we went to was about marine biology. It was led by a marine engineer called “Blowfish”. He talked about different interesting and peculiar animals that live underwater.

I really enjoyed my day at the Big Bang Fair. I think I learnt a lot about different careers I could take in STEM and extended my knowledge.

Victoria Lepko





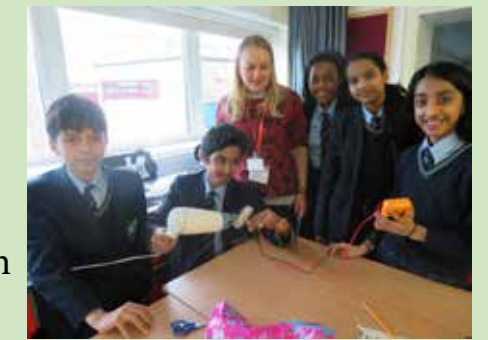
On 9th March we were lucky to be chosen by the Geography department to take part in a Green Economy Workshop. This was the second week

of the workshop and we tried to produce green energy using a small wind turbine. We were given different materials and tools to help us produce our own turbine. We were provided with a motor, electricity reader and hairdryer. The group who produced the most energy in the exercise would win. In the end, our group won, but everyone managed to produce some energy. We learnt that green electricity is important and how the green economy plays a massive role in helping our environment. Many of us are considering taking a green economy job in the future. It was great fun.

Bihandu Pigera
Nathan Bowman

On Friday 2nd March 30 students from Year 8 were given the opportunity to participate in a 2-week workshop to learn about the Green Economy. At the start, most people were quite unsure what it was about but two excellent teachers came in and taught us about it. First, we watched a video which told us some information about it and we learnt that the Green Economy is split into 4 sectors: Renewable Energy, Buildings, Transport and Waste. We were given an envelope full of jobs in the Green Economy such as a Marine Biologist, Tree Surgeon, Green Fashion Designer etc. and we separated them into the four sectors and tried to elucidate what their jobs were; we even had a class discussion and a few people said that they would like to have a green job. Then we watched a few other clips and focused on some new innovations or ones which are in the making and they were fascinating – just imagine having tents for your cars and outside charging stations for your phone! The last and best bit of the session was that we were able to create our own city out of resources which would make our environment better so it was time to get our art and geography skills on and make a fabulous city! We all presented and explained what our dream city would look like to the class and every group had a creative idea and the best one would win. Overall our first session was useful and informative and I think that we are able to use what we learnt in the future to protect our school and environment.

Kirsten Serrano 8PO



Jack Petchey's "SPEAK OUT" Challenge!



As reported in the last edition, the Jack Petchey Foundation came into St Mark's before Christmas and trained 60 pupils in Year 10 to become more confident in public speaking. Part of the training involved finding the best speakers to go forward to the regional finals that were being held at The Heathland School on 6th March. The final decision came down to the pupils of Year 10. We had to deliver our speech to the Year group and they were then given the chance to rank the speakers - luckily myself and Alfie Armstrong got the vote - we were heading to the regional finals as St Mark's representatives!!

The evening certainly was an event! We arrived at 4pm and immediately went into speech workshops to fine tune our deliveries and see if we could find that 'extra something' for our speech. Our friends and family were arriving at 6.30pm to support us so we made the most of every opportunity to practise our speeches! We made friends with the other schools, ate together, practised some more and then the nerves really kicked in!

Alfie's speech was about overusing and undervaluing things and mine was about forgiveness and how we should learn to not hold onto grudges. The judging panel was made up of prominent figures from business and the community, including the Mayor of Hounslow!

Alfie was the first to deliver his speech; I had to wait until after the interval. We both felt that it had gone well but we knew that we were up against some top opposition! There were some brilliant speeches and although we didn't win, we certainly gave it our best shot and it was an amazing experience. It was a great opportunity to do something outside of our comfort zone and to develop skills that will benefit us in the future.

Casey Muchiri



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

St Mark's Year 11 students who achieved their Duke of Edinburgh bronze level joined fellow students across the borough to receive their award. The ceremony was hosted on the evening of Tuesday 6th March at Isleworth and Syon School for Boys, with councillor Malhotra, himself a former pupil at the school, presenting the awards. The atmosphere was fuelled with excitement and energy as parents and carers came together to observe the presentation of certificates and awards to over one hundred students. Isleworth and Syon School bands provided an eclectic musical mix of jazz, classical and pop music. Councillor Malhotra acknowledged the benefits that the Duke of Edinburgh provides for young people and he recognised the commitment and dedication given by the teaching staff who volunteer to make the Duke of Edinburgh awards happen. St Mark's group



leaders, Mr Shore and Miss Stewart attended the presentation and their support to the St Marks cohort was warmly acknowledged. A special mention and presentation was made to Mr Enright for his contribution over the years to the Hounslow Schools' consortium.

