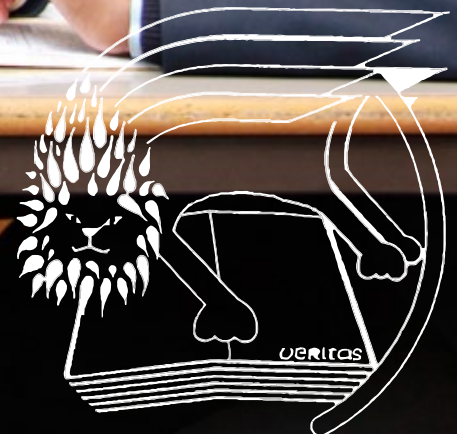


# VERITAS

St Mark's Catholic School

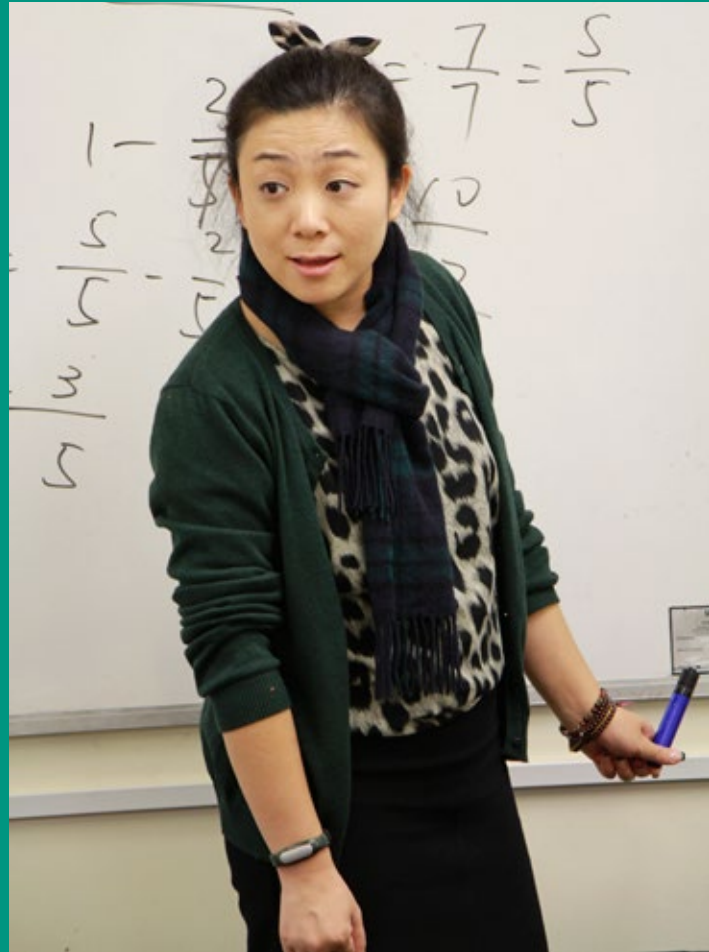
No. 10 - AUTUMN 2015





# Shanghai Teachers Visit St Mark's

Over the past month, two Mathematics teachers travelled from Shanghai to Hounslow to partake in an exchange programme at St Mark's, which enabled them to teach Year 7 Maths classes four times a week. The teachers, Ms Chen and Ms Guo, both taught two different classes, and were observed by visiting teachers throughout their stay. In exchange two of our own teachers, Mr Hogan and Ms Wickenden, were lucky enough to travel to China and to be welcomed into Shanghai schools for two weeks to observe the teaching there.



The exchange came about through 'Maths Hub', an initiative set up and funded by the Government with the aim of creating new ways to ensure Maths teaching skills are as excellent as possible. This not only benefits students but teachers as well, as it allows them to explore different teaching techniques as well as to reflect upon their own methods. 70 teachers from schools around the country travelled to Shanghai to observe lessons there, and 70 teachers from Shanghai came to England to teach Year 7 and 8 classes. Shanghai was chosen due to its outstanding results in the PISA test (The Programme for International Student Assessment), in which it came top in Maths, English and Science. St Mark's was chosen by the local 'Math's Hub' to represent Hounslow in recognition of its success in Maths.

Mr Hogan explained that the main difference between the teaching style in Shanghai and in St Mark's was that in Shanghai only one new concept was studied in each lesson. Lessons were much slower in pace compared to the Maths lessons here as the teachers went into much more detail about the concept they

were studying that day. Students said the lessons were 'enjoyable and fun', and that the three weeks went quickly. The students also enjoyed getting to work on the Interactive White Boards in class.



Another difference was that Shanghai students had Maths homework every day. The homework they had to complete was short written work based on the concept the students had studied, usually taking between 10-15 minutes. Year 7 students from Ms Chen's class found this daily homework beneficial as it was based on what they had learnt in class that day, so it was quick and easy to do.

Towards the end of the exchange, Ms Chen taught one lesson in the new Theatre which 50 trainee teachers from St Mary's University attended. Overall, approximately 100 teachers observed Ms Chen and Ms Guo teaching a lesson, including those from secondary and primary schools as well as head teachers and trainees; all gave very positive feedback.

The visiting teachers also enjoyed the exchange experience. Ms Chen and Ms Guo commented on how well behaved the students were and how impressed they were by how quickly the classes were able to pick up and understand concepts. They found St Mark's to be very welcoming and enjoyed the exchange and the visit to England very much. They least enjoyed the British weather, and were shocked by how much it rained and how cold it was here! And Ms Guo's favourite thing about her stay? The full English breakfast in her hotel that she ate every day for a whole month!

