

VERITAS

St Mark's Catholic School

No. 14 - SPRING 2017



Duke of Edinburgh Awards



DofE Award Presentation Evening

This year St Mark's was delighted to host the annual Duke of Edinburgh Award Presentation for students who had completed their Bronze or Silver Award in the past year within the London Borough of Hounslow. This year the ceremony was particularly special and celebratory as it marked the 50th Anniversary of the Awards being part of the curriculum in Hounslow.

The evening started with songs by the School's esteemed choir, who gracefully introduced us to the very best vocals this school has to offer. After came the distribution of DofE certificates to students from the seven Hounslow schools who attended the evening, with interludes in between featuring St Mark's own '4K' band made up of DofE students, a string group and a Sign Language Performance who delivered Adele's 'Hello' and the Proclaimers' '500 Miles', all without saying a single word. The Award Ceremony was compered by Dot Hasler, who co-ordinates all DofE activity in the Borough

Front cover: Bronze DofE students perform as Band 4K with additional vocals

l-r DK Cruz, Ryan Herron, Gareth Gbesemete-Kusenu, Hayden Fernandes, Eliza Fatscher, Jaden Vales

Photograph by Mr Savage

of Hounslow, and was herself marking a contribution of 45 years. During the proceedings Mr Enright was also recognised for his support of the Award here at St Mark's over the past 16 years.

Overall the event was a great evening that highlighted the achievement of the DofE students and the Borough through its celebratory nature, as well as highlighting the outstanding musical talent of our students.

Osbert Menezes Year 13



Year 10 string group l-r Gabrielle Simon Phillips, Hayden Fernandes, Vernon Fernandes, Oisin Murphy

What is the DofE Award?

The DofE Award gives young people the chance to do something completely new, and also to improve upon things they are already doing. It takes them out of their comfort zone and into a place where they push themselves and have amazing new experiences. They will build confidence, resilience, skills for work and friendship groups and have a brilliant time doing it. The DofE Award can help young people to carve out a better future. Colleges, universities and employers regard a DofE Award highly, so it will help to open the right doors for them.

This year Hounslow celebrates 50 years of running the Duke of Edinburgh Award for its young people. This is a wonderful milestone to achieve as last year saw the 60th anniversary of the DofE as an international charity. Many young people at St Mark's have taken on the challenge of the Award either through the school or other services in the Borough in which they reside.

Our particular thanks go to Dot Hasler, the DofE Borough coordinator who works tirelessly for the young people taking the Award, to Ms Fear, Ms Jackson and Ms Jolly for their hard work in making the Award Presentation Evening so special, and of course to the Bronze and Silver Award winners for their commitment, energy, perseverance and humour!

*Mr Jivan, Ms Stewart, Mr Shore
DofE Team*



HeadLine



Welcome to the latest edition of our school magazine Veritas. This Spring term has been packed with positive activities as demonstrated in these pages. Clearly the vast majority of students are very committed towards their school and keen to participate in extra-curricular opportunities. I am very grateful to all the staff who work so hard to organise and run the extra-curricular programme.

At a time when the School is under increasing financial pressure due to financial cuts in education we are determined to maintain provision as best we can. Last week Hounslow Headteachers met with our two local MPs, Seema Malhotra and Ruth Cadbury to discuss the impact of Government cuts. Austerity measures are having an impact on all aspects of society but surely an effective well resourced education system is absolutely key to the future wealth and success of the Country. I do encourage parents to lobby your local MP in support of your child's education. On 9th March Nick Gibb MP, Minister of State for School Standards, wrote to the School to congratulate us on being in the top 5% in the country for Progress 8 and for being amongst the top state-funded schools in England for the percentage of pupils achieving the English Baccalaureate. It is a shame that this recognition is not being supported by the state funds required to meet the needs of students in the future.

Paul Enright, Headteacher

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Experience



The Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme gave us the opportunity to do something completely different to what the standard school curriculum offers. There are four sections to the award; Volunteering, Skills and Physical which were to be completed individually, and finally the Expedition which would be completed with our groups in the school.

The Volunteering section required us to find somewhere where we could volunteer and 'make a difference to someone else's life'. It could be anything, from working with a local charity shop on weekends to volunteering at school to help other students with their work in after-school homework clubs.

I chose Chess as my skill because it is a game that has always fascinated me. However with no game plan it was hard to win. Playing chess every week has really helped me rethink my thought processes when deciding where to move, and I am now a better chess player. Chess Club is the highlight of my lunch!

Michaela Mannion

The purpose of the Skills section was to encourage participants to improve on or even try and discover a new skill. It could be any skill, whether it being something you're really good at or something that you were trying for the very first time, like learning to play an instrument, chess or even learning to drive.

The Physical section could have been considered to be the biggest challenge for most. It required us to go out and do something that didn't

For my new skill I decided to learn how to cook as it will come in handy when I go to university as I will be able to cook myself a variety of meals. A friend of mine who is a chef has been coming round every Tuesday to teach me different meals and breakfasts. Some weeks we will repeat the ones I find a bit difficult

For volunteering I have attended an Old People's Home every Friday. I have played games with the residents as well as making the lives of the staff a bit easier by looking after the pets or helping out with dinner.

Callum Fitzgerald

involve hiding in our rooms in the dark behind a computer screen or being attached to a phone. Activities such as going to the gym, joining a swimming club or even playing golf would improve our health and physical fitness, which would be necessary if we wanted to survive the three-day-long expedition which took place in the New Forest over a weekend.

