

VERITAS

St Mark's Catholic School

No. 13 - AUTUMN 2016



Debating Success

Rotary Club

St Mark's had a highly successful night at the Hounslow Rotary Club Youth Speaks Competition, sweeping the board to win at both Intermediate and Senior level.

The Senior team made up of Sophie Dawson, Kasie Brookfield and Anna McConnell won Best Team and progress to the regional round. Their speech on 'Violence is sometimes the answer' was a hit with the judges. Joseph Nagle was awarded Best Speaker in the senior section for his speech on 'Can equality go too far?'



Senior Team (l-r) Anna McConnell, Kasie Brookfield, Sophie Dawson

In the Intermediate section we also won Best Team with Cora Beatty, Ciaran Collins and Jamie Cavill winning through to the next round with a speech on 'Is gender equality possible?' Alice Snell won Best Speaker in the Intermediate section with an interesting piece on 'Extra curricular activities should be mandatory!'

Congratulations to all who took part, particularly the Year 7s. With so many fine competitors the future looks bright for public speaking at St Mark's.

Front cover: Back row (l-r) Jamie Cavill, Eoin Hanlon, Joseph Nagle, Ciaran Collins
Front row (l-r) Alice Snell, Cora Beatty

Catenians Public Speaking

On Tuesday 8th November, two of our students competed in the prestigious Catenian Society's Southern Area Public Speaking Competition at St George's College, Weybridge. This competition has been running since 1986 and attracts some of the most established Catholic Schools in the South.

Year 12 student Sophie Dawson spoke passionately on the topic "Violence, at times, is the only answer" and Eoin Hanlon from Year 11 argued for the voting age to be lowered to 16. In what proved a quality competition, it is great to announce that Eoin was deemed the best speaker on the night and brought home the winner's shield for St Mark's, as well as £50 cash prize. Eoin said, "Looking at the recent shock referendum and U.S. election results, I feel strongly that 16 year olds and 17 year olds should be given a voice in the democratic process. I spoke from the heart and the three judges luckily agreed with me".

Having won the Southern area competition, Eoin travels to Manchester next year to compete in the National Final. Congratulations to Eoin and Sophie!

Debating Club

The club takes place on Monday after school, in Room 66. We have the support of some excellent Sixth Formers who have experience of both debating and public speaking. The first event involved a training session at Godolphin School for Years 7 and 8. The Sixth Form also received training on how to judge events. The Year 7 and 8 students also had a practice debate on the abolition of private schools.

Congratulations to Eoin Hanlon and Jessica Ulisse in winning the first round of the School Mace Public Speaking Competition, knocking out Grey Court, St Catherine's and Lady Eleanor Holles on the way. Well done to all!

House of Lords

'Freedom of Speech' winner

On 21st of September, a group of Year 12 students took part in a House of Lords 'Freedom of Speech' project held at the school. A variety of people from several different groups also attended the workshop, including a group of refugees as well as members of the English Department, and Mr Enright who were passionate about the subject of freedom of expression.

We were given a short talk by the event organisers and given advice on how to improve our debating techniques, public speaking skills, and confidence in general. The workshop was very interactive, informative, and thought-provoking as it was designed to make us challenge and question our own views on both the advantages and downfalls of freedom of speech, as well as encouraging us to tackle the topic from three different perspectives,



Kasie Brookfield

even if they were ones we were completely opposed to. The three possibilities were that freedom of speech should either have no limits, or it should be censored, or it should be monitored. We

were then put into groups and given a certain viewpoint on freedom of speech before being given the task of putting together a speech defending our perspective as part of a small-scale debate which proved to be insightful and enjoyable.

Kasie Brookfield was among the three people who were chosen on the day to participate in a debate at the House of Lords Chamber on the 25th of November as floor speakers. They will discuss whether there should be limits to freedom of speech in the UK.

Klaudia Zaporowska Year 12

HeadLine



Welcome to our 13th edition of Veritas. We are just completing a very busy Autumn term with Celebration of Achievement Assemblies, a Carol Service, Senior Citizens' Party, Oakland Special School Party, Prize Giving and end of term Masses. These final events of the term demonstrate our priorities at St Mark's; the Catholic Life of the School, supporting those in need, fulfilling God given potential, celebrating the outstanding achievement of our students and having fun along the way. The Staff Karaoke event on 7th December was a particularly good example of the importance of enjoyment at School. A large number of students stayed behind to cheer on their teachers and to raise funds for charity. There was a tremendous atmosphere in the Hall and some wonderful performances.

On 1st December I attended a meeting at Church House, Westminster chaired by Cardinal Vincent Nichols. All the Headteachers and Chairs of Governing Bodies were invited to hear about the Diocesan plans to create geographically based multi-academies. Diocesan schools have been placed in local families. Our family of schools covers Hounslow, Richmond and Surrey. We are currently a member of the Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust so there is still a long way to go before we join a new Catholic Academy Trust but we will keep parents fully informed.

Can I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year. We look forward to returning to school on Wednesday 4th January.

Paul Enright, Headteacher

Prize Giving Evening



Vianca Santillan receives the Ethan Peters Award

This busy Autumn Term draws to a close with our Prize Giving Evening which gives us a special opportunity to recognise and celebrate the achievements of our students in the academic year 2015 – 16

This year's Guest of Honour is former St Mark's student, Ms Imogen Lavelle, Headteacher at the Good Shepherd School, Shepherd's Bush. She will present prizes to students from all

Year groups, ranging from Form Prizes in Years 7 to 13 which are given in recognition of Application and Progress, to Subject Prizes and Special Awards.

A new award this year is the Ethan Peters Cup awarded for outstanding achievement in Film and Media. This award has been created in tribute to former St Mark's student Ethan Peters who tragically died recently. Ethan, who attended the school from 2007

to 2014, was a talented, popular and much valued member of the St Mark's community. He left St Mark's with outstanding A level results and went to York University where he was studying Film and Media production. Our thoughts and prayers are with Ethan's family.

The Ethan Peters Cup is to be presented to Vianca Santillan, who won the Young Filmmaker's Competition which was open to all students in the Borough. Vianca devised her own original concept and script, then worked with a professional film production company to cast, direct and edit her own short film 'Jasmine' which was screened at Waterman's Art Centre earlier this year.

House Trophies

Canon McKenzie Cup
(Top House) *Fisher*

Patti Owen Cup
(Most Lion Points) *Pole*

Merit Shield for
Green Cards *Becket*

St Mark's listed in Top 20 Best Schools in the UK

St Mark's Catholic School was ranked as the 19th best Comprehensive School in the country based on A Level (% A*-B) and GCSE (% A*/A) results last Summer.

The Sunday Times published tables of top secondary schools on 27th November and we are delighted with this acknowledgement which follows recognition as the 25th placed school in the country (selective and non-selective schools) based on GCSE Progress 8 results. Not surprisingly Ofsted's RAISEonline report placed St Mark's within the first percentile of schools in the country. St Mark's was the highest ranked Hounslow school in these tables.



This success is based on the commitment of students towards doing their best, the expertise and dedication of staff at the School, teaching and non-teaching, and the tremendous support which we receive from parents. I also want to thank the School Governors for all their hard work in serving the School Community.