The students agreed that participating in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme was both rewarding and empowering and they would encourage younger students to engage in the activity.

Gabrielle Simon Phillips

On 14th January, students undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver Award arrived at Richmond Park to begin their practice walk. This included eager and avid students from Year 10 and Year 12. However, these feelings of enthusiasm gradually evolved into exhaustion. My group and I were ready to drop by the end of the day. During the course of our walk, we had to follow a route on our map where we planned to arrive at certain locations at certain times. But this was a lot easier said than done. We were so consumed with reaching those points that we had little time to



admire the picturesque scenery of the park. We spent hours wandering up and down hills, trekking the vast green fields, passing by the ponds and plantations, and looking longingly at all the adorable dogs that crossed our path. Once we completed our walk, we were completely drained but the whole experience was absolutely rewarding and prepared us for what we have in store for our weekend trip!

Jaspreet Bassi

THE BOOKSHELF

On the morning of Tuesday 6th March, 2 students were chosen to represent St Mark's Catholic School by attending the award ceremony for the Hounslow Teen Read 2018. The winners



were announced by Richard Kurti, author of 'Maladapted' and 'Monkey Wars', who won last year's Teen Read. After a fantastic talk from Richard about his life as an author and screen writer, it was time to announce the winners. In third place 'We Come Apart' by Sarah Crossan and Brian Conaghan, second place 'Contagion' by Teri Terry, finally first place was announced .. 'After the Fire' by Will Hill. Overall it was a fantastic day that we were glad to attend.



THE CILIP CARNEGIE MEDAL 2018:
Each year St Mark's students shadow this prestigious national book award. We read the same eight shortlisted titles as the panel of Librarians. The winner's announcement will be made on June 18th, so we have until then to read the books.

What the teachers of St Mark's are reading



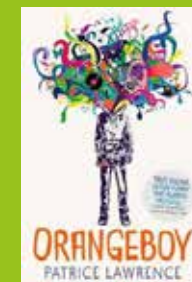
THE HOUNSLOW TEEN READ 2018:

This is a borough-wide reading activity, which involved students across Hounslow's secondary schools reading the same six books, and voting for their winner. This year's judging panel were:

Evelyn James 8PO
John Fernando 8FI
Tatiana Mercedes 9BE
Althea Cabucos 9CA
Ansel Raposo 9CA
Sofia Piletto 9CL
Glen Awuah Darkoh 9FI
Lucy Elliott 9PO
Janella Ting 10BE
Nathan Teles 10BE
Joesph Das 10BE
Valerie Fernandes 10CA
Aliete Pereira 10FI
Kara Fernandes 10FI
C j Leonardo 10CL
Noelle Jjinga 10PO

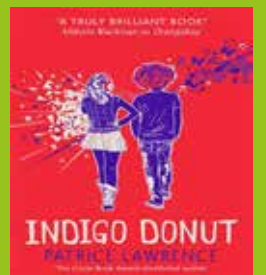


Our group enjoyed a visit from Catriona McQueen, who discussed all the books and helped us choose our own winner, which was 'We Come Apart', by Sarah Crossan and Brian Conaghan. The award was presented by last year's winner, Ricard Kurti, at an award ceremony in the Paul Robeson Theatre, Hounslow, on March 6th.

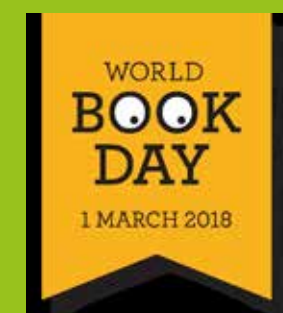


AUTHOR VISIT:

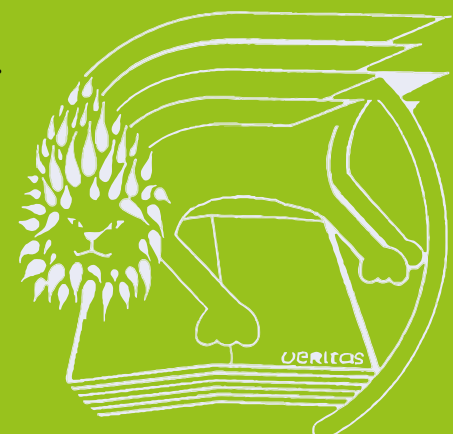
The children's author Patrice Lawrence visited Hounslow, to speak to an audience of Year nine students. She was very entertaining, and answered many questions about becoming an author, and her work. She has written 'Indigo Donut' and 'Orangeboy'. After her talk, she sold and signed copies of her books.