The Expedition put to the test the navigation skills taught to us during our DofE lessons. These skills included using grid references, a compass and map reading. Prior to the expedition we were required to map out a route covering 48km across three days that used paths and tracks through the New Forest.

Besides having to haul a 20kg bag containing the essential necessities (bag of crisps, deodorant...) the expedition was arguably the most exciting part of the award. We trekked through the countryside at a snail's pace, working out which footpath to follow in order to make it back to the campsite at the end of the day for a delicious meal cooked on a Trangia fuelled by a cup of ethanol the size of a tea light. This was followed by a good night's sleep in a tent on a cold, damp field.

The sense of accomplishment and relief felt after surviving the expedition can sum up the entire Duke of Edinburgh experience. It was a long journey and a lot of work but with the rewards that the Duke of Edinburgh Award offers every bit of effort invested was worth it.

Being involved in the 'world's leading youth achievement award' has been both a memorable experience as well as an enriching one. A huge thank you from the DofE Silver group goes to Mr Jivan, Ms Stewart and Mr Shore for running the programme, for waking up at the crack-of-dawn to drive and supervise us over the practice and expedition weekends, and for sitting through our presentations.

*Kyle Quadra Year 13
Bronze & Silver Award holder*

Bronze Award

"What's the point of DofE?" It's a question that circulates schools each year to which most think the reply is simply "It will look good on my CV". Yes, that's true, but DofE isn't just about that. Although tiring and stressful at times, with weekly volunteering, skills and fitness commitments being piled on top of mounds of homework, DofE has definitely helped us to develop skills that don't always get learnt inside the walls of a classroom. Living in busy London, it's easy to forget about the rest of the world, in particular the countryside and what it has to offer beyond a few empty fields and bad Wi-Fi.

It's also easy to moan and complain about the long walks, getting lost and having to retrace your path two, three, maybe even seven times just to find one pylon, not to forget the bulky and at times burdensome rucksack you're having to lug alongside you, obviously filled with all the essentials; babybels, Doritos dip, pasta sauce...the list goes on.

On a serious note, DofE has definitely helped us to develop our people skills, both socially and physically in communicating with others on the expedition and in volunteering, as well as helping us to improve our stamina, endurance and concentration.

Ciara John and Elle Sherwood Year 11



The Bookshelf

Hounslow Teen Read

Our panel of judges have been reading the shortlisted books for this year's Hounslow Teen Read.

They are:

Cora Beatty 9CA
Lucy Elliott 8PO
Elisa Mousa 9CL
Lian Da Costa 9FI
Kara Fernandes 9FI
Angelina Perello-Javar 9CL
Luke Mazarelo 8MO
Glen Awuah Darkoh 8FI

This is a Borough wide reading activity, which involves students across Hounslow reading the same six titles, with each school picking their own winner.

The books we have been reading this year are:



Our group had a visit from a Librarian from Hounslow School Library Service, who discussed all the books and helped us choose our own winner. The St Mark's winner for 2017 is *How Not to Disappear* by Clare Furniss.

This year's overall winner of The Hounslow Teen Read is *Maladapted* by Richard Kurti. The award was presented by the author, Lisa Williamson, at a ceremony in the Paul Robeson Theatre, in Hounslow, on Tuesday 21st March.

Hounslow Speed Read 2017



The Hounslow Speed read is a literacy event, with students from all schools promoting their favourite books. They each take a turn talking, and listening to each other's recommendations.

The winner, voted for by the students themselves, was our own Lucy Elliott, of 8 Pole, who championed *The Book Thief*, by Markus Zusak. Well done Lucy, and the whole group, who had read some amazing books!



Author's Visit : Anthony McGowan at the Robeson Theatre



On 7th February five Year 7 students went to the Robeson Theatre in Hounslow to listen to author Anthony McGowan discuss his latest book.

We all had a great time there. Esther thought that it was funny and amusing although she thought it was a little bit immature. Tarun thought that it was funny and inspiring to read more books. Ella thought that Anthony McGowan's book was funny and entertaining and that the story line was really humorous.

Monet thought that Anthony McGowan was very interactive with the book and was really funny.

We are all really happy that we went to the theatre to hear an author discuss his work. We also want to thank Ms Quigley for being our guardian and inviting us to this amazing opportunity to see Anthony McGowan.

Tarun Bose, Ella Sanz, Esther Colaco, Monet Munyoro and Anushan Chandrarajah Year 7

World Book Day 2016

Book tokens worth £1 were handed out to each student. These may be used to buy a special £1 World Book Day title, or to put towards another book of their choice.

A group of Year 7 students attended a special World Book Day author event, at The Paul Robeson Theatre, in Hounslow. This was arranged by the School Library Service, and attended by students from all over the Borough. The author Julian Sedgwick gave a brilliant presentation about his writing, and went on to sign copies of his books for us at the end.



European Youth Parliament



On 8th March, some of my fellow students and I were chosen to attend the London Regional Forum in Europe House held by the European Youth parliament. We were able to enrich our knowledge on certain topics that the EU faces and get a deeper familiarity of debating.

When we arrived at Euro House our nervousness filled the room. We were facing schools of the highest calibre that appeared to have a lot more experience than us; however we did not let this affect us. The day began the president Kate Zedjlova introducing us to the organisation and setting out the regulations of the session.

At break we took the opportunity to chat to other schools and get to know them instead of only debating against them all day. We returned to the Hall and listened to the other teams' opening speeches and clauses, ready to play devil's advocate.