Paul Enright, Headteacher

Faith In Action

Teachers' Karaoke



(left to right) Mr Morris , Mr Fanning,
Mr Donaldson, Mr Naiker

In an explosion of wigs, glitz and highly strained vocals, Teachers' Karaoke raised a whopping £500 for the annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Party here at St Mark's. The awry vocals only fuelled the delights of the crowds, and highlights included Dr Callaghan's rousing tribute to David Bowie, and the girl power of Little Mix (Ms Wade, Ms Morillon, Ms Benson, and Ms Heeney).

Many thanks to Ms Jackson and her Faith In Action Group for organising and hosting such a successful event; despite the fact that many teachers feel afraid to show their faces in public again!

Oaklands Party

Over the past few weeks, our Faith in Action group have worked on putting together a party for the students at Oaklands School, a school specialising in the support and teaching of young people with severe learning disabilities. We had the opportunity to visit the school and meet some highly enthusiastic students; the Christmas party is always the highlight of their year!

In order to organize this event effectively, we split into three groups: decorations, food and entertainment. There was a lot to think about, in terms of ensuring games were suitable, catering for the pupil's dietary needs, and also making sure we created a fun and relaxing environment. After a lot of thought and determination, we helped raise our funds by selling Krispy Kreme's, which turned out to be a massive success. As the week of the party finally approached, we were ready to face the challenge ahead.

The day started with an ambitious venture to buy all of the necessary items required by each team. With a set amount of money, each sub group set out on an apprentice-style hunt to find everything we needed.

Once food and decorations were purchased and loaded up, we set off to Oaklands and began preparations, with groups cooking and decorating simultaneously. After tables were stacked with delicious treats, we had a brief Christmas carol refresher, and then invited the first group of students in.

A shorter and quieter party was held for these students as they had more complex needs but it did not stop them from having a great time. With our spirited host, Michaela, we got involved in numerous games like pass the parcel and a dancing competition. The second party began soon after, and immediately they began chatting and dancing with us through many loud karaoke sessions led by Mr Haley and DJ Kyle, all enjoying the array of Christmas songs being played.

Overall it was a very fun-filled and successful day. We would like to thank everyone who helped to raise the money, as well as Mr Haley and Ms Heeney for helping organise and run the day.

Harli-almaz Dokal, Matthew MacLeod and Erin Rebelo-Bareto

Senior Citizens' Party

This year in Faith In Action we have been working towards hosting a Christmas party for senior citizens in the local area. For this to take place it required fundraising in order to have money to provide a afternoon of entertainment for those who may be lonely this Christmas. The fundraising consisted of a Krispy Kreme doughnut sale, a cookie sale, a strength competition, a car wash, a Secret Santa gift delivery and the Teachers Karaoke night. In total, as a group effort, we raised over £300. This money went towards hosting the party and ensuring each person who attended left with a small Christmas present.

This year we celebrated with people from five different nursing homes in the local area. Some of the St Mark's students involved in the party went and collected the senior citizens from the homes near by, and the rest were dropped off. Each and every person was welcomed into St marks and the celebrations began with a singsong of Christmas carols in the LRC.

The festivities continued in the Main Hall as the choir performed joyful Christmas songs and a competitive game of bingo took place. As the afternoon continued seasonal foods were served whilst classic festive tunes echoed throughout the Hall. The atmosphere created by both the Sixth Formers and the senior citizens made the afternoon one to remember.

Lauren Gilbert and Ciara Egan Year 12



Operation Secret Santa

The current Year 9 council have enrolled in a program called 'Hope for Homeless' which required them to try to collect gifts for those who are homeless this Christmas (both adults and children). These gifts would include simple items that the majority of our society take for granted, for example toothbrushes and scarves. These students also took the opportunity to include a primary school in the project, so that they too could feel the sense of fulfilment this Christmas. Jamie Cavill, Max Bilin and Ciaran Collins got in touch with St Edmund's Primary School in Whitton where the Council gave a presentation to the whole school concerning this project, and asked if they could present gifts to this initiative. St Edmund's were extremely willing to participate in this project and donated a whole mini bus worth of gifts for the Homeless. Of course we were tremendously satisfied with what was presented by St Edmund's, and thanked the school for their generous contribution. Once we had collected all the donations from our school, the Year 9 council spent period 1,2 and 3 sorting out the gifts received so that they could easily be given to a Homeless charity. Ms Thomas, and everyone who worked on this project, are extremely happy with everyone's contribution. We are very sure that those who are less fortunate than us will be very happy this Christmas.

THANK YOU!

Ciaran Collins and Max Bilin Year 9

Macbeth

This term St Mark's School Production was dedicated to the works of Shakespeare in this his 400th Anniversary year. But which one to choose from his 37 plays? So difficult was the choice, we decided to stage two of his most famous: *Romeo and Juliet* and *Macbeth*.

Involving the dramatic talents of Year 8, 9 and 10 students, *Macbeth* was a theatrical triumph. All actors contributed to the direction and studio production of what must be Shakespeare's most infamous tragedy. The Witches remained on set throughout providing a malevolent presence, seemingly viewing the characters as puppets for their amusement.

Sound effects, music from a range of genres and lighting varying from misty, murky green to royal purple and gold brought the machinations of the protagonists to startling realisation. All actors produced remarkable performances which would not look out of place in the West End! It was ensemble playing at its best and certainly takes its place in a proud tradition of St Mark's School Productions.

Romeo and Juliet

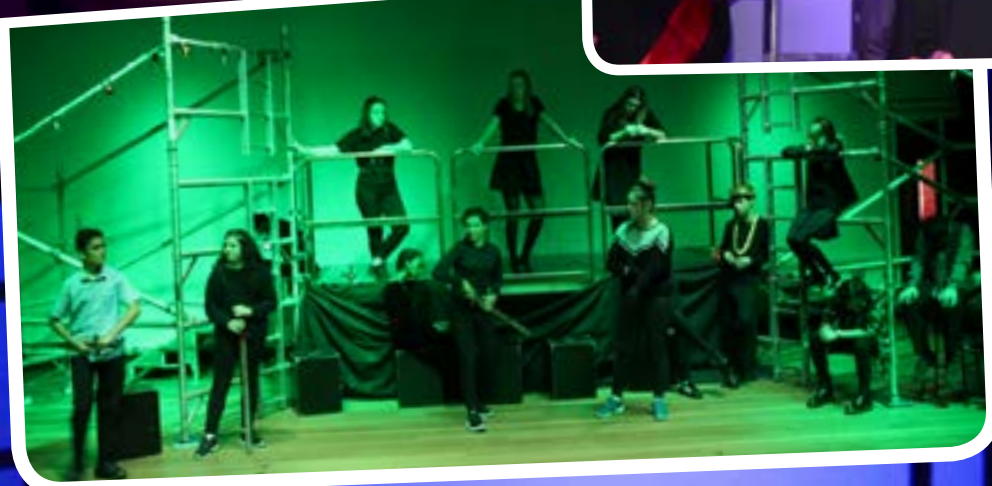
Romeo and Juliet was one of the two Shakespeare's plays to be performed on the 17th and 18th November 2016, to mark the commemoration of 400 years since William Shakespeare's death.

We had around two months to put the show together, sticking to a rigid rehearsal schedule, but it was worth all of the hard work and effort made by everyone and a great way to start the year. During rehearsals I met so many new people and I now have friends from different classes and year groups in the school. It was an opportunity to be social as well as practising and learning new skills in how a production is run. Ms Hutchison was very helpful and great at sorting everything out and made sure we all knew what we were doing.