Book tokens were presented to every student in the school.



These were used to buy any of the special World Book Day titles, or to put towards another book of their choice. Classes visited the LRC to take part in quizzes and games.



ICELAND



This March 30 year 9 and 10 students were lucky enough to go on a field trip to Iceland. The trip was wonderful and jam-packed with lots of fantastic geographical sights.

After an early but long flight the pupils were lucky enough to relax in the blue lagoon – a beautiful, geothermally heated pool on a natural hot spring – the perfect way to wind down after a long flight. After this we checked in at the capital city – Reykjavik. Our dinner was in a restaurant where every time an Icelander is born, a bell is rung and everyone cheers, the population is now just over 300 thousand!

On day 2 we went to one of Iceland's glaciers, to marvel at its beauty and size. Shortly after we visited 2 waterfalls, one of which you can go behind. Although the view is beautiful the cold spray was unreal! In addition, we visited the Black Beach. This beach is infamous for its gigantic waves. The waves on this beach come all the way from Antarctica and make their way up to Iceland getting bigger and bigger until eventually they plummet into the black sands of the Icelandic coast.



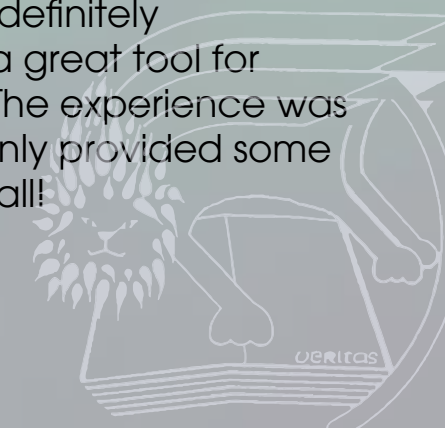
Iceland is famous for their geysers and hot springs, the water from which powers the whole country's electricity and heating system. In light of this, the pupils visited the geysers where they erupted magnificently, and we also went to Iceland's biggest power station where they use naturally hot water for electricity and heating; they even heat up some of the streets. After a busy day the students and teachers were treated with a game of bowling.

Overall, the trip was fantastic. Iceland is a beautiful country despite its life-threatening volcanoes! For all of us the trip was definitely something to remember for years to come as well as a great tool for geography GSCE students. The experience was phenomenal and has certainly provided some unforgettable memories for all!



Jamie Cavill, 10P0

Photographs by Mary Soriano





Throughout the start of the year, my friend and I were able to attend a mentoring scheme, within a pharmaceutical company called GlaxoSmithKline. The scheme lasted around 5 to 6 weeks and we were all individually assigned a mentor suited to our needs. We were both assigned our own mentor and through the course of 6 weeks we got to know them well and could talk to them about our future and what we should do so that we can achieve what is best for us. Our mentors were extremely helpful and useful as within these meetings, we were guided in areas that we struggle in, such as building up confidence, organising time management, and planning our future. With the sessions we attended, we were also able to learn and complete things that would benefit us in the future, like finding out information about university and what the procedure was like, as well as making our own CVs that we can greatly benefit from.

Catherine Sunga and Amber Chopra

ODYSSEY - A LEVEL CLASSICS TRIP

The Year 12 Classical Civilisations class participated in a trip to Bromley Baptist Church, Tottenham Court Road, to listen to a number of experts talk about 'The Odyssey'. 'The Odyssey' is a piece of text that is studied as part of the course. This has given a number of students a taste of University life as well as greatly helping them with their exams in the future.

Louis Mooney



ASPIRE PROGRAMME

Over the last couple of months, seven Year 12 students became involved in the 'Aspire Programme'. We attended regular sessions after school every other week held by Mr Murphy, a former teacher at St Mark's. The basis of these sessions was discussion-focused which meant that we had to become more confident and comfortable with sharing our thoughts and ideas. Each of the six sessions we attended were based on different areas of philosophy. Despite none of us being philosophy students, it became a time to learn about topics we had not heard of before and develop our own thoughts on the critical ideas that we came across. One ethical theory we studied was utilitarianism, a belief that in every action, it is the consequence of the action that truly matters. This one theory opened up some thought-provoking discussions about our own morals and opinions of what is right and wrong. At the beginning, the main challenge was being comfortable enough to share our thoughts around topics we were not experts in. However, as time went on, we realised that it was not just listening and taking notes but being able to think and discuss openly which would enable us to achieve the most out of this wonderful opportunity.