Our debate was straight after lunch, which was tremendous because we were able to debate with other schools first and build our confidence as well as finding each team's strategies. I was

enormously lucky to be asked to do the opening speech on our proposition which focussed on the particularly sensitive issue of mental health. We were one out of only two schools to pass their committee.

The jury noted that we passed due to the excellence of our speeches, opening with myself and ending with Oscar Crowe, as well as the arguments made by our stupendous team, including Millie, Liam, Fabio, Nathalia and Paulina.

Personally, this experience has helped me to develop my skills as an NCS ambassador and youth board representative, as well as gaining more knowledge and understanding as a Government and Politics student. We are all very grateful to be a part of this event, and proud to represent St Mark's.

Adriana Almeida Year 12

Public Speaking

As the Public Speaking/Debating season heats up, St Mark's students have taken their place in a number of regional finals for the Rotary Club competition. The School hosted the Regional Finals of the ESU's School Mace and the Churchill Competition. We were fortunate enough to progress in both competitions, beating off teams from Ibstock Place, Harrodian, Hampton School and Tiffin. The Year 10 team in the Churchill Competition have the London final in Mayfair at the ESU head office, while the Sixth form /Year 11 team will be in the London final at St Paul's School for Girls. Good luck to all!

Congratulations to the Year 7 and 8 team who have won the very recent Final of the Godolphin and Latymer League. The team, made up of

Joe Gibson, Alice Snell and Monet Munyoro progressed through the competition and then beat the North London Collegiate School for Girls in the final round.

The Year 9 and 10s students enter the fray over the coming months with the Pixl Competition held at Alleyns School and a Godolphin and Latymer one day debate to look forward to.



Mr Alexander

Cupid's Day 2017

Cupid's Day, as usual, was a great success in 2017! Taking place on the final Friday of half term, Cupid's Day brought another fantastic half term to a wonderful end.

Organised by the Year Council representatives for Year 12, both students and Mr Jivan worked tirelessly to ensure that the day would run smoothly. Sixth Formers gave up both break-times and lunchtimes to take orders from members of younger years the week before the event, and with a range of products such as soft toys, roses, and chocolates for sale, purchases boomed. With over 70 orders, Sixth Formers were certainly busy on Friday morning. Playing Cupid, Sixth Formers delivered the various Valentine's themed tokens from anonymous admirers to unsuspecting recipients, all in the spirit of raising money for charity. It was lovely to see the faces of many unsuspecting students light up when they received a gift, or had a poem read aloud to them.

The astonishing amount of money raised will no doubt have a tremendous impact on our chosen charity. This would not have been possible without the participation of staff, students, and Sixth Formers, so, on behalf of the Year 12 Council... Thank you to everyone who ordered, and supported our cause! One of the most inspiring things about Cupid's Day is watching the entire school come together, not only to celebrate St Valentine's day, but to raise money for those in need, and to share in the true meaning of charity.

Kasie Brookfield, Year 12



Year 9 Ypres Trip

It was an early start (4.45 a.m.!) on Friday 24th February when 48 Year 9 students arrived at school ready for departure and were greeted by their accompanying teachers Mr Waters, Ms Mitchell and Ms Joyce. The students waved goodbye to their parents and then we set off to the Eurotunnel terminal.

After a short crossing we arrived in France. We crossed into Belgium and our first stop was one of the many cemeteries that are dotted in and around Ypres. Firstly we visited Essex Farm Cemetery, which not only contained the grave of one of the youngest soldiers of the war, aged only 15, but also the grave of a soldier who was awarded the Victoria Cross. The cemetery was built on the site of an old field hospital. Mr Waters revealed that the author, Dr John McCrae, who wrote one of the War's most famous poems "In Flanders Fields", had been based there.

We then proceeded to the Passchendaele Museum which had been updated in 2004. The Museum was fantastic and very interactive with large sections of trenches having been restored in the huge underground section. It was also packed full of everyday items from the War and had a huge collection of weapons, clothing and other wartime items. It was one of the many sights from the day which reminded us of the sheer scale of the war.

We then visited two more cemeteries, one German (Langemark) and one British (Tynecot). The two contrasting cemeteries varied hugely in their design and philosophy but were both equally moving. At Tynecot students went to find a grave of a soldier they had previously researched through the War Grave Commission website. They left a cross of remembrance and said their own private prayer. We all felt a desire to stop, think and reflect and so at each cemetery we said a prayer for those who had died in the War and for their families.

Being slightly ahead of schedule, we were able to quickly visit one of the town's renowned chocolate shops. Students took the time to buy presents for their loved ones.

Then, as the day turned even colder and began

to draw to a close, we came to our last stop, a site called Hill 62.

This is one of the two remaining places where original trenches from World War I have been preserved. Students climbed down into the trenches and tried to make their way through them. As they did they caught a real glimpse of how cold, wet and scared the soldiers must have felt a hundred years before. Many students bravely travelled through the underground tunnels, and those in wellies went deep into the cold mud.



A quick change of footwear saw us board the coach and make our way back to the train. After a stop at the services for a quick bite to eat, we managed to get back to school 45 minutes early therefore making it only a 17 hour day! Parents were there to collect our students who had behaved brilliantly throughout the day, and were real ambassadors for the School and the History Department. Making our way home, I think both students and teachers alike felt it had been a hugely successful day, one that had provoked a great deal of thought and created a lot of new memories.

Mr Waters

Year 8 Postcards

Year 8 were set the challenge to produce a Praise postcard design for Ms Mould and the Year 8 team. They busily took up their pencils, pens, paints and computers and submitted some fabulous entries.