On the opening night everyone was very nervous but extremely excited at the chance to impress their friends, family members and teachers who would make up the large audience. The performance was a great success and people are still talking about it now.

This is definitely one of the most memorable things that I have been involved in so far at St Mark's and I will definitely be auditioning for next year's performance.

Hugo Dawson Year 8



School Production

Comedy Classroom



Tom Moreland

"The sketches will have to be handed in by the end of July, and will be judged not soon after that. Who knows, we might have a chance at winning!"

Several months ago, Harry Black concluded his article for Veritas on the Comedy Classroom scheme with these very words. It turns out that he was half right, which, being honest, is more than any of us were expecting!

The manner in which Harry was only half right was in his description of how we might win. Despite several sketches by St Mark's students (an individual sketch by Joseph Nagle, and a group sketch written by Charlee Barrett, Loju Owai and myself, Tom Moreland) going far, none won. However, I was surprised and delighted to win the Comedy Caption category.

I found out in an unexpected way. One October afternoon, our English class was sent to have an unscheduled English lesson for a "performance review" of Ms O'Connell. Naturally, this was not the case! About five minutes in Jonny Cochrane and Inel Tomlinson of CBBC burst through the door with a camera crew trailing behind them. They proceeded to present me with my award in front of the class. Due to how nonplussed everyone was, their reactions had to be filmed again.

Johnny and Inel then briefly interviewed me and Ms O'Connell. This footage was later put into a video through which the winners were announced; Ms O'Connell had more screen time than I did in the very first video., which I think she enjoyed!

The following day I went to the BBC offices by Oxford Circus with Ms O'Connell and Mr Sheehan. We had a tour of the BBC and I spent time talking with a successful comic writer about how to write captions. I also met Miles Jupp and Susan Calman in the Radio 4 recording studio, so that was neat.



Johnny Cochrane, Ms.O'Connell, Tom Moreland, Inel Tomlinson

It then turned out that this wasn't the end of the Comedy Classroom experience though; I ended up appearing on the The One Show to talk about it on Wednesday 16th November. This time I was accompanied by Ms O'Connell and Mr Donaldson. I was first sent to make-up (not that I mean to add any more bragging onto this already egotistical article, but apparently, I have "good skin"...) and then got to meet the other competition winners. They were almost disgustingly pleasant, and I spoke to them for a bit before actually going on The One Show. In the end I didn't actually say anything when I was on the sofa, but that doesn't really matter because I can still tell people that I kind of sort of met Sting - even though I didn't speak to him once.

Overall, it was a pretty neat experience and I think it'd be cool if it were to be run again next year.

Tom Moreland Year 10

Gardening Club News



Keash, Emily, Kacper and Daniel getting ready to make Remembrance wreaths

You may recall in the last edition of Veritas we reported about the "Rocket Science" Experiment our School Gardening Club participated in alongside over 8,600 groups in schools and communities across the country. On 3rd November the results of this huge science experiment were revealed in an email from The Royal Horticultural Society.

It was revealed that on average, the Earth seeds grew better than the space seeds, but not by much. It is thought that this is most likely caused by the space seeds being slightly affected by radiation while on board the ISS. Despite this, they still

grew and that is great news as it means there is still potential to grow food on long-term missions or even another planet in the future! Our own results from the seeds we grew here at St Mark's reflected this outcome.

The RHS will be running another project in 2017, but meanwhile here on earth we had a new crop of Year 7 gardeners join Gardening in October and we have already been busy.

As we have lots and lots of rosemary growing in the garden, and rosemary is a herb traditionally associated with remembrance, we got busy and made some wreaths to put in the Chapel for the month of November. We used a wire coat hanger to get a round shape and twisted pieces of rosemary onto the wire with twine. We used lots of rosemary and the room smelt lovely while we were making them.

*Daniel Zdziech, Emily Di Muro, Swethlena Fernandes, Kacper Pasek
Nester Fernandes and Keash De Souza - all Year 7*



Daniel with finished wreaths



Wreath in the chapel

Media Trip: 'Suffragette'

Suffragette (Gavron, 2015)

"We break windows, we burn things, because war is the only thing men listen to"

-Violet Cambridge

In late November the Year 12 Media students embarked on a journey to Acton Vue to see Bafta award winner Sarah Gavron's historical drama *Suffragette*.

As an audience we were not quite sure what to expect. We have studied the Pathe marketing campaign for the film as a case study on film distribution, but we knew little about the film itself other than Meryl Streep was the Hollywood star and the film focused on the fight of women to get the vote. Predictably, as the film is called *Suffragette*, it turned out to be about women fighting for the same voting rights as men, but with an extra insight to how inexplicably tough it was to be a woman in that time period.

The narrative started in a laundry with main character Maud Watts (Carey Mulligan) getting caught up in the suffragette protests taking place in central London whilst she is delivering a package. She then becomes drawn to the movement and realizes that the fight is one worth having. The film's art direction, composition, writing and dialogue drew us in from the start, putting a lot of us on the edges of our seats. Injustices were not

swept under the rug and given minimalist attention, they were presented in mature realistic ways which kept us horrified but continuously watching. Even as we saw our protagonists doubt their will to fight as society tried to muffle their voices, they always pushed through and regained their determination to force their way through the shackles which bound them because of an outdated ideology that considered a half of the world inferior.

As the film near its end at a horse racing track, we then remember how this event happened in real life as we see Emily Davidson trampled and killed by the King's horse.

At the end of the film we see rolling credits showing when voting rights for women around the world became law; this was quite an eye-opener in terms of how recently this happened in some countries whilst in others equal suffrage has still to be achieved.

Overall this film was an unforgettable experience for us, even though it did not catch our attention when first released last year. An added bonus was the Vue cinema chain giving us each a free ticket to see any film of our own choice in the month of December.

Etienne Quartey-Papafio Year 12



Year 12 Politics Trip to the Mother of Parliaments



On the 28th September the new Year 12 Politics class embarked on a journey to the Palace of Westminster/ Houses of Parliament to enrich our knowledge on the British Political system and its deep sense of tradition as Politics students.

We left from Hounslow Central just after break and made our way to Westminster. When we arrived at the Houses of Parliament, we were greeted with an in depth security inspection, and we reluctantly had to put our phones and bags away for the duration of the tour. We were taken on a tour by a member of the Education Centre's team, who throughout the tour informed us of the ins and outs of Parliament's traditions. On the day of the tour party there were conferences taking place which meant that the palace was virtually empty, therefore we were extremely lucky and were able to enter the House of Commons chamber itself. There we were told many details about the House such as it can seat only 427 of the 650 elected

MPs! We also visited the House of Lords chamber, which was very noticeably more lavish than the Commons. It was a similar experience to the Commons chamber; we were given a brief history of the House and shown the major aspects such as the Queen's throne, which was extremely elegant, and is where the Queen performs her annual speech at the formal opening of Parliament. We were then taken into Westminster Hall, the oldest part of the Palace of Westminster and a place of huge significance. The trial of Charles 1 was held there and leading figures such as the great late Nelson Mandela have given speeches there.

