

VERITAS

St Mark's Catholic School

No. 12 - SUMMER 2016



Step Into Dance

Dance. A sport or an art? In some respects, dance requires the same amount of stamina, commitment, and discipline as other sports. However, at the same time, dance requires creative skill and imagination that expresses themes, emotions and feelings with style and elegance. For us dancers at St Mark's, our dedication and our time practising for months was focused not on this debate, but wholly on proving that we could perform to our very best standard to the last second of our Step Into Dance performance.

On Thursday 5th May, after a long school day, for some students the day was far from over, as it was time for these students to really put their hard work into visible action. At the Grey Coat Hospital School in Westminster, six secondary schools and two Special Educational Needs Schools performed in an event called the Spring Sharings which is an annual series of regional performance events organised by the company Step Into Dance to allow dancers to share what they have been working on with friends and family. This has been my fourth year performing with Step Into Dance, but for many of our students this was their first performance.

One by one each school stepped up to perform; a sense of excitement yet nervousness filled every dancer. There were dances ranging from contemporary to jazz to street dance and each made the audience feel an array of emotions. It was finally our time to perform. As we walked to our starting positions the bright lights hit us and the audience could no longer be seen - even worse for me without my glasses! Our dance piece was called the 'The Plague' choreographed by our dance teacher Rosie, and in my eyes it was very much a story about an eerie and peculiar plague of dance. Our task was to evoke fear in the audience as if we were staring right into their souls.

For four intensive minutes we put our utmost effort into every single move, aiming to execute the routine to perfection. But for me what was most astounding was the support of the audience. If there was any point

in the routine that they particularly enjoyed or thought 'Wow! I want to learn that,' they did not hesitate to voice their opinion with 'Oohs' and 'Ahs'. There were cheers from the audience regardless of whether we knew them on a personal level or not, and there was a real sense of camaraderie throughout the whole night.



After all the performances and a round of pictures were done, it was time for the night to come to an end. Many were congratulated by their families, but I also found myself not only congratulating others but also being congratulated by many performers who I did not know which left my night on an even higher note.



For me, the road to this last performance started years before. I was always interested in dance but I had never had training so I thought I would at least give it a go. Ever since my first lesson I found myself growing and developing skills not only as a dancer but as a more interesting, more confident individual. My dance teacher Rosie definitely had a part in that progression. She may look all nice on the outside but let me tell you, you do not mess with Rosie! When she says do something, you do it, and I have become disciplined because of that.

After my first year of joining Step Into Dance, I was invited to become a Step Into Dance

Ambassador who takes the role of representing Step Into Dance in the local area and also at events across London and Essex. Step Into Dance Ambassadors are described as "a team of confident, reliable and enthusiastic students". Naturally, I was honoured to have been nominated as I most likely did not have the qualities mentioned above at the time; however I was keen to get involved. From the first training day in 2013 to now I have participated in several events from public speaking talks to writing letters to local MPs to helping out at 'Step Live!' and 'Step Into Battle'. Over the years I have gained so many skills and met so many people with a love for dance that I have built friendships with that will hopefully last for many years to come.

So what's next? Over my time at St Mark's I have been devoted to dance and I encourage all to take part in dance regardless of your ability. Lessons take place in the studio from 3:05pm to 4:45pm. There is also a chance to go to Step Live! Groups get the chance to audition to be a part of the prestigious end-of-year event, which offers the chance for the most dedicated and hard-working dancers to perform on a professional stage. It is always an exhilarating and exciting evening of youth dance. With a new school year coming up, take the chance and give it a try!



Chloe Ouse Year 12

HeadLine



As we reach the end of another academic year can I thank parents for the tremendous support that you give to the School. It is always a pleasure for school staff to meet with parents and discuss the progress and well-being of your children. Most of these

conversations are very positive but even when there are concerns to be addressed the strong sense of partnership between teachers and parents is very evident. We are very fortunate that the vast majority of students at St Mark's are well behaved, cheerful and hard working. They want to fulfil their God given potential and they are a real credit to their parents.

The 2015-16 academic year has been very successful despite the increasing financial pressures on schools. The range of enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities remains very impressive. Since the summer half term the School has run trips to Rome, Madrid, Paris, Ypres, a Year 9 Retreat, a Geography Field Trip, an Art Exhibition, Shakespeare for Year 10, Duke of Edinburgh weekends, a visit to the Natural History Museum, a Gospel experience for the Choir, Rock School, a range of sporting activities and a Sixth Form Charity Walk. In the last week of term we have the Sports Awards' Evening, Sports Day, and Activities Day. Thank you to staff for all the time that goes in to providing students with these tremendous opportunities.

I hope you have an enjoyable summer.

Paul Enright, Headteacher

The Veritas Team

We thank our students in Year 10 and the Sixth Form for their time, determination and commitment in attending Veritas meetings and contributing articles and photographs. The Veritas team members for this edition are:

Katie Jenkins, Vianca Santillan, Aidan Bradshaw, Nicole Ahlawat and Kyle Quadra.

Front cover: Dance students JOSHUA HERNANDES (Year 8) AND ALEKSANDRA SZOSTAK (Year 11)

Faith In Action

Sixth Form Charity Walk

On 6th of July, around 270 Sixth Form students within the consortium of St Mark's, Gunnersbury and Gumley House Schools successfully undertook an 11.5km charity walk. The walk started at 2pm in the afternoon with a bright and sunny atmosphere. The journey started at St Mark's School; students then walked through local areas such as Hounslow Heath, Crane Park and Bushy Park and finally ended at St John's Church in Hampton Wick.



The walk was calm and enjoyable due to the pleasant weather, and walking in groups made the journey feel not too long. Within two hours the journey was over and we were presented with snacks and drinks to reward us for the walk.

The impact the walk had on the local community was also very good to hear about. I was personally approached by a senior citizen during my walk who was curious about what we were doing in our distinctive green T-shirts. After a brief explanation the lady was pleased to hear that we were doing something good to help others. Events like this are important in spreading our school values and really help to establish our influence within the local community.