*Katie Jenkins (Year 12)*



## HeadLine



As always, it is a pleasure to provide this introduction to our School Magazine, Veritas. It is now digital only but this does make it easy to forward on to wider family members, former students and staff and friends of the School.

This has been a very busy but successful term. We returned to some outstanding examination results, the best in Hounslow for 'A' Level and in the top 5% in the country for value added at GCSE (Ofsted – RAI-SEonline). A combination of these 'A' Level and GCSE results placed St. Mark's 13th in the Sunday Times list of top Comprehensive Schools. Congratulations to all the students who sat exams in the Summer and well done to staff and parents who did so much to support them.

These pages always demonstrate that fulfilling God given potential at St Mark's Catholic School is about much more than achieving excellent exam results. The articles and photographs in this edition express this very eloquently. However I am concerned about the impact the increasing financial pressures on schools will have on extra-curricular activities. As you are probably aware schools are experiencing a real terms cut in funding which the Institute for Fiscal Studies estimate at 8% over the course of this Parliament. This is a very significant sum of money. After Christmas we will be sending out a letter from our Chair of Governors, Dr Kerry Sullivan, requesting parental support for School Fund donations which will help us to continue with valued activities. Thank you to parents who have already contributed towards this fund.

I hope that you have an enjoyable Christmas break and a happy New Year.

*Paul Enright, Headteacher*

## The Veritas Team

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

**Geneva Virasami, Felicity Barefoot-Fallon, Katie Jenkins, Jason Burksfield, Rachel Harvey, Angelica Aleksandar, Jack Gilbert, David McConnell, Ellie Sherwood, Tawanda Nambureti, James Stinton, Zofia Komorowska, Seth Tumwa, Morgan Noel, Aidan Bradshaw, Emily Alexander, Nicole Ahlawat, Melissa Huynh, Ona Okechi-Nworjhi, Charlotte Earley.**

Front cover photograph taken by Mr Guegan



# Music Masterclass



On 6th of November, three Year 11 students were lucky enough to be given tickets by Mr Martin to go and watch Harvey Mason at the London College of Music. Harvey started drumming at the age of seven with just a stick and pad; his life then became filled with amazing experiences and many notorious musicians.

The trip included two performances of his skills and then a period of time where we could ask him questions. Watching his performance you could sense his seamless emotional playing that seemed to fill the room up with colour through his drumsticks, however when he stopped drumming and started talking the same ambience filled the room. His life story is a very unique one, from working in bars at a young age and pretending to be in high demand despite having no contacts to then ending up working with the most inspirational musicians of the current and previous generations.

Harvey Mason's uncompromising quest for excellence and ability to adapt to all different genres of music effortlessly has impacted on the shape and form of music and musicians for the past three decades, this will continue to keep him at the forefront of not only jazz, but that of pop, rock, orchestral, R&B, Hip-Hop, World and Latin, for decades to come.

Mr Martin also arranged a tour of the London College of Music for us. We were shown around the amazing facilities by Jeremy Cornes, a professional musician and lead teacher at the College. It was a highly inspirational evening, and we really enjoyed it.

Aaron Adjei-Ampofo, Etienne Quartey-Papafio & Elrad Stoiber (Year 11)

# St Mark's Choir

The Christmas Term will be brought to a close with two performances by the ever popular St Mark's Choir. On the last Wednesday of term the School Hall will reverberate with the joyous and festive sound of carols and favourite songs sung by the Choir and also by the Twickenham Community Gospel Choir (comprised of teachers, students and parents of the school).

The Choir has been very busy rehearsing favourite carols such as 'Oh Little Town of Bethlehem' with soloist Gabrielle Estorninho, 'In the Bleak Midwinter', 'When a Child is Born' and 'The First Noel'.

Annabeth from Year 7 describes her experience. "I joined the choir at the start of the year. My favourite thing about the Choir is how we learn new songs every week. It has been very exciting preparing for the Carol Concert, I really like the songs that we are learning. The Concert also allows us to sing in front of our parents for the first time as members of the School Choir, and that is really special."

The Choir also enjoys singing songs other than carols and hymns, as Lauren (Year 7) explains. "I joined the choir after a few weeks of being at school. I joined it because I love to sing and I heard lots of people talking about how good it was. The best thing about being a part of the Choir is that we don't just learn hymns; we learn different songs from different genres. I also really like Ms Jackson, she makes learning new songs fun."

My favourite song that we have sung is 'With or Without You' by U2 which we are singing in the Carol Concert. I am excited about singing in Concert because it's something new that I have never done before. I am looking forward to Mr Enright hearing us sing, I hope he likes what we have prepared."

The Twickenham Community Gospel Choir are singing 'Silent Night' and 'He's Able'.

The Choir will also be performing at Prize Giving.

# Prize Giving

*The 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 2014 – 15.*

*Prizes will be awarded to students from all Year groups, and range from Form Prizes in Years 7 to 13 which are given in recognition of Application and Progress, to Subject Prizes and Special Awards.*

The Hall full of students and proud parents will listen to Mr Enright reflect on the very successful academic year 2014-15 which culminated in a fantastic set of examination results. He will use photographs from Veritas editions 7 to 9 to celebrate the enriching extra curricular life of the School.

To add to the celebratory tone of this special evening in the School's calendar the Choir and Orchestra will perform.