It was a difficult task to narrow down the top three designs and the winners were ...



1st Place Nicole DeoCampo 8CI



2nd Place Udyia Rodrigo 8Ca



3rd Place Leanne Antido 8Fi

Chess Success!

A group of 12 students participated in a chess match on Tuesday 21st March at Heathlands School. The players play two games each and St Mark's finished up as very comfortable winners. All involved had a thoroughly enjoyable experience and many have formed some good friendship through their interest in the game!

The Chess Club convenes every Friday lunchtime in the Science block and new members are always warmly welcome, regardless of their playing strength. There are beginners' classes for those interested and matches for those with a competitive streak. Come along!

Mr Grover



Iceland Trip



This trip was an amazing experience and allowed us to witness some of the natural wonders we had learnt about in the real world. A particular highlight was watching the geysers erupt. Knowing how it all worked added to the experience and allowed us to appreciate the scale of what goes on beneath the Earth. Another favourite moment of the trip was the hike on the glacier. Once again we could witness geography in action and observe what we had heard about in the classroom.

Not only did we witness the marvels of physical geography but we got to take a look around the Capital, Reykjavík, and see some of Iceland's

human features. The city was incredibly interesting to see. The architecture was beautiful and the bright colours added to its appearance. One would imagine that a capital city would be large and grand but upon arrival, most of us were taken back by how small the place actually was.

Other interesting locations we saw included Parliament Rock, The Blue Lagoon, waterfalls, geysers and so much more. Few students get to see the real thing when studying for their GCSE's, so this trip has provided amazing experiences and memories for all.

Joseph Nagle, Year 10

Iceland is most commonly known as the Land of Ice and Fire, and I am glad to say that it is definitely a country of contrast!

This year the Geography Department took 30 students to Iceland, and I was one of them. Iceland is definitely one of the world's geographical wonders, with large amounts of the island volcanically active. Over the space of four days, we packed a lot into a little. From geysers, glaciers and waterfalls there was always something to see and do. Much of what we did fed directly back into the GCSE geography syllabus, which was fantastic for us as students to physically see, putting the textbook into practice. One especially memorable visit was to the Bridge Between Continents, which is where the Eurasian and North American plates are coming away from each other at 2.5cm a year.

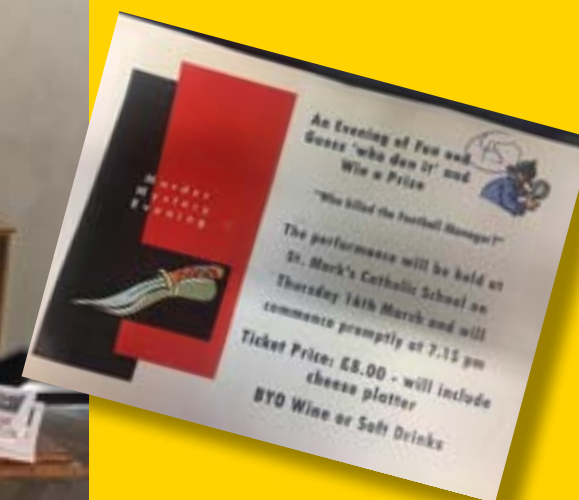
Not only was it great to see the physical geography, it was also great to experience a new culture, language and environment, which is what human geography is all about. We went to the

only bowling alley in Iceland on the last night, so that was great fun for all of us to interact with the locals. The language was quite difficult to catch on to but that was to be expected with a different alphabet and large words like Eyjafjallajökull! I did learn however that 'hello' in Icelandic is, 'Halló', which is quite similar. The capital city of Reykjavik, although tiny compared to London, was quite quaint and felt more like a town than a city. Many of us enjoyed the multi-coloured roofs on the houses, and made me at least re-think what should a city be like?

Although there were early mornings, late evenings and constant weather changes, visiting Iceland was an experience that I will always remember and one which I hope that many other students will be able to enjoy.

Harry Black, Year 10

Murder Mystery Evening



Who Killed the Football Manager ?

On Thursday 16th March a handful of Sixth Form students performed in the Murder Mystery Evening in aid of the upcoming Tanzania expedition. Overall it made for a killer evening (please excuse the pun!) filled with corny jokes, eccentric performances, and Ms Crouch's renowned cheese board.

The night kicked off with the mysterious death of Robert Slayer, the football manager, and subsequent events revealed the possible motives of the remaining cast members. Despite a few blackouts due to technical difficulties, the cast were quickly able to make light of the situation, like true professionals.

The audience absolutely loved the evening. Marcus Rathbone said, "It was a great evening with a highly enjoyable performance, and it raised lots of money for our upcoming trip to Tanzania".

Our thanks go to Patrick Hibberd - director/ detective, Josh Ferguson - football manager/ victim, Alex Quamina - Narrator - Anna McConnell - Patricia Dorr (football mum), Ciaran Donnelly - Detective, Ethan Barret - young footballer, Jack Bartrip - ex-footballer, Jessica Ullisse - Headteacher, Katie Porter - ex-model, Robbie Evans - journalist, Sophie Dawson - PE teacher and Mr Alexander.

Finally, on behalf of those going to Tanzania, we would like to thank everyone that attended in supporting our fundraising efforts.

Katie Porter & Nimasha Kuruppu Year 12



Holocaust Week

Lessons From Auschwitz

The purpose of the Lessons from Auschwitz Project is to bring humanity back to the Holocaust, allowing us to uncover the lives of the six million Jews who were murdered in concentration camps during WW2. It aims to focus on the lives of the victims pre-war and to show how the Holocaust shaped their future. The project is a nationwide three- part scheme set up to educate students aged 16-19 on the Holocaust and takes them to Auschwitz and Auschwitz Birkenau in Poland. Ewan Walker and I were lucky enough to be selected from St Marks.