After the extremely insightful tour of the Houses we were taken back to the education centre which is a world-class education facility that connects young people with Parliament and democracy. It makes use of creative and immersive technology to create a unique learning experience. In the education centre we took part in a number of activities and were split into two teams. One activity was a quiz on our general political knowledge. We then watched a video which was based on the History of Parliament and were asked to work as a team to answer the questions given. Finally, we had a debate with the other team whether the voting age should be lowered; one team had to support it and the other had to oppose it. The experience in the education centre was extremely valuable as it really allowed us to express our opinions and question our political system.

Overall the day was a complete success and really helped me and my entire fellow Politics peers engage in the subject and have a first-hand look at the home of British politics.

Oscar Crowe Year 12

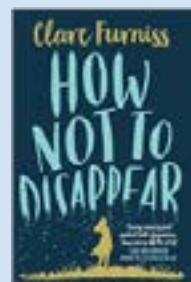
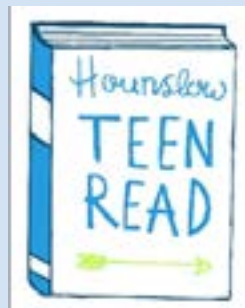


The Bookshelf

Teen Read

The Hounslow Teen Read 2017, was launched on 16th November. The author Faye Bird announced the shortlist and talked about her books, 'What I Couldn't Tell You' and 'My Second Life'.

Students, mostly from Year 9, will spend the next four months reading through the shortlist of six books.

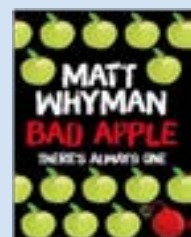


How Not to Disappear by Clare Furniss

Hattie's summer isn't going as planned. Her two best friends have abandoned her ... Hattie is stuck babysitting her twin siblings and dealing with endless drama around her mum's wedding. Oh, and she also just discovered she's pregnant with Reuben's baby. Then Gloria, Hattie's great-aunt who no one even knew existed, comes crashing into her life. Gloria's fiercely independent, rather too fond of gin sling and is in the early stages of dementia. Together the two of them set out on a road trip of self-discovery – Gloria to finally confront the secrets of her past before they are wiped from her memory forever and Hattie to face the hard choices that will determine her future.

Remade by Alex Scarrow

Leon and his younger sister, Grace have recently moved to London from New York and are struggling to settle to their new school when rumours of an unidentified virus in Africa begin to fill the news. Within a week the virus hits London. The siblings witness people turning to liquid before their eyes, and they run for their lives. A month after touching Earth's atmosphere the virus has assimilated the world's biomass. But the virus isn't their only enemy, and survival is just the first step.



Bad Apple by Matt Whyman

Like all good law-abiding citizens, sixteen-year-old Maurice no longer considers going off the rails as just a teenage phase. It can only mean the mark of a troll ... But these trolls aren't confined to causing trouble online: now they're in our homes, on our street and have ruined life as we know it. As a rule Maurice tries to avoid trouble – until the day he crosses paths with Wretch, a very bad apple indeed. And with tensions rising, can these two teens put their differences aside in order to survive?

Hell and High Water by Tanya Landman

1752. Devon, England.

When his father is arrested and transported to the Colonies, Caleb is left alone. After a desperate journey in search of an aunt he's never met he receives a strange, cold welcome. Then a body washes up on the nearby beach and Caleb is caught up in a terrifying net of lies and intrigue. Soon he and his new family are in mortal danger.



The Big Lie by Julie Mayhew

Nazi England, 2014

Jessika Keller is a good girl. A champion ice skater, model student of the Band Deutscher Mädel and dutiful daughter of the Great German Reich. Her best friend Clementine is not so submissive. Passionately different, Clem is outspoken, dangerous, radical. And the regime has noticed. Jess cannot keep both her perfect life and her dearest friend, her first love. But which can she live without?

Maladapted by Richard Kurti

Cillian is the sole survivor of a devastating terrorist attack on a packed Metro train. How did he survive when everyone else was killed? Searching for answers with the mysterious Tess, Cillian discovers that his father has links to P8, a group of genetic scientists operating outside the laws of Foundation City. The shocking discoveries he and Tess make at P8's secret hospital start to make Cillian ask not who he is, but what he is.



National Poetry Day



On 6th October Year 7 students shared their favourite poems with Sixth formers. The LRC was filled with poetry all day long.

Book Fair

A Book Fair came to the LRC at the end of November, giving students, and staff too, a great opportunity to snap up some bargains.



Six Word Story

In the summer of 2016 we set the students the challenge of writing a six word story. Yes that's right - a story in six words only!

It was inspired by Ernest Hemingway's famous challenge and first six word story. Hemingway's purported authorship was the apparent result of a wager between him and other writers. While lunching with friends at a restaurant Hemingway bets the table ten dollars each that he can craft an entire story in six words. After the pot is assembled, Hemingway writes, "For sale: baby shoes, never worn" on a napkin, passes this around the table, and collects his winnings. Inspired by this the six word story has served as a prompt for decades, testing writers' ability to create their own succinct masterpieces with all sorts of clever results. These abridged yarns do not fall into one genre, or even one tone, their only similarities being their strict adherence to the mandatory word limit. Some anecdotes are funny, some are introspective and others are downright heartbreaking.

This was the challenge. Here are some of the best from St Mark's:

They held hands like broken glass.

Zoe Sserwanga

I won, I felt somewhat incomplete.

Anonymous

The clown came, but nobody laughed.

Ella Doyle

Suicide note written but never read.

Tom Moreland

Over thinking. It kills the mind.

Ellen O'Neill

GSK Work Experience Programme

On Monday 26th October a group of students and I headed off to the GSK headquarters in Brentford for a week's work experience. The day began with an introduction and facts about GSK such as, globally, GSK has about 100,000 employees. After the brief introduction, I met my 'buddy' who was the person I would be work shadowing for two days. I was paired with another student (Jerry McMichael) because our buddies were in the same department, Global Ethics and Compliance department. After chatting to my buddy there was a detailed talk about the history of GSK. We then had a tour of the Human Performance Lab, which is a relatively new facility with state of the art equipment where elite athletes such as Tom Daley and the Browning brothers sometimes train. I found the Human Performance lab deeply fascinating because I took GSCE PE, and so had some knowledge about what the tour guide was saying.

The next couple of days were very interesting and beneficial. I found the talk on Clinical Pharmacology relatable to areas of my own study and I also found the process of a clinical trial fascinating. Later we had another talk about GSK careers and apprentices, which I found useful because this time next year I will be applying to a University.

On Wednesday and Thursday, Jerry and I were work shadowing Iain and Suzanna. Jerry and I found these two days of work shadowing very useful and informative, I enjoyed seeing what it is like to work in a billion-dollar industry such as GSK. I saw the highs and lows about working in a corporate business. I spent two days in the Global Ethics and Compliance department and I learnt many things through my discussion with Iain and Suzanna. Overall the two days I spent with Iain and Suzanna were very informative and enjoyable, and it was a great experience.

On Friday, we headed off to the manufacturing site in Maidenhead to see the production of toothpaste and mouthwash. Furthermore, when we got back to GSK house, we had some time to prepare the questions for the Q&A panel. The Q&A panel was very beneficial because the panel was filled with people with different jobs, ranging from engineers to procurement and finance. As I want to be an engineer, I had a lot of questions about the job and the Q&A panel allowed me to ask all my questions.

The GSK Work Experience programme was very valuable and I enjoyed every second of it. I gained essential skills and experiences that I can now take with me to University.