Debbie Mawson (Year 12)



Storehouse

Within our Faith in Action class, 12 MWA, we had aimed to collect a total of 1,000 tin cans for the Storehouse Project in Faltham but thanks to the absolute dedication and charitable feats shown by our fellow students we were able to collect a final total of 2,857 tin cans which we hope will help many local families.



Students within our school showed their kind-hearted nature by supporting our cause. 9 Campton deserve a special mention as they brought a total of 500 cans in, with Tom Moreland alone contributing over 200!

Thank you to everybody who contributed.



St Mark's Big Sleep Out

Our Form class of 12TDF had the opportunity of sleeping out in the cold in the hopes of raising money for The Passage, a homelessness charity based on the teachings of St Vincent De Paul. We raised the money by asking people to sponsor us a minimum of £20 to sleep out.

The sleep out started at 7pm and we were all delighted that the rain had gone and the sun was in our midst. Everyone gathered in the quad area of the Sixth Form building with bags filled with essentials and sleeping bags. To pass the time, our Form and the teachers found many ways to keep ourselves entertained, from playing football to enjoying card games. The presence of rain did not frighten us and as soon as it left we were back outside playing until the sun went down.

When the night closed in, we decided where we should sleep and soon we started to get into our sleeping bags. Falling asleep was easier said than done, however, with most of us looking at the stars, talking, seeing shooting stars and some even singing Bob Marley's "One Love" till the late hours of the night.

After a noisy and uncomfortable night, we woke up to the sound of seagulls and bright sunshine, which soon got taken over by the rain. Immediately we took our things and headed inside. At 6 in the morning, we all went our separate ways: by the bus or by getting picked up. The whole evening was a success and gave us a small glimpse of what the homeless experience on a daily basis. We would like to thank Ms Reid, Mr Haley and Ms Duguid Farrant who gave up their own time to join us, and also to the people who sponsored us.

Liam Diaz (Year 12)



St Mark's Governing Body



As you know St Mark's is part of DOWAT (Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust). This encompasses Catholic schools across London and Hertfordshire. Inevitably more Catholic schools are likely to move to academy status in the coming years which means the multi academy structure we have in place is likely to be replaced.

Discussions have begun about the formation of geographical Trusts within Westminster Diocese. It is early days but it is likely that we will at some point in the future be part of a West London based Diocesan Trust. This possible change will have little visible impact on how the school is run on a day to day basis and the light touch of the Multi Academy Trust is the principle of how the school will be overseen by any future body.

Whatever changes might occur in governance structures there is still the looming issue of restricted financing for schools. Ofsted have recognised that DOWAT has one of the best run Trusts nationally but the last year has been difficult financially and the school has had to make a number of decisions around costs and budgeting which in a more generous funding environment would not have been necessary. Throughout the last year the key driving principle has to be to maintain the quality of the student experience.

However, as we move forward that is becoming more and more challenging and once again I would ask parents, if circumstances allow, to ensure they contribute to the School Fund and indeed if you can offer slightly more than the minimum on a monthly basis that would be wonderful. St Mark's asks parents for a much smaller contribution than any comparable London Catholic School. Please do fill in the forms that will be sent home in September if you have not already signed up.

Enjoy your summer.

Dr Kevin Sullivan, Chair of Governors

Young Reporters' Scheme: The Guardian

On 5th May, a group of Year 10 and Year 12 students visited the London Headquarters of The Guardian in King's Cross. Many of the students had expressed an interest in journalism through taking part in the Young Reporters' Scheme and writing for Veritas, so this was a fantastic opportunity for them to apply their skills and create newspaper articles using The Guardian's equipment alongside professionals.



Once we arrived, we were given a detailed presentation on how newspapers work in both digital and print formats and we were shown how to structure our articles and use The Guardian's hi tech equipment using live news and pictures sent through that day. Working in groups we produced a range of headlines with Donald Trump, Boris Johnson and the fire in Vauxhall dominating the headlines.

All in all, it was an extremely informative day and gave everyone a taste of what a journalist's work is like.

M. Biddisford

Young Filmmaker Winner: Film Premiere!

Filming 'Jasmine' was a great new experience. We filmed through the first four days of the Easter holidays with a real crew including a cinematographer and sound engineers who used professional cameras and mics. Obviously the actors I cast were there too. It was really nice to meet them all again and it was evident they actually took time to learn their lines.



For the first couple of days, we were filming in the restaurant, Jolly's in Whitton. Here, we filmed all my restaurant scenes which included the adults and teenagers, and even extras (including Harsh, a Year 11 St Mark's musician).

For the last days, we filmed the house scenes. During these scenes I needed more extras as there was a party scene, so a lot of my friends came to help. It became quite difficult to film because there were so many of us in one room, but it was also funny to film in silence as sound gets added in post production. All in all, I thought the acting was amazing during the whole of the filming process.

A few weeks after filming Producer and Young Filmmaker mentor Richard and I had meetings to edit the film together. Additionally, we made a trailer. I was also set assignments such as choosing what sound to go with some clips and inviting people to the screening.

The premiere screening of 'Jasmine' is on July 14th in Brentford Watermans. It will be exciting to see both my film on the big screen and the audience's reaction to it.

Veritas Student Year 12

Rock School Concert



The Rock School Concert show was a tremendous success, with a range of performances from lower school and upper school bands.

All the students involved have shown how much dedication, practice and bravery it takes to perform at such a high standard. Josh Ferguson (Year 12) dazzled us all with his outstanding drumming.

The concert was an unforgettable evening that I hope all the students involved with will remember for years to come.

After 11 years of outstanding contribution to music in the School, Mr McKean has left St Mark's. All the students were very sad to see him go and gave him a standing ovation at the end of the concert. Mr Martin gave Mr McKean heartfelt thanks and wished him all the best in the future, adding that it has been an absolute pleasure to work with such an outstanding professional.

The recordings of the concert will be on the school SoundCloud account by the end of term.