## SPECIAL AWARDS

**Compulease Cup (ICT)** Jack Saville

**David Sheath Cup (Leadership)** Ellie Haines

**DHP Trophy (Design Innovation)** Katalynna Viera Estavillo

**Diana, Princess of Wales Award (Drama)** Ciaran Donnelly

**Duke of Norfolk Cup (History)** James Ferguson

**Erwin Cousins Cup (Overcoming Obstacles)** Sarah Orchard

**Father McClughen Memorial Cup (Academic Achievement)** Joe Manorajah

**Father Allen Cup (Religious Education)** Megan Fernandes

**Gail Brammer Cup** Zakarius Franek

**Headteacher's Shield (Service to the School)**

James Ferguson/Sharon James

**Hoechst Trophy (work Experience)** Geneva Virasami

**Jack Austin Charities Cup** Holly Logue

**John Woulfe Cup (Commitment to PE)** Sophia Murray

**Mary Anderson Cup (Outstanding Year 7 pupil)**

Francesca Gilham

**Winifred Donelan Cup (Orchestra)** Joshua Ferguson

**Maria Austin Cup (Choir)** Ona Okechi-Nworjeh

**Maria McLoughlin Cup (Perseverance)** Sean Harnett

**Mary Mattimore Cup (Art)** Alexis Parinas

**National Westminster Bank Trophy (Business Studies/Economics 'A' Level)** Michael Kelly

**Philip Lawrence Memorial Cup (Academic Achievement at GCSE)** Alex Moreland

**Rebecca Richards Award (Faith in Action – Year 12)** Maximilian Mayo-Dell

**Teresa Corrigan Cup (Maths 'A' Level)** Chanel Fernandes

**T.S.B. Charities Cup (Work for Charity)** Karl De Menezes

**Verity Cup (English 'A' Level)** Gisselle Babaran

**Wakeling Shield (Excellent Effort)** Tawanda Nambureti

**St. Mark's Progress Cup** Shanice Abbey



*Special Award winners:*

*Front Row: Ona Okechi-Nworjeh (Year 10), Holly Logue (Year 10)*

*Back Row: Alex Moreland (Year 12), Max Mayo-Dell (Year 13), Geneva Virasami (Year 13), Jack Saville (Year 12)*

***This year's Guest of Honour is former St Mark's student Dr John Ashley.***



I attended St Mark's from Year 7 through to 6th Form. After studying for a Masters in Aerospace Engineering at the University of Manchester, I undertook a PhD in Experimental Aerodynamics, in partnership with British Aerospace (BAe Systems).

Switching from defence to motorsport, I gained experience at a couple of smaller F1 teams, before being offered a dream opportunity to join Mercedes AMG PETRONAS F1, where I have been for the last three years as a Senior Aerodynamicist.

I owe much of my happiness and success, in completing my PhD and finding a dream job, to another St Mark's student – my wonderful wife Sophie, who I met on the 3rd of September 1996 on our first day of secondary school!

*Dr John Ashley*

# Violin Awards

Congratulations to the Year 9 students who have recently passed their Grade 4 violin grades. Vernon Fernandes and Gabrielle Simon-Phillips both achieved Distinctions, and Oisin Murphy passed the exam brilliantly. Well done to these students for gaining such excellent results.

Also, a special congratulations to Josh Ferguson in Year 12 who recently passed Grade 7 in piano. This is an outstanding achievement.

Congratulations to all!



# House

## Music

Tuesday 17th November was yet another call for St Mark's talent; members from all over the school tuned their instruments or warmed up their vocal chords to be in with a chance of winning the House Music Competition of 2015. The excitement and nervous energy was buzzing throughout the hall as all of the anxious hopefuls waited for their time to shine.

Everyone was absolutely amazing, although Fisher's KS3 act was questionable - but very amusing! From More to Pole, to Campion to Clitherow, to Becket and Fisher in both KS3 and 4, everyone worked their socks off and rocked out the stage! The atmosphere was great!

I myself was involved in competition and found it a great experience and everyone was so good. I even felt the pre-stage tremors on a personal note but I must say that it was great fun being up on the stage, as well as super scary!

"I thought it was very exciting," says Etienne Quartey from the Year 11 group that won the competition, "I've never seen so many talented people perform".

To conclude, this event was extremely enjoyable. I recommend any aspiring musicians or singers to get practising for next year's competition as 2015's was amazing. I am quite sure that there are many more amazingly gifted people in St Mark's who should get



up there on that stage to show off their talents; my advice to you is to enter next year as it is bound to be great fun!

The results for the competition were as follows:

### KS3

1st (Joint) = Becket (Year 8 group) and Pole (Year 8 duet)

2nd = Campion (Year 8 soloist)

### KS4

1st = Clitherow (Year 11 group)

2nd = Becket (Year 9 group)

3rd = Pole (Year 10 soloist)

Angelica Aleksandar (Year 10)

## Debating

It was on the 20th October that students from all Year groups and Houses stood against one another to debate in this year's House Competition.

Mr Hanlon, the organiser, put forward a topic upon which all of us had to speak: 'If you were all villains/ heroes in a falling hot air balloon and someone needed to be thrown overboard to lighten the load, who would it be?'

The eager enthusiasm with which teams responded was great to see, and each character was strong in the first task of introducing themselves. Characters ranged from much loved heroes like Mulan to the dark and infamous Joker villain. Not all teams were good enough, however, and five were eliminated. Next came two more rounds: creating a tagline for your villain and giving yourself a chance to throw someone out by saying why you deserve to stay in the balloon and they do not, which resulted in the unfortunate loss of characters such as Mufasa ('The Lion King') and Nelson Mandela (by 7Pole).