I felt privileged to be able to hear a survivor testimony; Renee Salt enlightened us on how she was taken from her parents and placed under the captivity of Nazi occupation. Yet it was not until I was physically stood in the place of selection in Auschwitz-Birkenau that I was hit with the realisation that real people, like you and I, had this horrendous treatment inflicted upon them.

It is difficult to put into words quite how this experience has affected me personally though I feel truly grateful to have been able to participate in this project and would recommend anyone to take time out of their busy lives to visit this site of genocide and to never forget this man-made atrocity.

Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel claimed, "The only thing we can learn from history is that we learn nothing from history." If we educate ourselves on topics such as The Holocaust and bring humanity back to the colossal death toll, there is hope that we can, in fact, learn from history.

Anna McConnell Year12



Georgia Penny Year 9



Justin Soriano Year 9



Justin Soriano Year 9

Coca-Cola Business Challenge



In early February Year 10 Business Students from St Mark's took part in the Regional Final of the Coca Cola Challenge 2017. Over 600 schools entered this national competition; 133 schools entered in the London region alone and St Mark's was one of only 10 schools that qualified for the London Regional Final in the Oval Cricket Ground.

At 9am the students were given an envelope containing a challenge, which was to create a fund raising event to raise awareness for the Special Olympics Great Britain who are supported by Coca Cola. They worked together until 3.30pm when they presented their ideas to a room full of 150 people including five judges from various global and national businesses. As part of the challenge they designed a bus stop poster, an infographic, a social media campaign and recorded and edited a radio advert alongside completing a suitable budget for the event.

Students developed a variety of key skills that both universities and employers pay particular attention to when recruiting young people. These skills included digital skills, team working, communication, problem solving and time

management. They created an outstanding presentation and were commended by the judges. They received the runners up award and did the school proud; well done to all!

The students involved were: Emilia Wyroba, Jaden Vales, Chentelle Tetteh, Vanessa Soares, Keren Lutete, Leasha Pereira, Toluwalolu Owolabi, Arkadiusz Neumann

Ms Wade



BP Business Trip



On Friday 27th January Ms Wade took the Year 10 Business Studies class to visit the BP head offices in Sunbury.

This was an inspiring trip as we got to see and experience a real life corporate environment; seeing how a business works and functions on a day to day basis. During the day we learnt ways in which BP work to make their business more sustainable and the ways in which they market their products to the public across the UK and the rest of the world. The marketing specialists who ran our session gave us a task to work in teams and discuss various global brands and how we are influenced by branding today. We discussed and delivered feedback on our opinions to the group and analysed the importance of branding in building successful companies.

It was a very enjoyable day and worthwhile opportunity for the Business Studies students.

Leasha Pereira Year 10

Intermediate Maths Challenge

St Mark's students entered the annual UK Intermediate Maths Challenge, once again, back in early February.

For our Year 9, 10 and 11 entrants 57 Gold, Silver and Bronze awards were made, including a Gold award for Peter Gnap in Year 11 along with an invitation to sit the follow-on round, the even more challenging Pink Kangaroo.

Another 27 of our candidates deserve the honourable mention of being within just one correct answer of receiving the Bronze Award.

As always, thanks go to the staff who ensure the smooth running of the event and to the students themselves who annually put their numerical ability on the line.

Mr Gold



Science Week



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.

Science week 2017 at St Mark's kicked off early due to having access to liquid nitrogen for that week. This was used to make vanilla flavoured ice cream which turned out to be surprisingly good, judging by the reaction of the students on Tuesday 7th March. Liquid nitrogen was also used to launch rockets in the lower school playground. Mr Shore seems to have refined his technique rather well and managed to launch the most successful rockets. This was followed on Tuesday with the pig's trotter dissection with Mr Crone and Mr King and a group of KS3 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.

Students were involved in flame tests on Monday using a range of splints soaked in metal solutions, giving some very colourful results. The last day of Science Week ended with a bang, literally! Firstly, a group of Years 7-9 watched Mr Wilkinson conduct an experiment where it seemed as though 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, to hands or ceiling!)

Following this, the other teachers set fire to hydrogen balloons, and they were loud! They gave off a series of massive bangs and it was really thrilling to watch – a brilliant way to end Science Week!

Overall, everyone who participated would agree that Science Week was indeed captivating with all the educational activities. The week was a success and it definitely deepened the students' love and appreciation for Science!

Mr Grover



Jack Petchey's "SPEAK OUT" Challenge!

On 22nd of February, Martyna and I were given the opportunity to take part in the Jack Petchey Speak Out challenge, with lots of our peers. This was an amazing chance to come out of our comfort zone and have a go at public speaking. We took part in a workshop where we worked with a professional public speaker to explore many speech giving techniques. Throughout the day we did many small activities which lead up to a planned speech at the end, delivered in front of all our classmates. We were judged using various criteria and had found out that Martyna and I had gone through to the assembly round! I was so surprised and happy; only 4% of all participants of the Speak Out Challenge get to the assembly stage, which is a great honour.