Year 7 Enrichment Programme

Learning Greek

My involvement was to learn the Greek alphabet and a few other words from the Modern Greek language. Last year as part of enrichment the students learnt Mandarin, so I wanted to learn another language which was equally interesting, unique and challenging. All the participants in this year's programme were asked to present their projects in front of the Headteacher and the senior staff, and I was asked to recite the entire Greek alphabet from memory! I was even more nervous because Ms Murphy, a Classics expert with knowledge of Greek, was present and I did not want to embarrass myself. Luckily all went

well and the weeks of effort I put into learning did not go to waste.

I went to the British Museum recently and I was so excited because I could read part of the Rosetta Stone and some of the ancient Greek mosaics.

Here is a picture of me standing next to the Rosetta Stone. I thoroughly enjoyed this project and would hope to do something similar in the near future.

Melissa Zapata



Little Kickers

Our enterprise was called Little Kickers. This was a programme for Year 2 pupils of St Michael's and St Martin's to experience football training during their PE lessons from former St Michael's and St Martin's pupils now at St Mark's. This programme ran for three weeks and it explored a variety of football skills and techniques.

Little Kickers was a great opportunity for Year 2 pupils and it was run by Ethan Murphy-Amarteillo, David Zablonoski and Ramon Rose. As former pupils of St Michael's and St Martin's, we really wanted to give back what we were given by the wonderful Mr Bell. Sports is a big part of our life and their school.

Ethan, Ramon and David (Year 2)



Photo Shoot

Our group decided to host a photo shoot for charity.

It has been more difficult than expected and we had to overcome several problems such as maximizing profits, transferring photos and pitching our ideas to the senior staff. We chose to do a fundraising activity because we know that charity and helping the community is important here at St Mark's, and we challenged ourselves to come up with an original idea to raise money.



The idea of a photo shoot appealed to us because of its originality, and it gave the recipients the opportunity of a keepsake. For example, the Year 7's got to capture a memory of the friends they made in their first year at St Mark's. We used our own money to buy props so as not to impact our profit. After all, we were doing this to make a difference to someone's life, so every penny counts.

We would like to thank everyone who helped make the enrichment charity event possible: Leanne Antido, and Mary Egan, for dedicating their spare time to help give us ideas and feedback on our work as well as contributing to buying the props; Dr Cooke, for organising the programme; and Mr Guegan, for allowing us to use the A level cameras.

We really enjoyed working in the Enrichment Programme and would love for the opportunity to continue. Thank you to everyone who supported us and donated! We really appreciate it and hope you liked your photos!

LeAnn Saxon, Scarlett Clarke and Insha Rajabzadeh

Cookery Club

As part of the Year 7 Enrichment programme we formed a Cookery Club. The planning and organisation of the club helped us develop skills of leadership, teamwork, creativity and resilience. We spent quite some time and energy creating recipes for dishes that would be fun to make and delicious too!

Over the course of the Club, which took place in the Food Technology kitchens on Thursdays after school until 4.45 pm, we made: hot cross buns, brownies, iced biscuits, and a spiced tofu dish. As many of our recipes were sweet, we experimented with natural sugars. Despite experiencing some problems in the early stages our commitment to the club continued undiminished. When we got cooking it was enormous fun and as each of us had a different skill level, style and flair, we ended up learning from each other. Once we had finished making our food, we tried to be as creative as possible in presenting our dishes.

We would like to say a big thank you to Ms McIntyre who kindly supervised our Club, taught us some techniques and how to prepare food safely, and let us use the equipment and kitchens.

It was hard work running the Cooking Club but we loved it, and we hope to be putting our aprons on and rolling up our sleeves again soon.

Nora Sharma, Lucy Elliott, Anika Lomax-Smith, and Anabel Gilman



Student Website

We decided to create a website from scratch. The Student Device was a project we worked on for a long time; all year in fact.

Our inspiration was the School Website. We realised that students needed support with revision and homework and thought that a website about education and homework could help other friends of ours with their studies.

The project only started with three people, but as our website developed other enrichment members found interest in this area. Through the process, our website crashed many times and we would lose many valuable saves. Thanks to the help of many others, as well as our own problem solving, we were able to fix and update our website regularly. Clearly other people in the school also have interest in our website.

The Site has a lot of educational content but in the form of videos and games, not just in writing. The games vary from Art to English and we also have a direct link to Newsround and Bitesize. We also have monthly videos on a specific subject - our latest has been about origami - the videos are recorded by Hugo, created by Callum and edited by Jack and Luke.

The Student Device Creators (Jack Kennedy, Nathan Wimalasekera, Nicholas Murzello and Luke Mazarelo)



Sports After School

During the past year, we planned to run an after school Sports Club and on the 18th June our big plan got into action thanks to the Year 7 Enrichment Programme. We had to pitch our ideas to Mr Enright as well as the Deputy Heads, and once approved we visited Forms and created posters to advertise and generate interest in the club. We had over 40 students wanting to participate, but we could only take 16.

The Club lasted 10 weeks and we included a variety of sports - some familiar such as football, tennis, netball, and rugby - and some different sports such as fencing! It was a great way to end a Monday at school. Sports After School would not have happened without the help of Mr Wallis and Dr Cooke, so a very big thank you to them and all students who took part in our club.

Ankita Manojkumar and Gabriel Phipps



Jack Petchey Awards Evening

Once again St Mark's were well represented at the annual Jack Petchey Awards Evening held at the Watermans' Art Centre in Brentford. This special evening provides both students and parents with the opportunity to celebrate the wonderful achievement of young people. The event is always lively and the entertainment matches the loud atmosphere.

Jonathan Bartholomew was awarded his medal for leadership in sport, Claire Wiener for organising and supporting Year 7 Girls' Football, Gabrielle Simon-Phillips for her work supporting STEM Club and Science Club, Jaden Vales for his great involvement in everything and his active participation in Chess Club, Valeria Atik for all her charitable work and Jessica Ullisse for her contribution to Drama Club. Earlier winners present on the evening were Snovia Fernandes and Sebastian Fox.

The Award winners spent their money on a variety of projects at school, ranging from a bowling machine in cricket to updated chess equipment.