Finally, it was the fourth round, the fastest and most difficult of the evening. Each remaining team had to stand before the class whilst Mr Hanlon fired quick questions at each character. Villains such as Joffrey (from 'Game of Thrones', 10Campion) were eliminated along with several others, leaving just two villains

to battle it out together - Wolverine (10Clitherow) and President Snow ('The Hunger Games', 10Fisher).

It was difficult, but a wise decision was made to name both President Snow and Wolverine the joint competition winners. Congratulations to both Clitherow and Fisher Houses. There are many competitions yet to come, so good luck to all and may the odds be forever in your favour!

The winners: Charlotte Earley & Rachel Harvey



Rachel Harvey (Year 10)

# Competitions

## Cake Decorating



The time had come once again for the annual House Cake Decorating Competition to be held after school on Tuesday 15th December. The challenge for the six Forms was to decorate their cake to represent 'A Christmas Carol', as in a traditional Christmas song with an element that would link to Jesus Christ, not the Dickens' novel!



The judging of the freshly decorated cakes was carried out by Ms McIntyre, Ms Byrne and Mr Enright himself. Not only were they impressed by the effort and creativity of the decoration, but Mr Enright declared, 'I honestly think this is the highest standard we've ever had', referring to the effort and hard work put into all of the cake decorating.

After a nail-biting wait and some last minute tension, the final result was announced to cheers of joy from some Houses, and groans of disappointment from others:



1st - Becket

2nd - Fisher

Joint 3rd - Campion & Clitherow

Ms McIntyre, the host of the event, applauded the dedication of the students and their teachers: 'As always, the Cake Decorating Competition demonstrates a wonderfully creative, imaginative team effort by all the Houses!'

Year 10 student Giorgiana Solomes added, 'It was fun and incredibly enjoyable. We all came together as a big community'

For Year 7 this was their first taste of our competitive Cake Decorating. They all appeared to really enjoy it. We are already looking forward to next year to experience again the amazing atmosphere cake decorating brings its participants!

Ona Okechi-Nworjhi Year 10





# Year 13 Media Conference

On November 5th, Year 13 Media students were invited to the Institute of Education in central London for a Media Magazine conference, at which we were able to listen to multiple speakers involved in the media world. Topics such as 'What has the internet ever done for me?', 'Media power' and 'Media, democracy and politics' were discussed, giving students an insight into how the media works and how we are able to get a career in the business.

Bill Thompson, a well-known technology journalist and advisor to arts and cultural organisations on matters related to digital technologies, discussed the advantages and disadvantages to using the net, giving students a better understanding of how to utilise the internet in order to succeed and how to avoid unnecessary setbacks which we may face in our life time.

Professor Natalie Fenton, joint Head of Department in the Department of Media and Communication, then talked about mediated power; what the media has control over and what it has the power to do. She informed students on the relationship between media and democracy as those who have power can use it in different ways, and can ruin peoples chances of getting into power in politics.

Rob Watson, a producer with Rouge pictures, described his time in his field of work, discussing the enjoyable moments, and the hard ones. Through his

short films; 'Strays', 'The Ellington Kid' and 'A plastic dinosaur', he was able to give us a taste of his work and his life, explaining how difficult producing his projects were, but just how rewarding they can be.

The fourth speaker was Regina Moriarty, a screen writer most known for the creation of 'Murdered by my Boyfriend', the hugely successful BBC3 drama. After being interviewed by the host about the creation and true story behind the drama, we were able to ask questions for ourselves, almost getting a one-on-one discussion with someone who has made something of herself through the media industry.

Finally, Owen Jones, a columnist and author, spoke to the students about life as a young person in the twenty-first century, raising views, issues and problems which he hopes to find alternate solutions to, so the young people of today are able to live a prosperous and happy life with equality for all. He was such an inspirational and passionate speaker, he was able to get through to the young people in the huge auditorium and received the best reception, with plenty of hands going up with questions and ideas the students were eager to share.

The day was extremely useful and insightful to all the students, who were able to learn just what it takes to find a career in the media industry and how were able to create these opportunities for ourselves.

*Jack Gilbert (Year 13)*

# Year 12 Media Sky Trip

Our Year 12 Media class embarked on a great journey to Sky in November for an Open Newsroom Day which gave us an insight into the process of production for our AS study.

The adventure into the world of news production began at 10am, when we were spoken to by senior professionals who work within Sky, including Neil Dunwoodie, Head of News Output and Alex Bath, Digital Producer in News. As well as outlining what their role entails they also explained what skills and qualities they look for when employing young people and how to best prepare for a job in the media.

We were then set to work on a news task. We had to write up five news reports, rank them in order of importance and make the information in them concise enough for a quick bulletin- a bulletin we were then able to film in our groups. Some of us took on the role as presenters and others part of the production team, whether it was cueing our dialogue or making alterations to the scripts.



When filming our bulletins the presenters were in a small studio room with a green screen behind them, a monitor relaying what we were to say next and the camera facing us directly. I found it absolutely amazing to see what appeared to be a disorganised mess transform into a watchable presentation through the art of technology. Outside the room were the production crew, those who are not seen on our television screens, controlling and organising the action. We had Sky professionals starting the cameras and adding in visuals in addition to our peers operated the auto cue to inform us what we were to say.