Virtue Igbokwuwe Year 12



Safe Drive Stay Alive Cafod Soup Lunch



On Friday 13th October, Year 12 were invited by Hounslow and Ealing Boroughs to the Safe Drive Stay Alive Event held at Questors Theatre in Ealing.

The campaign is designed to help students identify and cope with peer influence and pressure as

well as gain real insight into the long-reaching and devastating consequences of bad road safety choices. We were given facts and then accounts from the Police, Fire Brigade, Ambulance Service, a bereaved mother and a man who had been left severely disabled after a road traffic accident.

I thought the whole performance and the impact made by the different speakers was absolutely perfect. It hit home in the right way; it was shocking and it certainly affected me and all of my friends. The memory will always remain with me, which is a very good thing. All of the speakers did their job fantastically well in producing an influential and very interesting show.

A few weeks later we had a follow up workshop



led by the Riot Act group which gave students the chance to take part in discussions and activities that helped them reflect upon and further understand key road safety dangers facing young drivers and passengers.

Elrad Stoiber Year 12

Every year the Sixth Form students of St Mark's Catholic School come together to raise money for CAFOD through making and selling a hearty cup of soup and a piece of French bread for the small price of a £1. This year we chose to make leek and potato soup.



Once we had purchased the produce, and emptied our local supermarket of all their French bread, we began on the preparation. The students were split into two groups, one group peeled, diced and boiled; the other blended, served and sold. The soup was served at lunch and it was great to see so many teachers and students come together to support a cause which promotes the values of the school. The event was a great success and overall we managed to raise £246.97 for CAFOD.

We've chosen to donate the money raised to CAFOD's 'Hands on this Harvest appeal'. We chose this campaign because it emphasises the importance of working in a community whilst helping to fight poverty. In London there are a lot of opportunities and privileges that we take for granted; through donating to this campaign we hope to help less fortunate areas in transforming poverty to plenty. We particularly liked that the 'Hands On appeal' will assist farmers and their families in making the most out of the harvest and providing new equipment that will ensure that they are able to grow more than enough even in difficult periods.

The amount of support that the Soup Day received was incredible and we would like to thank everyone who supported the event, and we would be grateful for continued support of the Sixth Form's future charity endeavours. We would also like to thank Ms McIntyre for all of her help.

*Charity Representatives:
James Sinton and Ellie Di Matteo Year 13*

Senior Maths Challenge



The annual UK Senior Maths Challenge was sat on the 8th of November by about 82,000 Year 12 and 13 students nationwide, including 31 pupils 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 18 of our pupils earned a Bronze, Silver or Gold certificate. Congratulations should go to all our pupils who challenged themselves in this competition. A special mention should also go to Louise Weiner (Gold) for coming top in Year 12, and to Adam Lenkiewicz (Silver) for coming top in Year 13 and missing out on Gold by only 1 mark out of the 125 maximum. Louise also qualified for the first follow-on round, the Senior Kangaroo.

Thanks should also, again, 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 young mathematicians are, this year's and previous years' question and answer papers can be accessed on-line at 'UKMT' and other related websites.

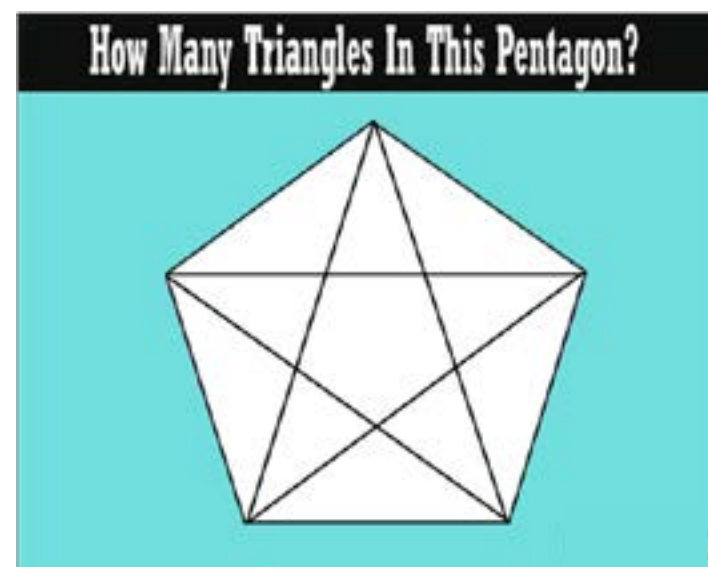
And if you're reasonably confident in your own numerical ability, how about putting yourself in their shoes and trying a Challenge or even a Kangaroo or Olympiad paper? No cheating mind, the calculator has to remain in your desk drawer!

Mr. Gold

Maths Enrichment

On Wednesday the 7th of December twelve Year 8 students set out to visit Weyden School in Farnham. They were selected to participate in a Maths Enrichment Activity Day. Throughout the day the students were involved in an assortment of maths tasks. The day was filled with engaging and inspiring activities.

Have a go at the problem below. The answer will be revealed in the next Veritas. With a lot of persistence Ruby Bougi and Tamara Ofori-Atta from St Marks solved this tricky question.



Jack Petchey Award Winners

October
for his work with Debate Club
Alex Moreland

November
for her work supporting others in class
Megan Marsh

December
for his extra support for pupils in Product Design
Navindu Pigera

Media Trip: BBFC

On the 14th October, the Year 13 Media students were fortunate enough to be able to visit the BBFC building in Soho, and spend the afternoon with a BBFC examiner. The BBFC is the British Board of Film Classification. We had been studying the BBFC in class for a few weeks as part of our exam module on the regulation of film in the UK, and have learnt about its long history and how its role and focus has shifted over the years to reflect changes in both society and the film industry itself. Therefore this visit was an extremely interesting and exciting for us.

The BBFC building was in Soho Square, just off Oxford Street. Soho is a quirky, lively area that contributes greatly to the film industry. Once we got over the initial shock of being there and made it inside, we were taken into a seminar room where we were greeted by Emily Fussell, a BBFC examiner and a member of the Education Department there.

The walls were covered in posters from the latest films, including 'Trolls' and 'Suicide Squad'. Emily explained to us the role of the BBFC and how they regulate and classify films. It was immensely interesting to learn about the classification process, as it is something so relevant in our lives. Some film ratings were actually quite shocking; ones that you would expect to be quite low were in fact quite high. After a few hours of being shown film clips and regulating them to the BBFC's standards, chatting and learning more about Emily's job and coming to terms with what fun a BBFC examiner's job is (they literally watch films for a living!) it was time to depart, but not before Emily shared with us some of her personal experiences with strange and outrageously controversial films.

Overall, it was a fantastic trip that I would love to experience again.

Katie Jenkins Year 13



Sky Trip



Ever wondered what it is like behind the scenes of live news reports at Sky? On 17th November, ten Year 12 students from St Mark's School in Hounslow had the opportunity to get an insight into the work people do behind the scenes at Sky News and Sky Sports. The trip was a brilliant experience for the students interested in a career in media or journalism.

The day began with a talk about the social media platforms that are used at Sky. This provided students with information on the importance of social media for Sky as it allows them to provide news stories on all platforms and showed the range of jobs available involving social media at Sky.