Mr Hrywniak also received a Leader Award for his work over the last 10 years in organising the charity walk and raising tens of thousands of pounds for charity.

Well done to all!

Higher Education Fair & Evening

On Wednesday 22nd June Year 12 students had an opportunity to attend a Higher Education Fair in the Main Hall. This had been organised by Mr Longuehayes. Representatives from twenty-one universities attended the Fair this year. They demonstrated that there are so many institutions to choose from and so many courses. A number of Russell Group universities were represented including Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, King's College London, Leeds, LSE and Southampton. We were absolutely delighted with the engagement of students at this event. The feedback from the University representatives at the end of the Fair was extremely complimentary. They were impressed with the interest students were showing; their informed questions and their politeness. The annual Higher Education Fair coincides with the start of the UCAS process for Year 12 students and the talk that followed was an opportunity for parents and students to hear about the application process and all the important deadlines.



So this is what students had to say:

"I got a real insight into what university is really like as I could speak to people who had been students there."

"It gave me the kick start I needed. At the start of Year 12 I was sure I did not want to go university. I have now completely changed my mind and I am looking at the UCAS website everyday!"

"They were able to explain what the offers really mean. I felt I was getting helpful insider information."

"I had my questions answered."

"I enjoyed getting prospectuses."

"It has motivated me to do things over the summer that will help me with my application."

The free stationary also turned out to be very popular!



Year 9 Ypres Trip



The Year 9 trip to Belgium was enjoyable for everyone that went on it. First, we all visited the Menin Gate where on the wall it had 54,896 soldiers' names that fought in World War One, and it was beautiful. After, we visited the Tyne Cot cemetery in Ypres which used to be a German front line in World War One and some German machine guns posts are still there today. It was really interesting to visit the cemetery and to see who tried their hardest to fight for our country, and it was excellent as we got time to think of them and remember how different our country could be now without them.

Finally, before our amazing and incredible day ended, we went to see the trenches. We went into one trench which in World War One was used for communication and soldiers used it to get to the front line. The trenches were the most funny part of the day for Year 9 as it had been raining and the trenches were really muddy and wet! It was a great and wonderful experience for all of us as the trenches must have



been really awful for the soldiers and nothing like we all expected.

Overall, for Year 9 the trip to Belgium was really amazing, and we would all go again!

Lance Wise Year 9



Shakespeare in School

Year 8: A Midsummer Morning of Fun!

On April 13th, the Kerry Sullivan Theatre was buzzing as Year 8 students took part in performing scenes from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' alongside professional actors from 'The Sky Blue Theatre Company'.



The actors commented on how motivated Year 8 were and were very complimentary about some of the acting skills they witnessed. Performances were excellent across the board and, as well as learning a lot about Shakespeare's classic comedy, everybody enjoyed themselves and had a fantastic time! As one student in Year 8 pointed out, 'Performing the play like this really brings it to life. You learn that it so much more than just words on a page!'



Year 10: Much Ado About Nothing

On the 15th of June, the students of Year 10 were fortunate enough to take part in a 'Much Ado About Nothing' play/workshop carried out by the 'Sky Blue Theatre Co'.

The play is generally considered as one of Shakespeare's best comedies due to the combining elements of robust hilarity with more serious meditations on honour, shame and court politics.

The workshop was soon underway when a sense of excitement filled the room when it was discovered that students were to be chosen from the crowd to play a key character in the Shakespeare tale. The roles of key characters as well as their purpose were closely explored throughout the play, which included the relationship of Benedick and Beatrice who were tricked into confessing their love for each other, with Claudio simultaneously being tricked into rejecting Hero at the altar on the erroneous belief that she has been unfaithful. The modern touch to the play produced many giggles, but there was still a lot of information that could be taken and embedded into the minds of the Year group which would be required as part of their GCSE English Literature Course.



The play overall was a great experience for all which touched upon numerous key points. Troy Reader of 10 Beckett, who played the Vicar of the tale, exclaimed that 'The workshop company performance was very intriguing and entertaining, especially for me as I was one of the characters, but I know that everyone was engaged'. Year 10 left the School Theatre with sheer joy on their faces, which was an unusual sight on a Wednesday morning!

Patrick Quinn Year 10

Gardening Club: Rocket Science!

Gardening Club got off to a slow start this year; however in the Spring term we reached new heights when we participated in an experiment with 8,300 other schools across the country run by The Royal Horticultural Society Campaign for School Gardening in conjunction with the UK Space Agency and the European Space Agency.

2kg of seeds had travelled to space on the Soyuz 44S rocket in September 2015. They had been stored in microgravity for six months, returning to earth with astronaut Scott Kelly in March 2016. Our mission was to grow the two packets of seeds without knowing which ones had been in space and report our findings back to the RHS.



Tim Peake on the ISS with the seeds

In April we were sent two packets, each containing seeds. In one were one hundred seeds that had been on the International Space station with Tim Peake, the first British ESA astronaut, and in the other one hundred seeds that had remained on Earth. The seed packets were colour coded red and blue, however we were not to be told which packet contained which seeds until the national results have been published.



Can you guess what we were going to grow? Rocket plants!

Erin Sadler (Year 9)

We planted our 200 rocket seeds on Tuesday 19 April under strict conditions. Shannon and Lily, Gardening Club veterans from Year 10 were called up as reinforcements, and we also had friends of Gardening Club joining in. Ms Kimble kindly gave us a sunny window sill in Lab 5 as a home for the seeds. We had to ensure that the conditions for growth were exactly the same for each of the eight trays of seeds and we had to do proper scientific randomising when taking our measurements. Each seed in each tray was numbered and we had seven measurements to take over the next 35 days. The whole team did sterling work visiting the seeds each day to make sure the trays were rotated and watered evenly with Artur, Daniel and Kieran doing regular quality control.

Some seeds germinated in each of our trays but not all of them. Our seeds also did not put on sturdy growth, but we did manage to grow enough to record our results.

Our experiment finished 35 days later on 23 May 2016 when we submitted our results to the national data base.