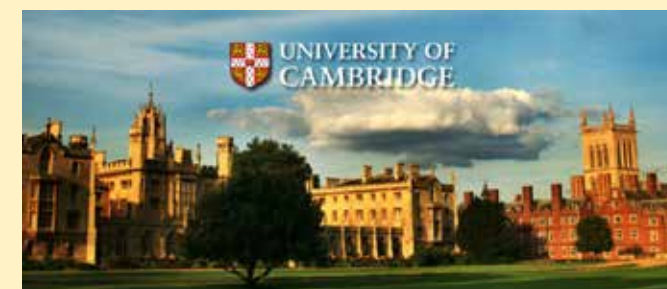


It was important to step out of our comfort zones and contribute in order to create an educational and fascinating debate. Questions such as 'How do you define God?' or 'What are you surer of, that $2+2=4$ or that your parents love you?' were most certainly challenging to answer but it demonstrated how it was important to share your ideas, continue to think about it and then not be afraid to develop or change your answer. It is the ability to do this which enabled us to get the most out of this experience. Not only did this experience help us for University interviews or class discussions but it is also a valuable lesson which we can carry on in life. It was deeply fascinating to learn about topics we had not learnt before and also to challenge ourselves to push further rather than give up and not say anything. On behalf of the other students, I would just like to thank Mr Murphy for giving up his time to lead this programme and we are extremely grateful for the valuable lesson that we have been taught.

Nicole Ahlawat

Cambridge University

On Thursday 18th March, I had the most wonderful opportunity of taking part in the Shadowing Scheme at the University of Cambridge. This allowed me to accompany my assigned mentor to any lectures, supervisions or lab sessions that she had during the two days I was there. My mentor was a first year undergraduate studying Natural Sciences, which enabled me to attend one of her lectures on the physiology of cells. Despite the fact that I didn't really understand the content (I don't take Biology), the lecture itself flew by so quickly as the lecturer had us all laughing with his jokes and it was certainly refreshing to learn about something new (or at least try to!). It was also strangely comforting and inspiring to be surrounded by like-minded people who all have a common passion to learn about something they love. On the evening I arrived, all the shadows including myself were invited to a 'formal', where we enjoyed a delicious and filling three-course meal in a beautiful college hall. This gave us the opportunity to really socialise and befriend the others who also came for the scheme, as well as talk to some of the other mentors about life at the university. This helped to dispel the myths and stereotypes that I had formed in my head about Cambridge, as the students there really were just 'normal' people! After talking to some of the mentors, I also realised just how big the rivalry between Oxford and Cambridge is.



During my stay, my mentor kindly gave up her room (at Newnham College) for me to sleep in, while she stayed at her friend's place. Newnham College was striking with its scenic gardens, which were apparently favoured by Stephen Hawking (who actually lived quite close by!). The beautiful library (which every college has) was three floors and is definitely my favourite place at Newnham due to its peaceful and calming atmosphere. The corridor at Newnham is apparently also the second longest corridor in Europe! On Friday, my mentor generously gave up some of her time to give me a mini tour of some of the other colleges at Cambridge such as Trinity, King's and St John's - the colleges were impressively big and were certainly breath-taking to look at. There was a lot of walking involved, but honestly, because of the view of the majestic buildings all around Cambridge, it was worth it. On the same day, I took part in a 'physics experience' that my mentor had signed me up for, which I found incredible fun as we got the chance to solve some problems that I had not come across before. We also got to conduct a small experiment and plotted our results using excel before analysing them. The shadows who were also there were incredibly intelligent, which inspires me to further develop my own skills and knowledge in the subject. I also can't forget to include the fact that I ended up being in the same room as one of my favourite Cambridge Youtubers (Ibz Mo) - it was such an unbelievable moment! Overall, I was incredibly lucky to go and the trip has definitely affected my future decisions in applying to university. I am more appreciative of the school for encouraging me to go, as well as the university for organising events like these for people who don't have much knowledge of what university is like. Hopefully, my trip will not be the last time I see Cambridge.

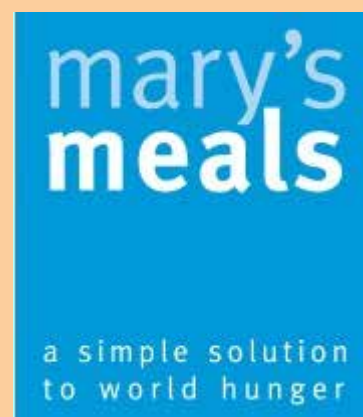
Meishu Huang (12HBE)

Mary's Meals is a charity which organises school feeding programmes in developing countries, where hunger and poverty prevent children from gaining an education. The charity was founded by Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow in 2002 and has grown from a small feeding operation of 200 children in Malawi, to a worldwide campaign, providing free school meals in hundreds of schools and feeding more than one million children daily.