Overall it was a fun, exciting and insightful experience into the world of production. Not only were we treated in a professional way but we were made to believe we belonged.

*David Shaaya and Patrycja Martyniak (Year 12)*

# Year 12 Media: Suffragette



On 5th November, the Year 12 Media students had the privilege of going to the Regent's Street Cinema through 'Into Film' for a private screening of the new movie 'Suffragette.' We are using 'Suffragette' as a case study into UK Independent film for our AS exam. The screening was followed by a Q&A session with Golden Globe nominated actress Romola Garai and the screenwriter, Abi Morgan. Garai is known for her roles in 'Amazing Grace' and 'One Day', while Morgan has written for such films as 'Iron Lady' and 'Shame'.

It was fascinating to hear from Morgan about the process of balancing factual evidence and the need to create a compelling narrative, whilst also having to work within the budget constraints. The film took six years from the initial pitch to get into production, and went through about 40 drafts including a shift of character perspective from the middle class MP's wife played by Garai to the working class Maud. The film had a budget of £10m which is a lot of money - but not to make a film with a potential global audience. Morgan expressed her pride at being the first film maker ever allowed to film inside the Houses of

Parliament (closely followed by the 'Spectre' crew). She also responded in detail to a question from a student on the lack of women of colour in the movie; a hotly debated issue surrounding the release of the film. Garai offered an insight into the filming process itself, explaining how she and the other actors would immerse themselves in the library of visual and written material to prepare for the role.

The Regent's Street Cinema itself is the oldest in the UK and was originally built in 1848 where it was the first in the country to show moving pictures. However, over time it was used less frequently for a cinema and more for a lecture hall. This changed in May 2015 when it was re-opened by the University of Westminster after extensive renovations had taken place, paid for by the Quintin Hogg Trust and the Heritage Lottery Fund.



This trip allowed us to have a greater insight into the production process of the film as we were able to talk directly to two of the more important cast and crew members.

*David McConnell (Year 12)*







## St Mark's Will Rock You!



With Christmas looming around the corner, all those with musical and theatrical talents were called to participate in the annual School Musical, a spectacular event well known throughout the community of St Mark's. This year's production, "We Will Rock you!" is a universally loved show well-known for its upbeat, recognisable numbers which are performed as tribute to the band 'Queen'. The play centres on a dystopian future, where all music has been banned and it is left up to a rogue group of trouble-makers, The Bohemians, to bring it back to a world surrounded by the internet and technology.

The play, performed in the new Kerry Sullivan Theatre, took place over the nights of Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th of December. Rehearsals leading up to the performances were filled with a mixture of excitement, nerves and determination to create a magnificent performance – and it truly was! Not only was enormous hard work put into the drama, music and theatrics but also into the professional choreography (courtesy of Anna McConnell, Keira More, Kasie Brookfield and Keiley Dutton). Students and teachers alike worked to piece together the quirky 80's costumes, life-like props and spectacular lighting and sound. "There was a really great atmosphere throughout rehearsals and it was easy to talk to others and make friends," said David Chaaya, who played the role of Britney Spears. Charlee Barrett who played as part of the ensemble added to this, describing how easy it was to get along with others throughout the rehearsals and how everyone was always happy to be there.

Furthermore, the play itself was a phenomenon. A high energy level was needed and delivered by all cast members including Harry Black, who played the comical character of Madonna. The brilliant rapport between all members of the cast was clear to the audience who responded with enthusiasm to the singing and dancing to the songs performed by the upbeat, melodic orchestra.

After the final performance of the play cheers and celebrations from the cast backstage reverberated around the emptying Theatre. The Production could not have been done without the amazing direction and production skills of Ms Hutchinson, Ms Reyes and Mr Martin. Just another year to wait and looking forward to the next production in 2016!

*Ellie Sherwood (Year 10) Photography Ethan Barrett (Year 12)*









# Faith In Action

## Year 7 Fancy Dress Fundraiser



## Oaklands Party

On 9th of December, the Sixth Form hosted a Christmas Party for the lovely students and staff at Oaklands School. As their Faith In Action project, the Year 12 students had the demanding challenge of planning, preparing and hosting the party. As a result of this hard work, they managed to put a smile on the faces of the Oaklands students who have a range of different disabilities.

*Eoin Holmes: "I really enjoyed the party. There was nothing more satisfying than seeing the smiles on the children's faces after the party."*

*Katie Jenkins: "The students were really cute and I enjoyed doing my part in the process, as there is nothing better than making other happy."*

*Chihab Moussa: "This was truly a fulfilling experience."*

As a Sixth Former who was fully involved in the party, I believe I have taken a massive step in my journey of faith this term, and it has helped me as a Catholic to put my beliefs into practice. This unique experience has ended the year on a high note for me personally, and also I think the St Mark's community, and hopefully and most importantly for the students and staff at Oaklands School.

*Tawanda Nambureti (Year 12)*

## Mary's Meals

This Christmas Ms Reid's Sixth Form FIA group decided to support the worldwide charity organisation known as Mary's Meals. The organisation's premise is simple; they aim to tackle world hunger and poverty by providing one free meal a day.

This meal goes a long way, not only does it provide the starving children with a nutritious meal for the day but it attracts chronically poor children into the classroom where they receive an education that can help them lift themselves out of poverty. Mary's Meals now feeds almost one million children globally every day.

The remarkable success of the charity's first campaign inspired them to set up a second endeavour which is known as the Backpack Project, and this is where the Ms Reid and her wonderful Sixth Form FIA group come in. The charity now aims to provide the children with a fully equipped backpack with all the necessities for school.