On the day, I was pretty nervous. Looking at our Year group all sitting and waiting for you to begin to speak is quite overwhelming! First, we had an amazing speech from Loju about her struggles of being tall and embracing who you are. We also had a very amusing talk from Valeria about a popular topic- talentless celebrities! Gareth's speech focused on the topic of space, which thrilled the audience who were hanging onto each word. As it came to my turn, the pressure was on. Speaking about microwaves and the encouragement of laziness wasn't easy, but I managed to pull through. Soon after, Loju and I found out that we had progressed to the next stage - the Regional Final!

On arrival at Brentford School for Girls for the Final, I could feel the sense of community between all of the participants, even though we were all competing against each other. Getting to know some of the other contestants from different schools proved to be a rewarding experience. We were treated to some snacks and were given a very helpful talk including advice and feedback before the event on how to ensure our speeches were top notch quality. Then, it was time. The audience took their seats. The chatter of voices silenced. The tension in the atmosphere was very real. As soon as the judges took their seats, the show was on a roll. One by one, each contestant was introduced, stepped onto the stage and delivered their amazing speech. Standing on the stage with the spotlight on you was so exciting, facing an audience eager to listen. Ranging from topics such as school and friendships to stereotypes, each speech had a clear message which was delivered excellently by each speaker.

From the evening, the most important thing to take away is that determination is key. If you think you can, you can! This is definitely an experience Loju and I won't forget. Congratulations to the winner, and we hope to see further successes from St Mark's in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge.

Martyna Paluch and Toluwalolu Owolabi



Drama Trip to see *Art*



We were all so excited to see our second play 'Art' as part of the Old Vic Schools' Club that St Mark's has been selected to be a part of, and it certainly met our expectations!

In January, after taking part in an interesting workshop with Directors from the Old Vic, a number of keen drama students from Years 9 to 12 headed to the Old Vic theatre (stopping for a quick MacDonald's on the way!) to see the play.

'Art', a comedy which raises questions about perceptions and friendship, concerns three long-time friends Serge, Marc and Yvan. Serge, indulging his penchant for modern art, buys a large, expensive, completely white painting. Marc is horrified, and their relationship suffers considerable strain as a result of their differing opinions about what constitutes art. Yvan, caught in the middle of the bickering friends, spends the duration of the play trying to please both men

without ever really forming his own opinion as to what he thought of the painting. The play was not divided into separate scenes and the set remained in the same room throughout. The play was gripping; even without an interval nobody got bored. Everyone enjoyed it and laughed a lot.

We all came away with the understanding that everyone is entitled to their own opinion and has their own perspective, which is definitely an important life lesson to learn. I know I picked up a lot of interesting drama techniques that I will certainly be incorporating into my own performances in the future. Overall our second play and workshop with the Old Vic was a wonderful experience and we can't wait for our third trip to the Theatre as part of the Old Vic's Schools' Club!

Amelia Harte-Donlevy Year 10

Year 7 Charities Week



The week beginning 6th February was Year 7 Charities Week. Each of the Year 7 Forms planned fund raising activities to be carried out within school across the week. The money raised will be going to the three school charities: The Mulberry Centre, Isleworth; S.A.L.V.E. International, Uganda; and the Sparrow Schools Foundation, South Africa.

On Monday 7MO had a tuck shop and bake sale. On Tuesday 7CL put on a cookie sale. On Wednesday 7PO had a bake sale. Thursday break was when 7FI had their bake sale. After school on Thursday 7CA had a basketball competition. The last event was on Friday when 7BE sold Oreo milkshakes.

In terms of money raised 7CA came 6th raising £60, 7PO came 5th with £72.20 and 7BE 4th



with £94. Then came 7CL in 3rd place with £104, 7FI became runners up raising £115.24. So, congratulations to 7MO as they raised the most - a mighty £133.09!

Overall, with additional activities, Year 7 raised an impressive total of £711.42! Ms Morillon, Head of Year 7, said, "I am very proud of all of the hard work Year 7 put into their first Charities Week. I was particularly impressed with the teamwork and enthusiasm shown, not to mention some excellent business skills!"

Overall, Year 7 Charities Week has been an ultimate success and everyone is proud of their work!

Hannah Nicholas and Melita Rodrigues Year 7



ESU Performing Shakespeare

London Regional Finals

It all started after we performed in the school production of Romeo and Juliet when Ms Hutchison asked us to audition for the English Speaking Union competition. We had to learn our Shakespeare monologue or duologue for the video audition and then arranged to meet with Ms Hutchison to record and submit our auditions to the judges of the ESU committee.

A couple of weeks later Ms Hutchison told us the good news - we had got through to the London Regional Finals, which were to be held at Dartmouth House, Mayfair. We were over the moon and filled with joy! In preparation for the Regional Finals, we rehearsed repeatedly



I-r Phoebe Gilbert (Hermia from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*), Sophie Trussler (Helena from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*), Owana Migambi (Constance from *King John*)

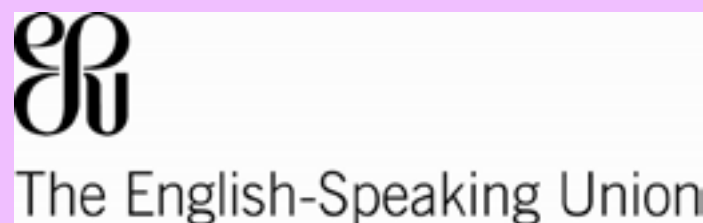
to perfect our monologues and duologues for the up-coming competition and Ms Hutchison gave us lots of support and feedback.