We thought that it was the blue seeds that had been to space – this was not decided very scientifically as we really could not see a great deal of difference in the growth overall! We then had to wait until 22 June to find out which seeds had actually been to space. Eventually we were sent a video link in which Tim Peake revealed that it was indeed the blue seeds which had been to the ISS.



It was great fun being part of a national experiment, and we are looking forward to hearing more in the future about the possible effects of microgravity and space travel on seed germination and growth. The results will help to give scientists a better picture of the potential for astronauts to grow their own food to sustain them on long-term missions.

In the meantime we will carry on with more earthy gardening.

The Rocket Scientists – Artur Duber, Daniel Glady, David Brown, Lily Peake, Kieran and Artur





Year 11 Prom

On Friday 13th May, Year 11 celebrated their time at St Mark's with a wonderful Leavers' mass followed by their Prom.

The mass enabled the Year Group, tutors, PPLs and other members of staff to reflect and be thankful for their 5 years at St Mark's. It was also a time to thank all those members of staff who had worked so hard to help, support and encourage this year group.

Later on the young men arrived suited and booted and the young ladies in a fabulous array of Prom dresses. Students and staff enjoyed watching each arrival in the many impressive modes of transport ranging from a Rolls Royce to a stretch limo. They went on the dance the night away at the disco (despite a few sore feet), cheer each other with the award ceremonies, 'Ooh' and 'Aah' at the fireworks, enjoy having their photos taken and trying their luck at the casino, then leave tired but very happy.

It was a fantastic way to conclude their time together as a Year group. I would like to wish them all the very best for their future.

God bless.

Mr Mould





Year 13 Prom

Year 13 formally marked the end of their further education at St Mark's with their Prom on Friday 13th June. Celebrating as a community that has grown and matured together in the melting pot that is the 6th form is always a joy. The evening began with a three course meal, followed by the hotly contested Prom awards. Singing Happy 18th Birthday to Garth K followed, and the evening was rounded off with the dance floor being opened.

A week later we said our goodbyes at the Leavers' Liturgy. This special occasion allowed the Sixth Form community, both staff and students, to give thanks for the journey they have shared. Readings were delivered by the student body, and a vote of thanks was given by retiring Head Boy and Head Girl Vonn Abebe and Geneva Virasami. Mr Longuehaye concluded the event by recalling his experience with the Sixth Form, many of whom he took on a memorable trip to Warwick Castle back in Year 7.

Over the years I have worked with many students and I can say that once again as my time as Head of Year 13 comes to an end you have been a wonderful group of young people to work with. So many of you have done so much to improve the lives of others both in our local community and further afield, through your charity work and campaigns. Do not ever forget that you have the ability to change the fortune of those less fortunate than yourself. Many thanks to the students who gave up their time to support the community of St Mark's, we are very grateful.

I know each of you has a brilliant future ahead of you. All you have to do is reach out and take it. Live each moment, and be continually open to change and growth. Gently expect the best of yourselves and others. Remember that love is the most powerful thing in the world and allow God to be close.

God Bless you always.

M. Jones



IET Faraday Challenge Day

Teams from each Form took part in the IET Faraday Challenge. The students were given the opportunity to research, design and make prototype solutions to genuinely tough engineering problems.

The teams were tasked with programming the new BBC micro:bit computers to solve a real world problem in the categories of home, leisure or sport. They

had to manage a budget, produce design documentation, program their micro:bit and pitch their ideas to a panel of experts.

All of the teams had fantastic ideas but the final prize went to More, winning a Trophy for their House and Amazon vouchers for each member of the team.



Lord Speaker's Peers In Schools Outreach Programme

St Mark's hosted a talk from a member of the House of Lords, Lord Young of Norwood Green, on Friday 29th April. Prior to entering the House of Lords, Lord Young, then Anthony Young, had a distinguished career, including his time as General Secretary of the Communication Workers Union and President of the Trade Union Congress. In the Lords, Lord Young served as a minister in the last Labour government. During his visit, Lord Young met with Sixth Form Government and Politics students for an hour to talk about his work and career. This was followed by a question and answer session on various aspects of the parliamentary process and life at Westminster generally, during which the Year 12 and Year 13 students impressed our visitor with their knowledge and

passion for the subject.

Dr Callaghan, teacher of Government and Politics said, "This was a fantastic opportunity for our students to interact with someone who knows the parliamentary system inside out, as it can sometimes seem far removed from their daily lives."

The visit was arranged through the Lord Speaker's 'Peers in Schools' programme, which has been running across the UK since 2007 and has so far involved around 75,000 young people. This continuing outreach programme sends members of the House of Lords into schools/academies and colleges across the country to give talks in support of the citizenship curriculum.

Junior Maths Challenge

The annual UK Junior Maths Challenge was sat towards the end of April by about a quarter of a million Year 7 and 8 students around the country, including 126 from St Mark's.

They had to answer 25 multiple-choice, non-calculator questions (some of them very taxing indeed) within an hour.

I am delighted to report that 51 of our students earned a Bronze, Silver or Gold certificate. In addition, a further 25 students missed out on the Bronze award by only one correct answer, which bodes well for their attempt next year.

Congratulations should go to all our students who

challenged themselves in this competition. A special mention should go to Scarlett Clarke (Silver) for coming top in Year 7, and to Ciaran Collins and Sebastian Sparkes of Year 8 for their Gold awards.

Thanks should also be extended to their teachers who helped organise and invigilate this year's Challenge and so ensured its smooth running.

If any parents/guardians would like to see just how smart their kids are, this year's and previous years' question papers can be accessed on-line at 'UKMT'. And if you think they're too straight-forward for you, how about putting yourself through a Kangaroo or Olympiad paper?

Mr Galt

Kingston University Students Visit Year 12



On the 28th of June, two Chemistry PhD students from Kingston University visited the Year 12 Chemistry classes to conduct the workshop on 'Spectroscopy in a suitcase' – an outreach activity supported by the Royal Society of Chemistry.