The Sixth Form FIA group have been working hard in the past months in order to raise money and awareness for this campaign. They have made the whole school aware of the essentials needed in the backpack, such as pens, pencils, exercise books, toothpaste and have asked every form to provide at least one backpack for the campaign. In addition to this the group held a brilliant Year 7 Fancy Dress Party at the end of half-term with all the proceeds generated going to providing more backpacks.

Hugh Laurie, a representative from Mary's Meals, came to collect the backpacks on December 11th. The project has been a huge success and we would like to thank the St Mark's students for their generous contributions.

*James Stinton (Year 12)*

## Senior Citizens' Party



As part of their Faith in Action programme, a number of Year 12 students took responsibility for the organisation of the annual Senior Citizens Christmas Party this term. They ran some successful fundraising events including the ever popular sale of Krispy Crème doughnuts, a 'Guess How Many Sweets in the Jar' competition and a tremendous car wash. The students were extremely grateful to the staff who paid to have their cars washed. The washing of cars by hand is extremely time consuming and some conscientious students were hard at it for nearly three hours!

The party took place on Wednesday 9th December. Some students decorated the hall, others helped with transporting some of our guests to the school. Another team of students ensured our guests had a lovely plate of party food to enjoy. Entertainment included a game of Bingo with Chelsea and Jeannice displaying



hidden talents as great bingo callers! Ciaran and Jack hosted the whole event and we were all grateful to Ms Jackson and the wonderful St Mark's School Choir who made the event so memorable.

Each guest left with a Christmas present delivered by Father (Anelka) Christmas or one of his elves! A number of students had done a marvellous job of shopping for suitable gifts and then wrapping them up. Our guests left smiling which made the washing up and tidying up all worth it! We would also like to thank the school caretaking team who were extremely helpful.

*Ms Ferguson*

## Krazy Karaoke Fundraiser

On a December afternoon the School Hall was filled with students eagerly anticipating the Karaoke where brave members of staff donned costumes and attitude to sing their chosen songs, much to the delight of the students!

The event was organised to raise money for Charity.





# Normandy Work Experience

This October, two students from the Year 13 French class had the chance to stay at Le Clos de l'Ancien Pressoir in the village of Commes in lower Normandy.



Visiting the region was an excellent opportunity for myself and Rachel; not only for the unforgettable memories but also for the supplementary knowledge, as one cultural unit of the A2 course is the study of a region. For one week, we were able to enjoy the picturesque landscapes, indulge in the delicious French cuisine, and of course, practise our French!

The comfortable and quaint lodgings really helped us to settle in, and our supervisors were incredibly kind and accommodating. Situated in the rural countryside, Le Clos de l'Ancien Pressoir was only one kilometre from the sea and nine km from the small town of Bayeux, where Rachel worked in the Tourism Office and I worked at the local newspaper, 'La Renaissance'. Lined with several local businesses and charming shopping parades, Bayeux is home to a street market every Saturday which we also visited. Aside from the ample shopping opportunities, Bayeux is also rich in historical attractions, many of which (including the "Musée de la Bataille de Normandie", and "Le MAHB") I visited and wrote about in an article which was published in 'La Renaissance'. Rachel and I were relieved to have found that the teams at both of our work experience sites were supportive and friendly. In fact, we both received near to perfect scores from our supervisors on our work experience reports! Working at 'La Renaissance' was a great experience for me because of my plans to study journalism at university, so I was lucky to have gained some invaluable experience. I accompanied my col-

leagues to local events which I later helped report on, and the team even treated me to a midweek lunch in town as a celebration of the week's first publication.

Rachel had this to say about her week on the front desk at the tourism office:

"I was able to talk to a variety of people and even had to help an American couple type accents on their phones! Having to talk in French for the majority of my day was quite difficult at first but I managed to get used to it and my French speaking skills improved greatly. I was also lucky enough to have guided visits and tours of the area where I saw some of the D-Day landing beaches as well as the famous Bayeux tapestry. Throughout my stay I was completely immersed in the French culture, trying a variety of French delicacies such as moules-frites, crêpes and the famous Norman cheese, Camembert."

We had a fantastic time practising our French in the workplace, but we also had a great time visiting the local touristic areas. Over the course of the week, we were able to visit Omaha Beach, Port-En-Bessin, Longues-Sur-Mer, the Friday night hotspots in Caen, and the ports of Ouistreham and Le Havre where we enjoyed some delicious local cuisine.



The whole experience was extremely enjoyable and it was a great way to immerse ourselves in the French language and culture outside the classroom.

Geneva Virasami (Year 13)

# Year 7 Retreat

Recently, the Year 7 students had the pleasure of being taken out of lessons on a Retreat Day that annually takes place at St Mark's for all Year 7 students. The purpose of this is to allow them to get to know their classmates better and hopefully make new friends right from the beginning of their journey at St Mark's. Since all the Year 7 students are in the same boat and do not always have many people they could talk to after just moving schools, this Retreat Day allows them to change that.

The day is filled with group activities and fun games that are not possible during lessons at school. They allow the students to learn to work together and communicate with each other, building strong bonds between them. Students find themselves talking to people they never thought they would talk to and this allows them to feel comfortable around the ones in their Form Group. As this is the group they will be in throughout their five year journey at St Mark's, it is a great idea to let them get to know each other at the beginning of their time, when everything is still very new.