This was then immediately followed by a talk from Sky Sports presenter Mike Wedderburn, who came straight off air to talk to us. He enlightened us on the paths he has taken to become a presenter at Sky Sports. The Sky Sports star also described his exciting lifestyle which included working with and meeting the biggest names in sport, but he also told us presenting early morning programmes meant waking up at 1:30 am.

Sunrise presenter Isabel Webster also gave us advice on how to pursue a career in media and journalism. Isabel mentioned helpful degrees to lead into journalism and made it clear that work experience was key to getting a job at Sky.

We also got to practise presenting our own stories in front of the producers at Sky News and we got the opportunity to talk to a number of people who worked in different positions at Sky.

The fantastic day at the Sky Studios in Osterley was concluded with a tour of the Sky News room. One student who went to the studios stated, 'The trip was an amazing experience and provided useful information about Journalism. My favourite part, was talking to Mike Wedderburn'.

The trip was a great experience and opportunity and gave us an insight into the career of journalism and the positions available at Sky.

Tom Stitson (Year 12)

Battle of the Bands



The first ever Battle of the Bands was an overwhelming success. Some serious talent was on display. Ten bands, including three outstanding ones from the Sixth Form competed to be crowned "Battle of the Bands" winners 2016. With songs performed ranging from Radiohead to Michael Jackson, it really was a memorable evening.

The winners were Year 11 students Eryk, Marco,

Callum and Angelica. They performed brilliantly and thoroughly entertained the packed out theatre with a high energy performance of a classic metal number. The band showed great interaction between band members, tons of confidence, good all round talent and superb vocals.

Every single band should be proud of their performance and the amount of hard work that I heard reverberating from the music practice rooms every break and lunch.



A big thank you goes to Mr Donnelly, Mr Shore, Dr.Callaghan and special guest judge Ms Goldberg. Thank you also to the Art Department for making such a brilliant trophy and to Dylan, Jorhson, Ewan and Max for helping on the night.

Mr Martin



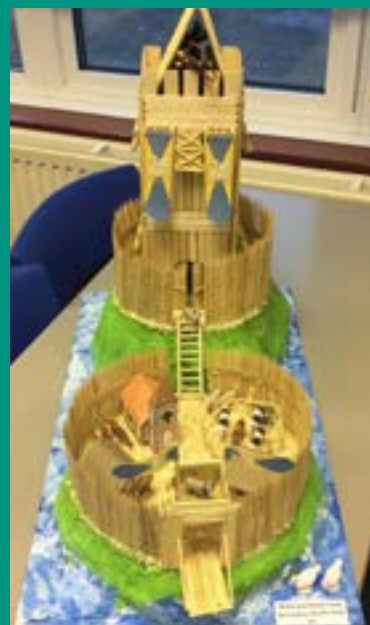
HISTORY

CASTLE BUILDING COMPETITION

The History Department would like to say a huge well done to the whole of Year 7 for their efforts in making this such a fantastic competition. The standard was extremely high this year which made the decision very difficult.



First place -
Luis Gill 7BE



Runner up -
Carolina Perello Javar 7CI



Runner up -
Ella Hanna Sanz 7Po

Duke of Edinburgh Award: 60 Years



On Thursday 24th November, Ms Stewart and Mr Jivan attended a service of thanksgiving to celebrate 60 years of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Along with other special guests, they were invited to Westminster Abbey to join HRH Queen and HRH Prince Philip to recognise and celebrate the impact this scheme has had on young people in the UK and the wider world. HRH the Earl of Sussex, Prince Edward spoke eloquently about the achievements of D of E participants in Ghana, South Africa and Asia as well as those in the UK. Readings were given by young people from different faiths and backgrounds, reflecting the diverse demographic of people involved in the award scheme.

Our personal highlight was being seated opposite the Queen, albeit 20 rows back! This day will always be very special to us and we would like to thank Dot Hasler, the D of E Hounslow coordinator for supporting us over the last 10 years where 345 awards have been achieved by students at St Mark's.

Mr Jivan

A Level Product Design



Year 12 Product Designers have been asked to design and make a library chair for Year 3 pupils that encourages literacy and the use of the school library.

Our students are shown here on an initial research visit to Mount Carmel Primary School on 30th September. While there, the budding designers collected data and interviewed Year 3 pupils about what they would like to see in their ideal library chair.

The results were original and innovative! Students and children from both schools are looking forward to seeing the final designs and testing them out in Spring next year.



Art Club is back!



Art Club is back, bigger, louder and dare I say more F. U. N thanks to the wonderful Zuzanna Rozanska and Klaudia Zaporowska who have taken over the teaching of Year 7 Art Club this year.

Zuzanna and Klaudia (better known as Zooz & Zap) are no strangers to the Art department having achieved outstanding grades at GCSE by burning live meat sculptures and exhibiting severed limbed dolls. They are also original members of the first Year 7 Art Club run by Mr Hook back in 2010. It is great to see two fantastic, energetic people having experienced the benefits of an art education wanting to give back to the youngest in our school so they too can have the opportunity to explore the world around them and develop themselves creatively. Plus you get to make printed Christmas cards!

Next term I have been told that Zoozzap are planning for Year 7's to make life size sculptures of each other and there will be the addition of free cake every week. So, Art Club, every Thursday 3.05 – 4.00pm in Room 19. No experience required, just a desire to have arty fun and eat cake!

Mr Hook



We Love to Recycle!



Design and Technology students make products using a wide range of materials from wood, plastics and metals to card and (blue) styrofoam. We encourage our students to 're-purpose' products which have reached the end of their useful life. In the past we have taken apart tables, beds, wardrobes and frame tent poles and used them to create lamps, children's toys and storage units. We also use a lot of card for modelling. Unfortunately our stocks of materials are now becoming depleted.

Can you help? Were you thinking of disposing of any materials that we could use? Does your workplace (shop fitters, builders, printers, sign makers, plumbers) regularly discard potentially useful materials?

We would gladly recycle:

- Any hard or softwood offcuts, painted, sawn or planed (but no nails or screws please)
- Plywood or MDF sheet – offcuts are fine (but not chipboard/particle board please)
- Card, plain or corrugated – printed or plain
- Steel, aluminium, copper, brass - sheet, rod, plate, angle, tube or wire
- Plastics (especially acrylic or PVC) in sheet or tube form
- Corrugated plastic (polypropylene)

Sorting out the shed or loft? Just completed a DIY job? We would also gratefully accept anything else you may no longer have use for such as hand tools, portable power tools, screws, part used paint, varnish, paint brushes or sand/cement.

If you can help, please contact Mr Steed, Mr Guegan or Mr Jivan in the Design and Technology department.

Bank Of England Trip



On the 1st November, Ms Wade took the Year 12 business students to the Bank of England; the objective was to learn about inflation, interest rates and the history of the bank. We learnt that the most important objective for the Bank of England was reinforcing trust and confidence in money itself.

Whilst being at the Bank of England, which had been first opened in 1694, we learnt about how the Bank's mission was to promote the well-being of the people of the United Kingdom by maintaining monetary and financial stability. There was an insight into how the Bank runs on a daily basis, as it produces and discards the same amount of money into the economy to create solidity for the country. We were privileged to have an insight on the next £20 banknote due to be issued by 2020, and were left rather stunned to learn that the Bank of England held three-quarters of the gold in London, or 5,134 tonnes. Most of the gold was stored as standard bars weighing 400 troy ounces and there were about 500,000 of them, each worth in the region of £350,000.