The following items can be donated;

- backpack
- notepad
- pencils
- pens
- crayons
- eraser
- ruler
- sharpener
- pencil case
- towel
- shorts or skirt
- t-shirt or dress
- flip-flops or sandals
- small ball e.g. tennis ball
- soap
- toothbrush
- toothpaste
- spoon



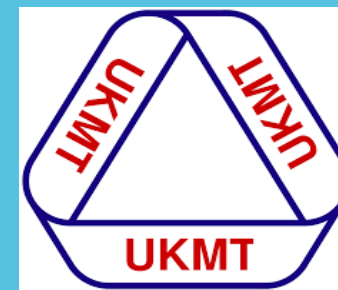
This year's Fairtrade Fortnight took place between 26th February and 11th March and in total raised over £170.00 through the sale of Fairtrade Divine chocolate. Although there were some problems with the delivery of the milk chocolate (due to the snowy weather) they eventually arrived and we sold out quickly. The success of Fairtrade Fortnight goes towards helping those in need and the money raised through contributions by both students and teachers will help fund the livelihoods of many farming communities. Fairtrade fortnight is all about the importance of organic farming, sustainability and the transparency to the lives of growers around the world. Did you know that the average cocoa farmer in Ghana earns just 62p a day? Together as a school we are trying to make a difference to lives and communities around the world. The money raised goes towards building up farming communities,



life. Please look out for the Fairtrade symbol when you are shopping and you too can make a change.



Jessica John



2018 Intermediate Maths Challenge

At the beginning of February, 190 of our Year 9, 10 and 11 mathematicians took part in the 2018 UK Intermediate Maths Challenge: a taxing 25 question multiple-choice test of their mathematical ability.

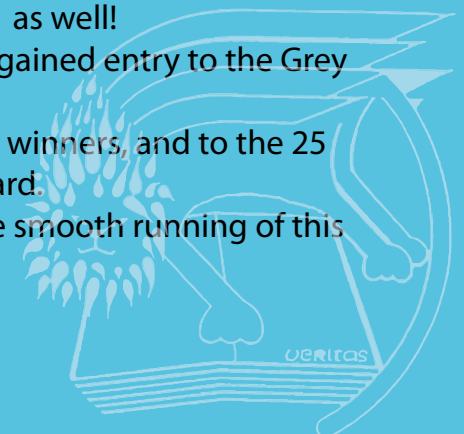
I am happy to report that over 36% of them have since earned a Bronze or Silver Award Certificate.

A special mention should go to Joshua Tanaka of Year 9 for not only heading his own year group's results, but also beating the very best in Year 10 and Year 11 as well! Although only missing out on a Gold Certificate by 3 marks, he has gained entry to the Grey Kangaroo follow-on round.

Congratulations also go to our 17 other Silver and 51 Bronze Award winners, and to the 25 candidates who were just 1 correct answer away from a Bronze Award.

I know the students would like to thank their Maths teachers for the smooth running of this year's Challenge, as indeed would I.

Mr. Gold



“MAGGIE’S”



With the recent addition of Maggie's to the School's facilities, life at Sixth Form has become significantly better. Not only do they have a place where they can eat without fear of it being overcrowded, Sixth Form students also have a new place where they can revise. This new cafeteria, designated specifically for Years 12 and 13, is named after one of the school's dedicated staff members, Maggie, as thanks for all her hard work and support, not only to the sixth form, but to the school as a whole.

Don Ursua & Julian Prahalathan



SLAPTON

At the beginning of February, the Year 12 Geography class packed up and took the 4-hour journey down to Slapton in Devon. Once we arrived, we were met by our very welcoming instructor, Simon, who introduced us to the FSC site we would be staying at for the next 3 nights. Our visit

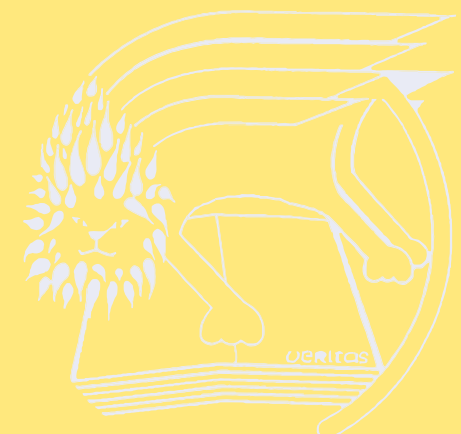
revolved around our upcoming Non-Examined Assessments that account for 20% of the overall A-Level grade, so the trip offered the option of a coastal investigation along Start Bay (which we visited on the Friday), or an urban regeneration investigation in Plymouth where we travelled to on the Saturday. The Sunday involved finalising our decision, reviewing data that we had collected on the



two previous days and beginning to develop our understanding of this project which will be gradually completed over the next year. However, the trip was not entirely occupied with work, as our site had a games room where we spent the majority of our downtime playing table tennis, combined with the excellent, locally sourced breakfasts and dinners that were served to us contributing to the great accommodation. Fortunately, our small group of 9 all got on well together and everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable time (even Owen who spent his birthday collecting data in Plymouth).