Although the day is fun-filled with activities and games, there is also a spiritual part to it. As well as getting closer to their fellow form members, they also get closer to God. Prayers and time for meditation are very therapeutic and allow the students to take time out of their day to sit in God's presence for a few minutes and reflect on their worries or things they are thankful for.

One of the best things about the day is getting to write a letter to your older self to open at the end of your time in St Mark's in Year 11, when exams are behind and the summer stretches ahead. This is a great activity as you can look back at the start of your time at the school and see how much or how little you have changed since that day.

When asked about the trip, some students described the day as "a great experience" and said that they enjoyed learning new skills, making new friends and working as a team. They also mentioned that they thought it was great to get to know each other and enjoyed doing that whilst also spending some time with God with the help of prayer.

Zofia Komorowska Year (10)

# CAFOD Soup Lunch

## Give To Grow - CAFOD Harvest Day 2015

As always in mid-October, the annual CAFOD harvest soup lunch took place.

Sixth Formers slaved over hot stoves to create a mouth-watering leek and potato soup using the secret St Mark's recipe, which I'm forbidden from sharing! On the day it was amazing to see so many students, as well as teachers come down to support the charity event and to also fill their stomachs with some hot soup and bread which was to die for.



It was a great success, raising over £200 for the charity. The Sixth Formers would like to give special thanks to Ms McIntyre and Mr Jivan who took the time to plan the event and buy all the ingredients - without them the event would not have even taken place.



Thank you if you came down to support us. If you didn't, well then you missed out this year, but hope to see you there in 2016!

Seth Tumwa (Year 13)



# Life After St Mark's

## Ed McCann



During October we welcomed back former student Ed McCann, who is now a civil engineer and director at Expedition Engineering. He spoke about his major projects such as the Infinity Bridge in Stockton, the Olympic Velodrome and even our brand new Theatre and Sports Hall.

He also described the one project he and his team did not get the opportunity to work on - the Halley VI Ice Station. His team, along with two others, was commissioned to produce designs for selection in summer. The unique design feature was that the building had the rather distinctive ability of being able to walk - it was especially useful here, as at Halley the ground moves towards the sea at 1000m a year. Unfortunately for Ed's company they made it to the last two but were beaten in final section. It was inspiring that despite having lost after all that hard work, Ed did not get disheartened and quickly started work on his next big project.

Katie O'Leary (Year 13)

## Dr John Ashley

Dr John Ashley was a former St Mark's student. He attended the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology. He also studied for a Masters in Aerospace Engineering specialising in Aerodynamics. The most inspirational part was when he talked about his job and what kind of people he works with. Right now Dr John Ashley works at AMG Petronas F1, where he has been a Senior Aerodynamicist for the last three years. He is an extremely successful individual working with the likes of Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg, where he designs their cars to be used on the track.

It was very cool and brilliant to meet someone who works for one of the biggest car companies in the world. With the couple of minutes I spent talking to him I also found out that, most importantly, he was a really nice person!

Mark Jadunath (Year 12)t



## Anna Hibberd, James Alexander, Jonathan Tobey-Gorrino & Hannah Campbell



This term we have been lucky enough to have our wonderful past students come back to St Mark's and talk to us about 'Life after St Mark's.' The past students included Anna Hibberd, James Alexander, Jonathan Tobey-Gorrino, Hannah Campbell, John Ashley and Ed McCann, all of whom gave us a detailed and insightful account of what applying to university is like, what university life is like and also what life is like in the big wide world that is the employment sector. We really are grateful and fortunate to have our past students visit us, let us not forget they were once in our shoes!

Zakarius Franek (Year 12)

The first term got off to a great start as the first 'Life After St Mark's' talk presented four former students describing their experiences of university life beyond St Mark's. We welcomed back Hannah Campbell and Anna Hibberd who both studied A levels at St Mark's two years ago. Hannah is now studying History at the University of Leeds and

Anna is reading English Literature at the University of Bristol. Another student who came back was Jonathan Tobey-Gorrino who is now in his second year at Oxford University after studying all sciences and Mathematics at St Mark's.

The last former student who delighted us with his presence was James Alexander. As you can guess, it was Mr Alexander's son! James successfully completed his studies at St Mark's over three years ago. He studied A levels in Film Studies, English and Drama and then went on to take a Drama degree at the University of Bristol. He recently graduated and has established a small film production company.

Overall, the success of these four students has inspired many students to think about going to university, and to begin to ponder their own future life after St Mark's!

Chelsea Owusu (Year 12)



## BA Business Workshop

Our Year 10 Business Studies class was fortunate to have the opportunity to visit the British Airways headquarters in Harmondsworth on November 11th.



When we first arrived we entered the Learning Centre and were welcomed by Jenny Pearson, a friendly lady who has worked at the BA learning centre for many years. She gave us a presentation about the airline with some interesting facts, for example how many employees BA has.



After the presentation we made our way to the main building, Waterside, and we were given a tour. We were all shocked about the facilities that they had there, for example a hairdressers and beauty salon. A member of staff was kind enough to invite us into a room where cabin crew training was taking place; this was interesting to see. We also got to have a look around a museum with several models of all of the different BA jets over the years, including a mock of business and first class seats.



Following this, we returned to the Learning Centre and we were given a task to design a new airline and present our ideas back to the group. We also had an opportunity to dress up as cabin crew and pilots and give the safety demonstration, which was great fun.

Overall, it was a pleasant trip and very inspiring for us all.