Overall, the trip taught us how the Bank plays a vital role in keeping the economy of the country as stable as possible as it goes through the economic cycle.

Teresa Muanza Domingos, Year 12



Smile Train



Daniel Vanas - KS3



Tess DaCosta - KS3



Conor Larkin - KS4



Veah Mascarenhas - KS4

Smile Train is an international children's charity with a sustainable approach to a single, solvable problem: cleft lip and palate. Their fund raising day was in October so in school on Thursday 13th October, students were offered the opportunity pay a£1 to have their photograph taken by members of the A Level photography class in orders to enter the 'Best Smile in St Mark's' with the proceeds going to Smile Train. There was a 'best boy's smile' winner, a 'best girl's smile' winner in KS3, KS4 and KS5, and a 'best staff smile' winner.

Overall we managed to raise £450 for Smile Train which will fund four operations. Many thanks to all who took part and remember, it takes 43 muscles to frown and 17 to smile, so, conserve energy, smile more!



Mr. Guegan



Ms. Delaney



Emily Wilmer - KS5



Martin Conway - KS5

Theatre Visits

Old Vic's Schools' Club

Our school was very fortunate to be one of only 40 in London selected to take part in the "Old Vic's Schools' Club". The Schools' Club is a scheme which offers free tickets to Old Vic Shows to students in Years 9-13 giving them the opportunity to widen their learning of the theatrical arts in one of London's oldest and most well-known theatres. On Monday 21st November a group of St Mark's students were invited to see King Lear, one of Shakespeare's most shocking and brutal masterpieces. This production has made headlines due to the casting of Glenda Jackson in the titular role.

King Lear portrays a domineering and foolish character who divides his kingdom, between his two twisted and spiteful daughters. He disowns his honest daughter and banishes his loyal friends. But as the kingdom suffers due to his actions, King Lear is humiliated and turns mad. Is it all too late for King Lear to finally realise how his actions have impacted on everything around him?

Another aspect of the Old Vic Schools' Club is that it also runs workshops for schools. Before seeing the production of King Lear, we had the opportunity to participate in a workshop led by the play's director and producer. I found the workshop extremely helpful as it broke the play down efficiently and allowed me to have a greater understanding of the themes.



Furthermore, I learnt about dramatic techniques such as making effective use of lighting and sound and how dramatic devices can have a major impact on audience's experience of the play. The workshop was also a great opportunity to mix with the Sixth Formers and learn acting skills from them.

I am delighted to be a member of the Old Vic Schools' scheme and would like to thank Ms Hutchison and the Drama department for making this possible. Also many thanks go to Ms O'Connell and Mr Donaldson for accompanying us on our first visit to the Old Vic.

Olivia Williams Year 10

Dr Faustus



On 30 September, one of our Year 12 English Literature groups attended a Royal Shakespeare Company Production of Christopher Marlowe's Dr Faustus at the Barbican Theatre. One of the students Paddy Downing stated, "Dr Faustus is one of our A level texts, so it was good to see a performance of the play, it gives us more insight into how stagecraft can influence a particular reading of the play".

Macbeth Paul Robeson Theatre



This play begins with WITCHES!

A great opportunity was given to students from Years 7 to 10 to watch the play Macbeth in Hounslow Theatre in the Treaty Centre. Many were enthusiastic to take this opportunity, as the school's production this year is Macbeth. And so a group set out to the Treaty Centre to see this well reviewed performance!

There was a lot of excitement as we entered the theatre, it came as a surprise to many that on the stage was a giant screen, this was not expected and added intrigue into the upcoming play. The stage was set up like a large scaffold with mysterious boxes on either side, the contents of which were still unknown to the audience. A green mist swirled along the floor, and eerie music created an atmosphere of suspense as we waited for the lights to die down, and for the play to begin.

Sure enough, the room fell to darkness and the noisy chatter of excited students came to a halt as the lights on the stage rose to the screen at the centre. The lights on the screen flickered on and a figure emerged, the storyteller, and porter of Macbeth. This style of theatre had the audience entranced, and from nowhere came a startling bang and flash of lights as the porter burst from

a flap under the screen. It certainly started the show off with a bang! As we grew to know his character, the porter developed a comical but certainly spooky character. Despite being the only actor being involved with the audience, the show was extremely enjoyable, and the story was played out on pre-recorded film. This made the audience feel as if they were with the porter, viewing the story from above.

Overall, the play was thoroughly enjoyable, and ended with a talk from the actor playing the porter. The audience asked questions about the 'why' and 'how' of the play.

This opportunity was so worth the time and introduced ideas about Macbeth that we hadn't thought of before. It was certainly an inspiration for the school production, and was a great insight into the different ways Shakespeare could be interpreted!

Pippa Dawson Year 12

A Christmas Carol



On Tuesday 22nd November, Quantum Theatre came to our school and performed 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens.

Students from Years 9, 10 and 11 attended and thoroughly enjoyed the interpretation of the story. The cast of three actors did a fantastic job in conveying the true message of Christmas, which is to love and care for all.

Not only was it a fantastic show but it truly got everyone in the Christmas spirit.

Maria Harris Year 11

St Mark's Sports



Year 7 Football Team

Year 7 Football

The Year 7 Football Team remain unbeaten in the Borough league though the boys are still recovering from the disappointment of losing narrowly 2-1 in the County Cup last 16.

Wins have come against Chiswick, Kingsley Academy and Reach Academy with a high number of goals being scored.

Particularly noteworthy performances have come from the captain Joseph Edet, Ben Woodard and goalkeeper Dylan Pannu. It has been excellent to see so many at training with over 30 boys representing school football teams this season.

Basketball



The Year 9 Team have had some mixed results this year in what has been a competitive league with defeats to Lampton and Isleworth but wins over Gunnersbury and Heathland. The boys' commitment to training has been fantastic this season and I am sure this will stand them in good stead for next year. Well done to all the squad.

Year 8 Football

The Year 8 Football Team are also on an excellent run and are still unbeaten this season with a Middlesex Cup quarter final to come in the new year. Having beaten Heathland (6-2) and Rivers Academy (5-0) in the league they have also beaten Rivers academy (5-0) and Greenford School (6-1) in the cup.

All of the squad have made key contributions so far this year but Daniel Okolo and Tyler Falzone have been particularly impressive. Hopefully we will have some further good news to report in the next issue of Veritas.

Girls' Netball					
Year vs School	Heathlands A team	Heathlands B team	Chiswick	Spring West	Green
Year 7	2-8 loss	10-1 win	1-15 loss	5-4 win	
Year 8			19-2 loss	5-13 loss	
Year 9	0-8 loss				13-2 win
Year 10					19-12 win



Year 7-10 Cross Country Team

Cross Country

On a fine Tuesday in late November sixteen of our students from Years 7 to 10 took part in the Hounslow Schools annual cross-country event.

This year it was held in Osterley Park using the Parkrun course where our students would run either 1600m, 3,200m or 5k. We had top 5 finishes in all of the events we entered with Joe Edet (Year 7) taking first place in the Minor Boys' race, Flo Sumpter (Year 7) placed 2nd in the Minor Girls' race, Alfie Buckmaster (Year 9) taking 4th in the Junior Boy's race, Charlotte Henry-Stumpe (Year 8) 5th in the Junior Girls' race and Jonathan Bartholomew (Year 10) placed 2nd in the Intermediate Boys' race.