The workshop is primarily to provide students with the opportunity to learn about Spectroscopy through hands-on experience as well as covering principles of spectroscopic techniques. The activities were based on real – life contexts to demonstrate the application of the techniques. We analysed the given samples for specific functional groups in the chemical and the spectrum was displayed on the lap top screen. It was a particularly interesting talk, giving us the ability to use the machine for ourselves, and really bringing the textbook knowledge to life in a fun and informative manner.

The students also answered our questions about university life and study in general. They also elaborated upon their own personal research projects, which was very illuminating, especially for those considering science degrees in the future.

We would like to thank the Chemistry department for organising this event, and hope that Chemists in future years will have the same opportunities we did.

Garus Romila (Year 12)

Chemistry Hydrogel Experiment

A group of students from Year 8 were chosen to take part in the annual Global Experiment on 'Hydrogels' conducted by the Royal Society of Chemistry.

For this experiment we used cloth samples and different brands of nappies and Hydrogel granules. It was a two part experiment which was carried out over the course of four weeks. The first part was how much water can pieces of Hydrogel-filled nappy absorb compared to an identical sized cloth sample. We carried out the experiment as groups and found the average of the volume of water that can be absorbed by these samples.

The second part was to find out how quickly Hydrogel granules absorb water. Will this change over time? To investigate this, we put a cap full of Hydrogel granules into a one litre bottle and added 100ml of water and timed how long it took to absorb all that water. We repeated this process by adding 100ml of water each time until it took over 20 minutes for Hydrogels to fully absorb the added water. Using the data from all the groups we found the average change in rate of absorption of water by Hydrogels. All of this data was input on the Royal Society's website to compare our data with the students all over the world.

The experiment was an interesting task that tested



our patience and ability to follow instructions with accuracy and precision. We gave up an hour of our time after school every Tuesday for the experiment, which proved to be something really interesting and exciting once we saw the end result. I recommend that next year, if asked, students should rise to the challenge as it is a great opportunity to see how much fun chemistry really is!

Leon De Costa (Year 8)

Madrid Trip

A few weeks ago, 43 students who study Spanish were fortunate enough to go on a residential trip to Madrid. It is safe to say that everyone had a great time.

During our stay, we looked at the wondrous culture and traditions of Spain, tried their exquisite foods, enjoyed the weather and both learned and attempted to speak in their native tongue! We went on trips to the Santiago Bernabeu football stadium and stood in awe at just how huge it was, but leave it to us to make it through the entire stadium tour, only to get lost in the gift shop.



Also, we went to the Parque de Atracciones- and I think we can all agree that the girls were much braver than the boys when it came to rollercoasters. We also visited multiple parks where we could just relax and feed on endless tubs of ice cream.

Overall it was a great trip and we would like to thank all the teachers who made the trip possible and managed to put up with us! We really appreciate it, especially their karaoke skills on the coach back to school!

Scott Chiu (Year 7)

Paris Trip

As you read this article, 34 Year 7 students will have just returned from a trip to Paris.

Here are a few comments from what some students are looking forward to the trip.

Nadia: "On the French trip, I am looking forward to seeing beautiful Paris and all its wonderful sights such as The Eiffel Tower. I am also looking forward to practising my French speaking which I have learnt this year."

Nikki adds: "When I go to Paris, I want to have fun and enjoy my time with my friends. I really want to go to Disney Land and I want to try new food like snails!"

Megan says: "I am really excited to go to the Louvre as I will see all the paintings."

Finally Ceara and Claudia both say: "We are very excited and can't wait to go."



Year 10 Geography Trip to Hengistbury Head

Not all in one go, of course, but over three trips to conduct primary investigation work for the Controlled Assessment write up. Mr Rogers and Ms Morillon did learn one important technique this year, thanks to Ms Hogan. She advised that an apple is much better as a float than an orange for measuring the rate of longshore drift. Hmmmm, the jury is still out on that rather technical matter, but there is always next year for more empirical research!

The weather varied but all three trips were successful and at the end of each weary day there was always the ice cream and homemade cake to look forward to at the Hiker Cafe.

Mr Rogers



Rome Trip

On Tuesday 21st June, 40 Year 8 students went to Rome on a school trip for four days. The food was amazing and it was fantastic to have a taste of Italian food actually in Italy!

On the first day, we visited the Catacombs. Molly said, "I really enjoyed going through the catacombs because we had learned about the symbols and the catacombs before this trip".

On the second day, we went to see the Pope. It was amazing as we all got very close to him and we also got some great photos and videos of him going round the square in his Pope Mobile. Ms Jackson looked like she was going to faint at one point just as the Pope came round and everyone was so excited. We also went to the Vatican Museum, the Sistine Chapel, St Peter's Basilica and then we visited Castel di Sant Angelo.

We ended the trip by visiting the Trevi Fountain, Piazza Navona and the markets. The Trevi Fountain was beautiful and extraordinary and when we were

there we each threw a coin into the fountain and made a wish. A couple even proposed at the fountain! At Piazza Navona, there was a band and we got up and danced to the music. We all started doing the Macarena and soon, the band changed their tune to the Macarena. It was a great way to end a brilliant day!

On the last day, we were all worn out and the teachers took us on an amazing open top bus tour. We were very lucky to see all the astonishing monuments and buildings again before we departed from Rome. After lunch, some stayed and relaxed at the Hotel before our flight whereas some visited the nearby market to get some more souvenirs. Everyday it was very hot with temperatures from 30° Celsius to 38° Celsius.

All in all, it was a brilliant trip and everyone enjoyed it thoroughly. Thank you to Mr Ragg, Ms Duiguid-Farrant, Mr O'Neill and Ms Jackson for organising a hugely amazing trip.

Gabriella Estrocinio and Francesca Medini (Year 8)



Year 9 Retreat

During the week beginning 6th June, all Year 9 students have their retreats.

The day Clitherow set off began bright and early with a ride to Wintershall Estate in Surrey for our Retreat. The novelty of a ride in an unusual coach soon wore off when the journey took more than an hour.