On the day of the competition, we travelled by train to Central London and made our way to Dartmouth House. Inside was a grand, marble staircase. Soon we went up to the long drawing room where we would be performing. We began by meeting the other students who we would be competing against. We then had a drama workshop led by one of the staff called Emma and we were put with a partner from another school, so we made some friends there too! We wished everyone good luck and went back into the other room to perform. It was a bit nerve-wracking at first but then afterwards it was okay.

Although we did not get into the National Finals, Sophie and Phoebe did receive a special judge's commendation for their fantastic portrayal of the relationship between Hermia and Helena in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

We were all very happy to have been given the opportunity to participate in the competition, and hope to compete again next year!

*Sophie Trussler, Phoebe Gilbert and
Owana Migambi Year 8*



Life After St Mark's

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On 1st February Years 10 to 13 were graced with talks from current university students who had attended St Mark's: David Windmill (Materials Science Oxford), Luke Maxfield (Earth Sciences Oxford), Alyssa Barbaran (English Lit Sheffield) and Onella Tate (Chemistry Liverpool).

They offered their own experiences as advice for the audience, in order to make our futures slightly less nerve wracking. As well as providing valuable insight into STEM and English courses in further education, they discussed the subjects of their dissertations/ extended projects and the opportunities to become a well-rounded, employable individual while studying. This was especially prominent in Luke's speech, where he dwelt primarily on the extracurricular experiences available to students at universities like Oxford, Liverpool and Sheffield. He himself had participated in college football tours to China and America.

The shared testimony of our St Mark's predecessors, mixed with the particularly cheesy introductions, resulted in an informative afternoon well spent.

Sophie Dawson Year 12

The event was very enjoyable and enlightening as each University student gave us an in-depth presentation on the courses they studied as well as the journey and decisions they had to make to specialise in a field they loved. I gained knowledge on certain questions that were not easy to answer and had been pondering since Year 7 when I began my journey at St Marks, questions like how many hours of revision had to be accomplished each week to get to university, and whether the jump from secondary school to University was quite daunting? As you can see, these questions could not be answered by most people, and so I am thankful for the diverse views expressed by each University student.

The very fact of the matter is that I am fascinated by the family of St Marks which consists of all people who have been former students or are current students at this school - a family I am proud to be part of. I thank the university students, Sixth Formers and Dr Chakraborty for making the event a memorable one!

Gareth Gbesemete-Kusenu Year 10

A couple of weeks ago myself along with other Year 10s attended talks being made by former St Mark's students who had gone on to university. Whilst I'm three years away from even thinking about university I was interested in their speeches and what course they took to get to where they were now.

I found this talk very beneficial as it made me realise how choices I am making now could affect my future. However, it also made it clear to me that my future could be anything I want it to be if I work hard at it.

Macey Rajkovic Year 10



Ski Trip

After the long and frankly rather unpleasant 14 hour coach journey through Europe, we were welcomed into the beautiful Austrian countryside by snow-capped peaks and beautiful sunshine. We stopped at ski hire to collect our ski equipment and then made our way to the hostel.

On the first few days the beginner groups experimented on the easier green slopes, whilst the more advanced group recapped their skills on the more difficult blue and red slopes. On Wednesday we were introduced to Austrian culture and traditions as we took part on the Tyrolean evening activity. Every evening we were entertained by Ski Aston's evening activities which included bowling, swimming, quiz night and was capped off with a disco on Thursday night.

By the end of the week, all of the beginner groups were strutting their stuff on the blue slopes, completing turns and staying in control of their skis as the advanced group travelled around the Stubai Glacier, experimenting on more difficult red slopes. Mr Greensmith also took away the teachers (Mr Shore, Ms Wade and Ms O'Connell) in his own group to help them have a little more control over their skis. Unfortunately, this did not help either Mr Shore or Ms O'Connell when they were taken out spectacularly by David Bale. Much to our delight Mr Shore's accident was captured on camera!

To conclude, the ski trip was not only full of excitement but it helped us to understand a little more about the culture, traditions and values of Austrian life. On the coach trip home we could all reflect on what had been an exhilarating, eventful and awesome trip.

Claire Wiener Year 10

Basketball

The Year 7's have had a very successful season. Training started in November with 20 boys attending training all the way through to March. They won all three of the games they have played. Many thanks to Mr Davis who helped run this team in January and February. Well done to all.

The Year 8 Team again had 15-18 students who regularly attended training. After losing our first game to Lampton by a point, the boys went on to win the rest of their League games and currently sit top. If other schools do not complete their fixtures they will win the League, or at worst be runners up. Well done!

The Year 9 Team finished third in their League, which was won by Lampton. Three of the four games finished within a margin of 10 points with St Mark's winning two games. The boys can be pleased with their season and will look to build on this in the next year.

The Year 10 Team currently sit top of their League awaiting all fixtures to be played to see if they'll be crowned Borough Champions. After a slow start against Chiswick in which they lost a close game, they went onto win all of their remaining fixtures. We will hopefully have some positive news in the next issue of Veritas on

National Indoor Junior Rowing Championships

On 17th March 36 students attended the National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships at Lea Valley Athletics Centre. During the day students raced on rowing machines which were linked to big screens both in relay and individual races against what turned out to be a very high level of competition. This provided an exciting atmosphere as races reached their conclusion. We are fortunate enough to have the use of four rowing machines provided by London Youth Rowing in School which have enabled students to prepare for the day.

Indoor Rowing Club continues on Fridays after school. Well done to all those that attended the day and have been regularly attending the Club; it would be great to see some new faces!