Our Cross Country winners

All should be selected to represent Hounslow Schools in the Middlesex Championships early next year. Well done to all who took part.

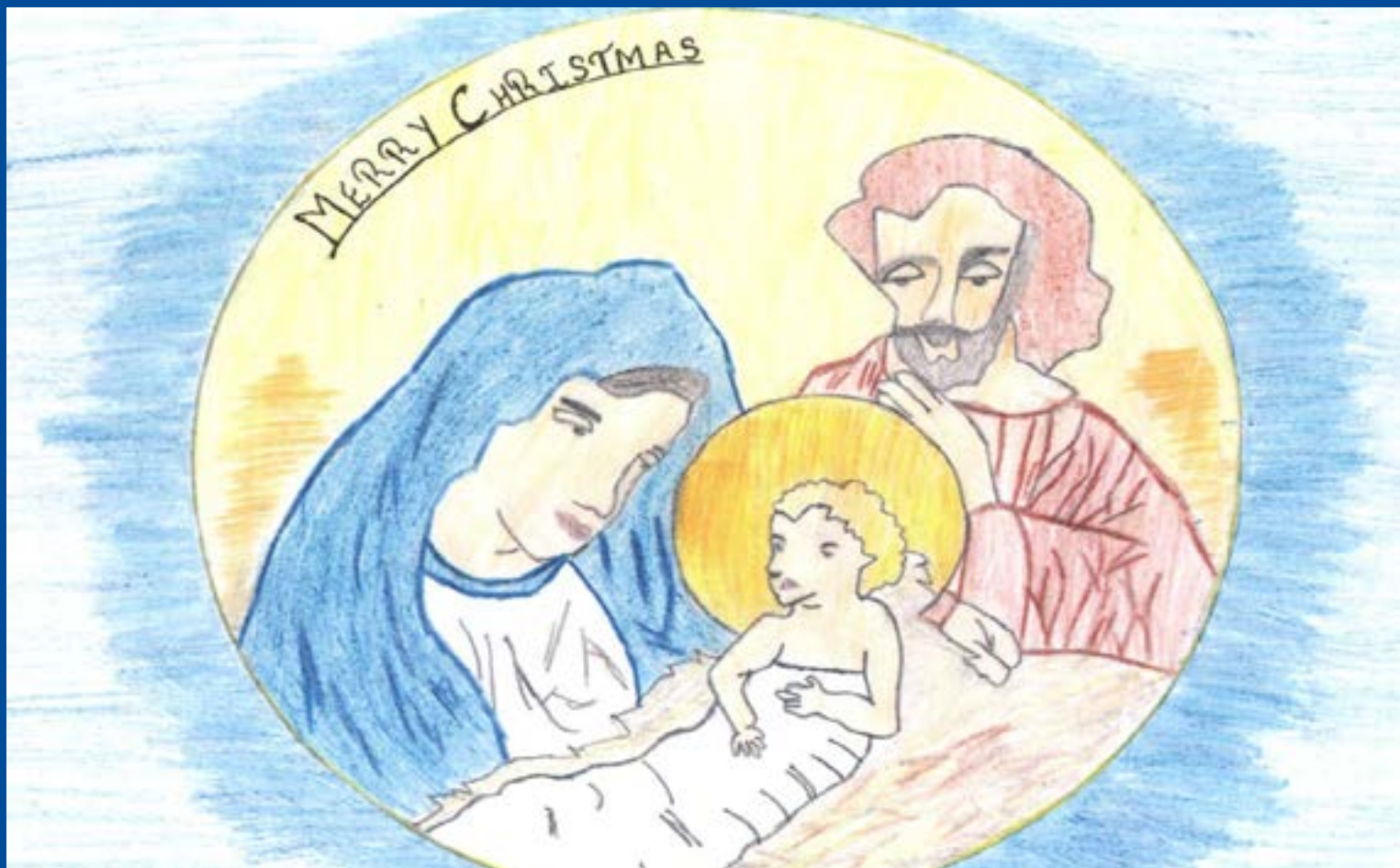
Mr Greensmith

Girls' Football					
Year vs School	Lampton	Gumley	Chiswick	Heathlands	Reach Academy
Year 7	6-0 win				
Year 8&9		2-0 win	1-3 loss		
Senior		0-4 loss	0-5 loss	2-1 win	8-0 win

Superstar Year 7 Swimmer

Congratulation to Christopher Garcia for his considerable achievements in swimming. For his age group he is currently ranked 1st in Middlesex for front crawl and breaststroke and 3rd nationally for breaststroke!

The amount of commitment to training required for swimming at this level is extremely high and we wish Christopher the best as he pursues his dream of competing at the Olympics. Keep up the good work, Christopher!

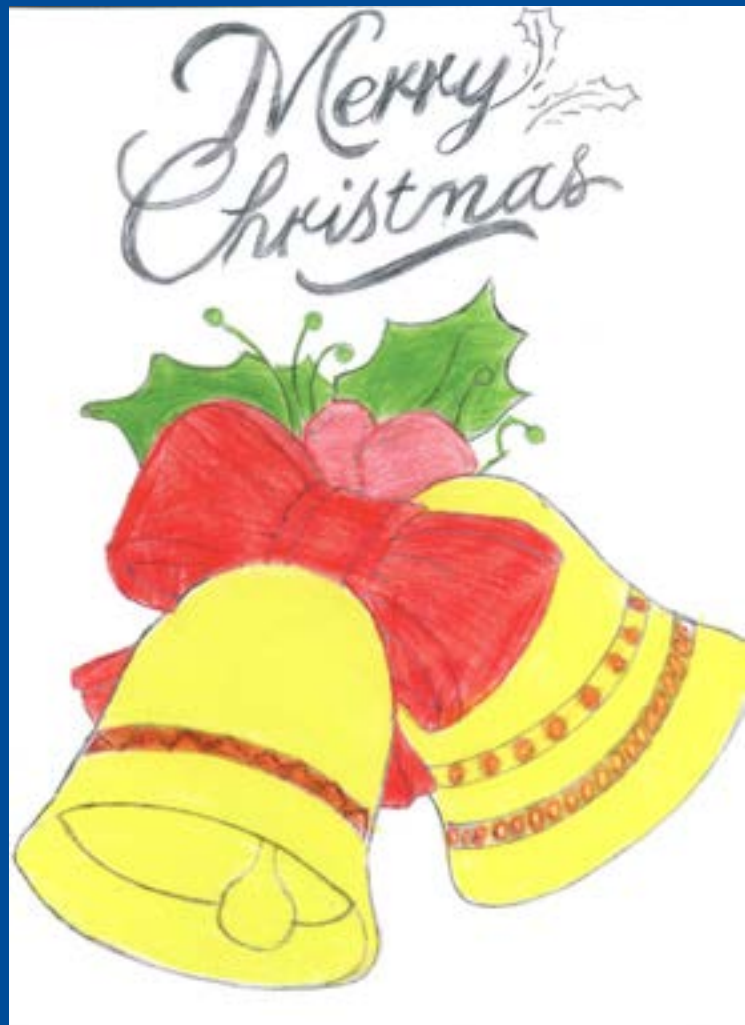


Designed by Alida Lopes

Year 7 Enterprise Christmas Cards



Designed by Kaell Kanagarasa



Designed by Mariann Fernandes