On arrival, our Retreat began with a steep trek to a building at the top. The happiness on people's face was evident when the beautiful building came into sight. We spent the day completing different activities with our forms; a meditation session, the Stations of the Cross and a game involving teamwork. The Retreat gave everybody the opportunity to reflect, build our faith and improve friendships away from school and in a place surrounded by spectacular scenery.

The journey back to school was a much quieter experience as everybody was much more tired than in the morning. Overall it was a very enjoyable day which helped us reflect and strengthen our faith.

Priyanka Gokhale (Year 9)



Tate Modern

On the 5th and 6th July St Mark's Year 10 artists made visits to Tate Modern to explore the new Switch House extension. There they visited the viewing level on the tenth floor to see 360 degree views of the



city. The galleries newly hung collections in both the Switch House and Boiler House will provide inspiration for their coursework in Year 11.



Natural History Museum

On 20th June, the Year 10 Triple Science group visited the Natural History Museum in London. It was a trip which allowed us to consolidate and enhance our knowledge on Biology and what we had learnt during the year. The Museum exhibits a vast range of research and items about the Earth's natural history. From the dinosaurs to mineral structures, there was a lot to keep us busy.

Once we arrived and finally escaped the horrendous rain, we were allowed to split into groups and explore the museum for ourselves. The museum is split into three different zones: blue, red and green. We all rushed through the museum, desperately filling in our booklets on different facts and figures. My

favourite area was the Darwin Centre's Cocoon. This was a much quieter area where visitors could see hundreds of specimens from beetles to huge tarantulas. There was also an opportunity to talk to a scientist about their work but unfortunately they were not available at the time.

The trip was extremely beneficial because it allowed us to learn in an environment other than a classroom for once. It was very interesting and there were various activities to take part in.

Overall it was a wonderful experience and I would definitely encourage others to go and visit as well.

Nicole Akram (Year 10)

Year 10 British Airways Trip

On 8th June, Year 10 Business students spent the day at British Airways Education Centre at Waterside. When we arrived we were greeted by Suzanne Newell, our leader for the day and Victoria, a member of the cabin crew.



We had a fun-filled and interactive day; everyone volunteered to take part in different activities. In the morning four volunteers became part of the cabin crew and demonstrated the safety procedures and some were asked to become stewards which required customer service skills. In groups we took part in a quiz that highlighted the importance of social media within British Airways.

Later in the day we were given a tour by cabin crew members through their £300 million Head Office at Waterside. As part of the tour we were shown their working environment and the facilities staff had ac-

cess to, such as a gym and a hairdressing salon. We were taken to the museum which had model planes and old British Airways cabin crew uniforms. There were examples of first class seats and we learnt about the prices of different tickets.

In the afternoon we were given a challenge to come up with a social media campaign for British Airways. The objective was to attract the attention of potential customers online with the idea of increasing sales of flights and holidays. We worked in groups and presented our ideas to Suzanne who gave us individual feedback on how to improve.



It was a very enjoyable and educational day with lots of students coming back to school interested in a future career working for B.A.

Adeline Joseph and Monica Marques (Year 10)

DoE Silver



With threats of storms proving inaccurate, the DoE silver practice weekend was enjoyable and marginally sunny.

Setting out on Saturday we were to undergo a 40km trek across the two days, sleeping in tents and cooking our own dinner in the evening and breakfast the following morning with all ingredients, equipment and utensils loaded in the hiking bags we hauled. Though camp food can trigger images of dehydrated dinners with a side of Heinz beans, our menus included the likes of Mexican chicken, blueberry and syrup pancakes and haloumi.

In classic camping protocol, a campfire and marshmallows also featured - the warmth a necessity in the low evening temperatures. However, the romanticism of it all, which we are well accustomed to through films or endless travel blogs, was somewhat tainted by the reality of fully blackened marshmal-

lows which frequently caught alight..... I am yet to master the skill of marshmallow roasting! Nonetheless it was a pleasant evening.



The assessed walk is yet to come, despite signs of practice walk blisters lingering to this day, and the sight of barren potato fields bringing a shudder. In preparation for this we have all participated in three sections of activity (physical, skill and volunteering) which are to be assessed alongside the walk. These are undertaken as a means of personal achievement and development, not only a chance to push yourself but improve time organisation.

Akhawad Pipl (Year 12)



DoE Bronze

After eight months of hard work and sheer dedication, the Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh students finally completed their assessed expeditions. During the 18th and 19th of June, we used our compass skills, map reading talents and team work to navigate our way around Corfe Castle, Dorset.

In order to complete it, we walked 24 kilometres, cooked our own meals and camped overnight. The teams worked extremely hard together to support and motivate each other. Team work was vital in order for the walk to be successful. Despite the horrific rain, fog and blisters we endured, we all carried on with high morale and a positive spirit.

Once we arrived back at school at 9pm, we all rushed home as soon as possible to recover from the long and difficult weekend, ready to face the week ahead.

Thank you to all the teachers, students and my team

who worked incredibly hard to make this weekend a success. I definitely would encourage other students to participate in this rewarding and fulfilling experience in the future. There were many unforgettable memories created that weekend. However, my advice is that it is not for the faint-hearted!

Nicole Akram (Year 10)



GCSE Product Design



Maya Nicholson



Matthew Emil



Megan Marsh



Luke Young



Klaudia Lipa



Virtue Igbokwu



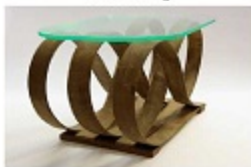
Brandon Jethwa



Caden D'Gama



Chris Holt



Adriana Almeida



Veronika Palys



James Englefield



Fabio Gonsalves



Daniel O'brien



Kyle Stonely



Lionel Jadunath



Chloe Guerin



Aiko Monteiro Santos

Sports Awards

On Monday 11th July parents, students and teachers came together to celebrate the sporting achievements of the very talented students of St Mark's.

The evening celebrates and recognises the impressive achievement of the students in sport. The evening provided a summary of the School's very successful sporting year, with the Girls' Rounders team in Year 7 crowned Borough Champions, alongside the Year 7 and Year 9 Boys' Football Teams. The Year 9 Netball team achieved the Borough Double for the second year running – a huge achievement.