Extended Project Qualification



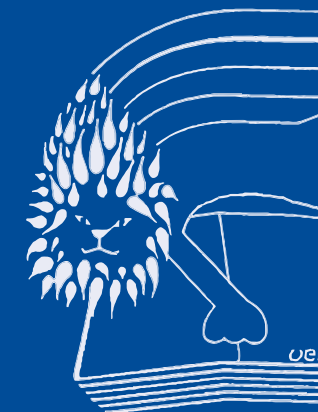
The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a research project undertaken by some Sixth Formers which involves choosing a topic and producing a 5,000 word report and presentation on this subject. For this year's EPQ students, the process has reached its grand finale. After two weeks of presenting our projects to Dr Chakraborty, who is our centre coordinator, members of the Senior Leadership Team and prospective EPQ students from Year 12, we can finally say our EPQ journey is complete. The presentations were a success across the board; it was incredibly rewarding to see how far we've all come since the start of our projects last year. The topics were wide ranging, from Russian literature to carbon nanotubes, but it's safe to say we're all specialists in our chosen fields now!

The presentations gave us a chance to reflect on how our projects have developed over the past year - it's amazing to think about all the skills and knowledge we have gained. Attending taught sessions has provided us with crucial skills which we will undoubtedly use at university and in our future careers. Some examples of the taught sessions include Mr Fanning's tutorial on how to give presentations that captivate the audience; Dr Callaghan's lesson which covered writing for different audiences; and Mr Shore's presentation on report writing, including referencing and structure. These new skills allowed us to write professional reports and give presentations with enthusiasm and confidence.

Although the process has been demanding and challenging at times, I'm sure I speak for all the EPQ participants when I say it's been an invaluable and rewarding experience. The EPQ has given us the opportunity to explore areas which interest us outside of our A Level subjects, and allowed us to become experts in our chosen fields. Working and researching independently has given us an insight into university life, enabling us to gain skills that will give us a head start at university next year.

We are incredibly grateful to our supervisors who supported us throughout, and to Dr Chakraborty, without whom none of this would've been possible. We hope next year's participants find the process to be just as worthwhile.

Rose Doyle Year 13



Sports News

Year 7 & 8 Boys are Borough League Winners

Congratulations to both the Year 7 and Year 8 Boys' Football Teams who both won their respective Hounslow Leagues with 100% records!

Both years have been outstanding. Good luck to the Year 8 Team as they play Enfield Grammar School in the upcoming Middlesex Cup Final.

The Year 10's had a great season in the League winning all their games. Every game bar one was close, with only a goal in it. Nevertheless the Year

10's showed great determination in second half displays which saw them home. Well done for reclaiming the Borough Championship!

The Year 9's had a mixed season but one where they demonstrated consistent improvement. They showed great determination throughout, especially when they came from 4-0 down to draw with Lampton with the last kick of the game. Good luck in the up and coming Valencia football tour.

Year 7 League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	BPts	Pts
St Mark's	6	6	0	0	49	6	43	6	24
Heathland	3	2	0	1	13	9	4	3	9
Chiswick	3	2	0	1	10	6	4	3	9
Kingsley Academy	5	1	1	3	15	29	-14	5	9
Rivers Academy	4	1	0	3	23	14	9	4	7
Reach Academy	3	0	1	2	8	39	-31	3	4

Year 8 League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	BPts	Pts
St Mark's	5	5	0	0	29	6	23	5	20
Heathland	2	1	0	1	5	6	-1	2	5
Reach Academy	2	1	0	1	6	7	-1	2	5
Rivers Academy	2	0	0	2	1	10	-9	2	2
Lampton	2	0	0	2	1	11	-10	2	2
Chiswick	1	0	0	1	2	4	-2	1	1

Girls' Football

On Tuesday 28th of February the Year 7 Girls' Football Team travelled to Cranford School to participate in a Football Tournament. We had two teams competing in League B against Spring West, Rivers, Heathlands and the Green School.

Team B played five matches, winning one game, drawing twice, and losing three. Team A won all of their games and qualified for the semi-finals where

they played against Chiswick School. The girls delivered a fantastic performance in the semi-finals, scoring twice and proceeding to the Final. Fantastic teamwork and determination from Team A in the final match led to victory with the girls winning 1-0.

Well done to both teams for their amazing performance!!!



Team A squad:

Charlayne, Ranah, Suzannah, Flo, Margeaux, Patrycja, Jemma, Paulina, Tiara



Team B squad:

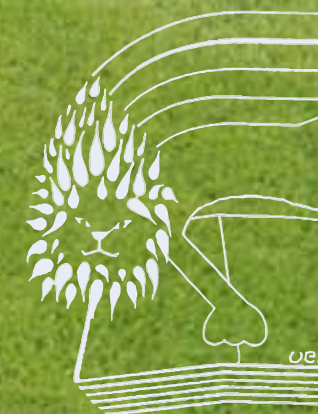
Angelina, Alison, OliviaY, Olivia M, Mercedes, Keiana, Ester, Rebekah, Rachel E

Borough Champions



Well done to the following girls who became Borough Football Champions last week (15th March) by winning the Borough football tournament. They were winners of their league, then went onto beat Gumley on penalties in the semi final and then Chiwsick 1-0 in the final.

Congratulations!!
Lois Edet, Eiana Cutamora, Ira Stoiber, Rosie Kannangara, Marta Nobili, Alice McGann, Orla Heaney, Kamila Nozka, Charlotte Henry Stumpe, Tiffany Xavier



GCSE Food Technology



Grace Ackary



Kamil Zelechowski



Michele Munyoro



Patricia Fernandes



Lissy Coggins



Emily Alexander