Gabriel Robinson



In January in the ‘Life after St Mark’s’ talk, a former St Mark’s student Dr Murad Choudhry delivered an inspiring talk on Medicine to the Sixth Form students. During the talk, Dr Chaudhry gave a lively and relatable account of his years studying at St Mark’s including his struggles with Maths and Chemistry. He offered his own invaluable advice regarding how to be successful at school.

Dr Chaudhry also provided an insight into university life, which included reassurance that, although studying medicine involves intense hard work and dedication, there are always opportunities for relaxation and fun at university, as well as the rewarding and challenging role of being an actual, practising doctor.

Finally, specific and useful advice to students wanting to pursue a career in medicine was given at the end of the talk, more informally, including preparation for the UKCAT and BMAT, and what it takes to become a consultant. In conclusion, Dr Chaudhry’s talk was motivating and valuable, not just to prospective medical students, but to all the students who attended the talk.

Isabelle Olanipekun 12SYI

LIFE AFTER ST MARK’S

Jack Stephens, a former St Mark’s student ,delivered an informative speech on the Business and Finance sector. Jack provided many of the Sixth Form students with valuable information about his journey from A levels to working life. His engaging talk included many subject areas, which resonated with many of us, for example, making the difficult decision of choosing the right A-levels that do not close any doors and we also enjoy.



Jack explained that although university is challenging it provided him with many invaluable life experiences, such as networking with other professionals as well as extra-curricular activities. It was also reassuring to hear how he, like many of us, was undecided on what further education route he wanted to take.

In his presentation, Jack went into detail about his course at university and where the degree leads you. He also gave many of the students an insight into the scale of the finance sector and the very competitive niche markets within it. This was especially important as he explained the best way to equip ourselves for university interviews.

To finish with Jack answered in detail individual questions students had in the context of the financial sector. Jack’s talk was not only informative but very relatable to many of the students who face the tough decision of making choices which impact on us for the rest of our lives.

Jai Trehan 12HBE

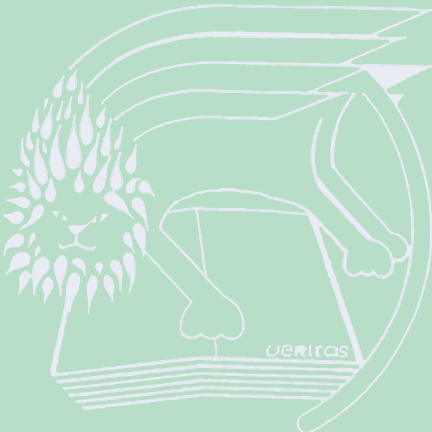
HOUNSLOW ARTS FESTIVAL

With snow slowly melting and icy rain forecast, only the dedicated, most passionate of artists ventured out on a Saturday evening to the Hounslow Arts Festival. The exhibition held at Redlees Studios in Isleworth celebrated the very best artistic talent from secondary schools in the Hounslow borough.

Proudly representing St Mark’s, Charlotte Henry-Stumpe, Nora Sharma, Rachel Colaco, Gabriel Phelan, Alexsandra, Antonina Woznica, Marlena Zaplata, Bartek Lezon, Larissa Mooney, Nadia Lewandowska, Mathilde Boulo, Owana Migambi, Jakub Martyniak, Rosie Robertson, Isobel Eriaku, Jagoda Hrycyk, Arthur Lesk and Leann Simon all had work exhibited at the prestigious event.

The whole occasion was the idea of Ms Lynsey Storer, Subject Leader of Art at Brentford School for Girls in response to the detrimental effect of the English Baccalaureate on art education.

Mr Hook who attended the evening said, “The work from St Mark’s stood out for it’s originality and quality, very impressive considering they were amongst GCSE and A level work. I am very proud of the time and commitment our students have shown in producing their work, many of whom have been coming back after class to finish their ambitious projects. In the current climate, it’s students like these who have displayed grit and determination who will be shaping the creative industries in the future.”



DEBATING

As the Debating season draws to a close, one cannot help but reflect on a phenomenally successful year in all competitions and all Year groups. Let's take a look...

Rotary Regional Finals

Both our Junior and Senior teams qualified for the Regional finals of the Rotary Public Speaking Competition and performed with great eloquence, great passion and great charisma. Our juniors were led by Alice Snell, chaired by Joseph Gibson and the vote of thanks going to Monet Munyoro. The standard was exceptionally high and the team were commended by the judges for their outstanding performance. Whilst the juniors did not quite make it for the London finals, Monet took away the best 'Vote of Thanks' – thank you for that!