Each student who has represented the School received a certificate for their performances. Special awards were given to the most valuable player for Football, Rugby, Basketball, Rounders, Cricket and Netball for their outstanding performances over the year. St Mark's athletes were recognised with School Records and Borough Sports successes.

The Sports Stars of the year were applauded for their sporting talents.

Sports Star of The Year 2015/16

Year 7 Girl – Charlotte Henry-Stumpe
Year 7 Boy – Daniel Okolo
Year 8 Girl – Eiana Cutamora
Year 9 Girl – Jessie Stinson
Year 9 Boy – Callum Brookfield
KS 4 Girl – Louise Wiener
KS 4 Boy – Luke Young

Victor Ludorum Award

The final Award of the evening was the presentation of the 'Victor Ludorum' Cup for sporting excellence, this year awarded to all-rounder Osaze Urhogide in Year 11.

Congratulations to everyone for their sporting achievements over the year.



Valencia Trip Review



Getting up at 2am is always a pleasant experience (not), but in this case when you are off with your mates to Spain it's just about bearable. The plane journey seemed to take forever but thankfully we got a breath of fresh air later that afternoon at the beach on our tour of Valencia. The next day we had our first training session in the heat (something we British aren't used to) but thankfully we were able to cool off in the freezing pool at the hotel followed by a visit to Heron City, Valencia's large shopping mall.

Then to the business end of the trip. First of all we had a routine 3-1 win thanks to goals from Will-Lloyd Kyere, Joe Sargeant and Lewis Richards. On the same day we had our second game in which we achieved a sporting triumph with a 6-0 win for us and the added bonus of being the first St Mark's team to reach the knockout stages of the Valencia Cup. The

next day we had our final group game which we lost 1-0, but hey, we were through!

After qualifying second we had the semi-final, however a fourth game in two days ultimately meant we were all pretty exhausted, made evident by the fact that we slumped to a 2-0 loss. Nonetheless that evening we were still determined to have a good time with a tour of Valencia Mestalla Stadium followed by a round of Laser Quest at our favourite shopping mall, Heron City (the Treaty Centre doesn't quite compare!) but to everyone's despair Mr Wallis came top.

The penultimate day was for resting and chilling at the hotel, which was very welcome considering we had another training session on the final day. We then visited the spectacular Oceanographic with a fantastic Dolphin show.

Sad to leave, we flew home, but were excited that our trip was NOT yet over. We still had the England vs Netherlands game at Wembley. As ever with England, they disappointed losing 2-1, despite the Jamie Vardy party. We thought England would do better at the Euros, but they didn't.

Overall, the trip was a once in a lifetime experience that we will all never forget. Special thanks to Mr Taylor and Mr Wallis for their role in organising the trip and to all the players who made it so memorable.

Felix Ojo (Year 11)



Boys' Sports

Year 7 & 9 Win Borough Football titles!

Congratulations to both the Year 7 and Year 9 Boys' Football Teams for being crowned Borough Champions for this season.

The Year 9 competition follows a league format. The side remained unbeaten winning 4 and drawing 1 match.

The boys have played with a fantastic team spirit and it was pleasing to see so many boys involved. Key contributions came from Captain Lewis Richards, winger Dennis Gyamfi and the pacy Matthew Ignahlo. Well done to the whole squad!



Ranking	Team Name	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	BPts	Pts
1	St Mark's	5	4	1	0	27	8	19	5	18
2	Isleworth and Syon	5	3	1	1	13	12	1	5	15
3	Lampton	5	2	2	1	16	13	3	5	13
4	Heathland	5	2	0	3	13	16	-3	5	11
5	Feltham	5	1	0	4	9	19	-10	5	8
6	Chiswick	5	1	0	4	7	17	-10	5	8

The Year 7 competition follows a split league amongst the Borough with a final played between each league.

After winning all of their League games, the team played Heathland in the final and ran out 5-3 winners. With 30 boys from the year representing the Football Team it is very much a squad effort this year, and an excellent achievement for all those involved.



In a close final, we were fortunate to have Rowan Fernandes in line form in goal which gave confidence to the rest of the team. Ethan Murphy-Amarteillio played a key role and holding the ball up as a forward as well as scoring, and man of the match Leo Zammit scored a hat trick.

Captain Ramon Rose was delighted to hold the trophy after praising all his team mates on a good season. Well done to all the boys that have played!

Mr. Taylor

Girls' Sports

Year 9 Netball

The Year 9 Netball Team have yet again had an outstanding season.

Earlier in the year they attended the annual Borough Tournament and replicated previous years' success by winning the #1 - that makes them winners of this Tournament for the past 3 years!

They have also done extremely well in the League by not losing a game and comfortably beating all schools they have played.

A big well done to the Year 9 Netball Team who are therefore Double Borough Champions for the second year running!

Team:

Jade Walker, Macey Rajkovic, Eliza Fatscher, Lourdes Tunwa, Chantelle Totten, Shanice Koon-goda, Claire Wiener, Elly Smith, Jessie Stinson.



Year 7 Rounders

This has been a really successful Rounders season so far for the Year 7 team who are unbeaten so far, with only one game to play! If they win the last game they will be crowned Borough League Champions - a fantastic achievement!

A large number of girls have been part of this team this year. Well done to all!

Results:

V Kingsley Academy ... 24.5 - 8.5 ... WIN

V Gumley ... 10.5 - 10 ... WIN

V Heathlands ... 12.5 - 8.5 ... WIN

V Heston ... 15 - 8 ... WIN

V Rivers ... to play Friday 8th July



Art Exhibition



Martyna Polych (Year 9)



Eleri Vassouma (Year 12)



Jonathan Bartholomew (Year 9)



Amelia Kirk (Year 12)



Klaudia Zaporowska (Year 11)



Maria Krasak A (Year 11)



Anna Kaczynska (Year 9)



Shanice Kostogoda (Year 9)



Kathia Litman (Year 9)