Our Seniors took to the stage two weeks later having been delayed by the Beast from the East. This team comprised of Tom Moreland, Valeria Atik as chair and Harry Black as 'Vote of Thanks'. Again, never have I seen such emotion, passion, professionalism, flare and intellect in a performance. The team spoke on why Socialism is not a dirty word and even the typically conservative judging panel couldn't help but turn a head in reflection. Unfortunately – the team did not qualify for the London finals but again picked up the best 'Vote of Thanks' – congratulations Harry on that!



ESU Regional Finals

Our charming, articulate and intelligent team comprised of Ciaran Collins, Jamie Cavill and Max Bilin having successfully qualified for the English Speaking Union Regional Finals, a prestigious tournament with a fantastic history. Ciaran's speech explored whether the 'Propagation of fake news in social media prevents people from believing anything real anymore'...right? I thought the same thing. Speaking with great confidence and cheeky humour, chaired with the charm of Jamie and offered penetrating and annoyingly inquisitive questions by Max, this team was the epitome of strength. Congratulations to all involved.

Junior Debate League

Our exceptional Year 7s and Year 8s have taken to Debating like naturals. Having previously faced two of the highest achieving debating schools in the country in the previous round and holding their own, it was their turn to strike back. Ava Nketsiah, Paige Byrne and Sam Henry-Stumpe proved a formidable force in arguing why the voting age should be reduced to age 11 and impressed with their incredibly analytical arguments and rhetoric that oozed style. In the unprepared, Lareina Simmons, Chloe Deocampo and Maria Gonsalves took to the stage and gave passionate speeches on why mobile phones are not an essential part of school equipment. Mr. Enright will be proud!

These students show tremendous potential for the future. Remember their names!



SUCCESS!

Godolphin and Latymer – London Middle School Debating Competition

Whilst our young debaters are showing their skill in rhetoric and argument, our experienced veterans of Year 11 have shown that they are a force to be reckoned with in any context, taking part in the London Middle School competition. Having entered two teams, the competition within St. Mark's was fierce – let alone the tremendous standard we were up against.

Our team A: Joseph Nagle and Gabriel Millin – and team B: Valeria Atik and Tom Moreland 'totally dominated the competition' (Mr. Alexander). St. Mark's were by far the most eloquent speakers and their range of language was unmatched. Tom Moreland spoke with such wit and style on why we should arm teachers in the USA that all teachers present couldn't fail to be impressed. He even quoted Kant! Once again – St. Mark's show that regardless of the standard of competition – we rise to the top!

Whilst the season comes to its close, the debate certainly goes on; the debating fire burns in the Year 7s leading into the roaring flame of our Year 11s. Let's keep it alive!

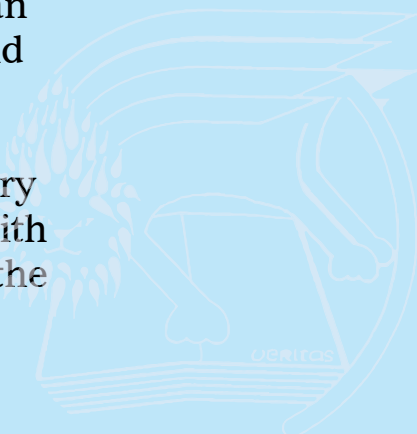


FAITH IN ACTION



We used money raised by faith in action events to buy an Easter egg for every resident of Cloisters care Home and Vicarage Farm care Home.

Giving out the Easter eggs was so enjoyable but also very moving. It was wonderful to continue our connection with two of the care homes who we spend time with during the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party.



St Mark's Sport



Well done to Ella Hanna Sanz in Year 8 for coming 1st at the British Acrobatic Championships in Stoke on Trent over the weekend of the 17th/18th February.

Ella competes in the mixed pair (12-18 years). Ella has also been selected to represent Great Britain at the World Championships in Belgium over the Easter holidays. What a fantastic achievement! Wishing you lots of luck Ella!

On Tuesday 6th March, the Year 9 netball team attended the annual Borough Netball tournament. This had been postponed from the week before due to the snow! It was still a particularly cold day but the girls equipped themselves well. Playing 4 games in the league stage and only losing one, they progressed as runners-up of their league and made it to the semi-final stages. They came up against a very strong Gumley team and were unfortunately beaten in the semi-final. Well done to the whole team who played some fantastic netball that afternoon!



On Tuesday 13th March two persistent Year 8 teams went to compete in the netball rally at The Heathland School. They both played really well and each game was filled with support and teamwork. St Mark's played other schools such as Gumley, the Green School and The Heathland. We scored many goals and didn't let the ball get past our amazing defence. The A team (captained by Francine) played well enough to get into the semi finals against Green School but unfortunately lost 3-1 with the B team cheering on from the sidelines. Well done to everyone who played and thank you to the teachers who helped us throughout the term to reach our potential in netball.



Year 9 Football

After a bitterly disappointing defeat to Uxbridge in the quarter final of the Middlesex Cup, the Year 9 football team are making great strides towards retaining their Hounslow League title. After a cagey 1-1 draw versus Rivers Academy, they have beaten Lampton and Chiswick by sizable margins to ensure that they need to win their last game against Reach Academy to ensure a minimum of a play-off against Rivers for the league.

Captain Daniel Okolo has been a driving force in midfield as well as Glen Awuah Darkoh and Tyler Falzone contributing with important goals. Well done to the whole squad – they have been a pleasure to coach.

Year 7 and Year 8 Basketball undefeated!

Well done to the Year 7 and Year 8 basketball teams who have won all their games so far this season. Keep up the good work everyone!



Year 7 Football finish the season on a high

After a mixed season the Year 7 football team finished the season on a high with a 3-2 win over Lampton. It was an excellent end-to-end game with a number of notable performances particularly from John Humphrey and Samuel Henry Stumpe. The boys should be credited with the effort they put into training and matches as they build towards what will hopefully be a more successful season next year.





On Friday 9th March, 23 St Mark's students attended the National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships held at Lea Valley Athletics in Edmonton, North London.

In what is now a regular event on the St. Mark's extra-curricular calendar, students get the opportunity to compete and race against schools and clubs from across the country on indoor rowing machines. This complements the work students have been doing in curriculum lessons as well as extra-curricular club.

This has been supported by the charity London Youth Rowing, who have provided the use of 4 Concept 2 rowing machines at school as well as coaching support.

The students each got the chance to compete in individual time trial races as well as a team relay event. The standard of competition was extremely high with the pick of the results from Olivia Richards who finished 10th nationally!

Well done to Olivia and all those who took part – all students are welcome to attend rowing club on Monday after school with the possibility of some links to water rowing sessions in the summer term.



National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships



OXFORD UNIVERSITY



Following on from their successful support of a rugby tag event at the Varsity rugby match before Christmas, the Year 9 leadership group were invited to Oxford University to gain an insight into university life at one of the best Universities in the country.

After a brief tour of the legendary Iffley Road sports site where Roger Bannister broke the 4 minute mile barrier and the Oxford University Rugby Club is situated, students were able to attend a question and answer session with one of the Professors who provided a fascinating insight into his journey at Oxford.

After this, students were given a tour of Magdalen College to look at the impressive and historic facilities which the students use to study and relax – we even got to see where some parts of 'Harry Potter' were filmed!

This was followed by a talk from an outreach officer at the

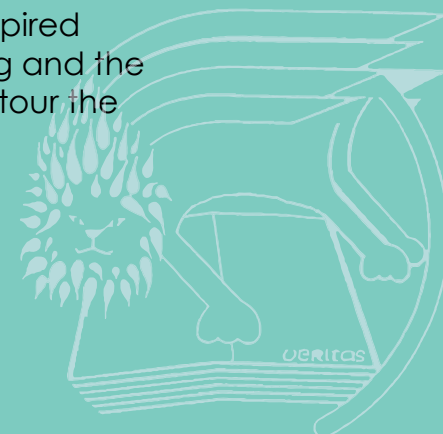
university. She was able to give the students an idea of how Oxford and universities in general, are open to all students regardless of their backgrounds and social status.

This was followed by meeting some members of the Oxford University rugby teams who the students saw play at Twickenham in December. The questions included what courses are being studied and

what grades they needed from school as well as more practical questions like what were their halls of residence like and how did they adapt to moving away from home.

The day concluded with a friendly tag rugby tournament on the university's first team pitch. This has been a fantastic opportunity for these students to develop their leadership skills and sample what university life is like. The students all enjoyed the experience with many commenting on how they had never thought about university but now it is something they are actively considering.

A big thank you to Millie Downes and Sport Inspired who helped to organise the leadership training and the opportunity to tour the University.





Alida Lopes - Campion



Lareina Simons - Clitherow
1st place Year 7/8



Olive Igbokwuwe - Fisher



Charlotte Henry Stumpe
Clitherow



Cressida Ataide - Campion
Amy Lanigan
Valerie Fernandes



Karola Das - Becket



Nadia Lewandowska
Pole



Nadia Urlik - More



Paidi Walsh - Pole



Marlena Zaplata - Becket
1st place Year 9/10