*Elisha Ignacio (Year 10)*

## Anime Club Japanese Embassy Visit

On Thursday 26th October, the Anime Club visited the Japanese Embassy in Piccadilly to take part in a fun and exciting workshop.

The day started with a quick look into the culture of Japan and taught us about things such as food, houses and even past times.

Afterwards we were split into two groups and discovered the arts of Japanese calligraphy and dancing - both activities were just as much fun as the other. During calligraphy we learnt to do the basic strokes and write certain kanji and hirajana and also our names in katakana (all are different kinds of Japanese characters). The dancing was extremely good fun and everybody got involved, including the teachers. It included a dance called Naruko, which makes a noise similar to a castanet.

Karla Groombridge, the leader of the Anime Club said, "Doing the calligraphy and dance made me really happy and it has deepened my interest in Japan's culture."



## Chess Club

St Mark's played against Heathland School on Wednesday 7th of December. The home match created a great deal of excitement as the teams faced each other in two rounds after school in the science block.

St Mark's fielded a young team consisting of a group of many Year 7 students who performed immaculately to win by 57-54. Each win for the players gener-

ated 3 points and in the end it was a close affair.

The Chess Club meets every Friday in Lab 4 in the Science block and all are most welcome, including beginners. Peter Sowray is the chess mentor and can help any pupils in learning or improving their game.

*Mr Grover*

## Mathsgiving

Over the past term, a group of passionate Mathematicians organised a 'Mathsgiving' for Year 13 students: a celebration and appreciation of Maths.

The event was designed to show the students just how broad Mathematics is and that there is a lot more to it than what we learn in school. It will hopefully encourage students to dig deeper into the realm of Mathematics and all that it holds,

allowing them to see how maths is involved in all aspects of life.

The event was open to all Mathematicians in Year 13 and it highlighted the importance of Maths through the range of activities on offer, including Maths themed games and problems to solve.

*By Year 13 Mathematicians*



## UK Senior Maths Challenge

The recent UK Senior Maths Challenge (2015) yielded yet another excellent crop of Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards for our Year 12 and Year 13 students.

Of the 38 candidates, 5 were awarded Gold certificates, 7 a Silver and 17 a Bronze, with 2 within 1 correct answer of a Bronze as well.

Special mention should go to Michael Harvey in Year 13 who garnered his 7th successive annual Gold Award, and to Patrick Coakley, who prevented Michael from gaining his 7th successive Best in Year Award!

Both Michael and Patrick also scored highly enough to gain entry to the follow-on competition, the UK Senior Kangaroo.

Well done to all our students who put themselves through this rigorous test of their mathematical ability.

*Mr. Gold*





# Year 7 Shakespeare Workshop

Year 7 were fortunate enough to take part in an 'Introduction to Shakespeare', a hands-on workshop delivered by professional actors from Bluesky Theatre.

Students learnt how different scenes are open to interpretation and watched three different live performances of a famous scene from 'Much Ado about Nothing', before evaluating which was the most effective. Alice (7fi) was impressed, 'The workshop showed me that you can look at scenes from different perspectives and make the audience feel different emotions based on how the scene is performed. It was really interesting!'



It was highly interactive workshop and students had the opportunity to wear costumes, use props and perform; as well as helping to direct a performance of the memorable opening scene to 'Macbeth', with spooky results! Antonio (7Fi) added, 'It was a great interactive experience full of humour and I felt involved from start to finish!'

The fantastic performances also brilliantly showcased the staging and lighting of our new Kerry Sullivan Theatre first hand.

Emily Alexander (Year 10)

# A Christmas Carol

On Wednesday 2nd December, the majority of Year 10 Students attended the production of 'A Christmas Carol' at the Rose Theatre, Kingston. This served as a useful source of help for our GCSE, as we have started reading and analysing the Charles Dickens' novel in our English lessons. Everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed the production. A few of the Year 10 students were lucky enough to get involved and had a small role in the production.

'A Christmas Carol' is a novel written by Charles Dickens. It's a popular Christmas story which teaches a moral to not be greedy and selfish. Miserly Ebenezer Scrooge was taught his lesson when Jacob Marley, his seven year dead business partner, warns him about his fate; to escape it he would be haunted by three spirits. The first of the three spirits was the Ghost of Christmas Past, this taught Scrooge that his past greed for money lead him into isolation and loneliness. The second of the three spirits was the Ghost of Christmas Present; at this point Scrooge could see what is happening this Christmas. He also

sees the mistakes that he had previously made and deeply regrets them. The last and final spirit was the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come; by now Scrooge has learnt his lesson and most importantly learns that if he does not change his ways he would not be able to escape his fate of a cold and lonely death. It is a story of transformation, and it highlights the unfair society Dickens lived in.

The purpose of our visit served as a beneficial experience for the Year 10 students. Dickens' novel is the new 19th century prose text that the students are studying. In the summer of 2017, 'A Christmas Carol' will be the subject of one of the English exams. Students will be tested on their analytic skills and their vast variety of vocabulary.

The play provided a clear understanding of the novel and offered the students a helpful opportunity to see a dramatic interpretation of the novel. Not only was it a great educational experience, it was also an amazing way to get us all into the true Christmas spirit.

Nicole Ahlawat and Melissa Huynh (Year 10)



# The Crucible

On 12th November Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* was brought to the stage of Ealing's Questors Theatre in an original and interesting fashion which we thoroughly enjoyed.



The minimalistic set and Brechtian transitions allowed the audience to explore the impact of McCarthyism in 1950s America through the narrative based on the Salem Witch Trials as Miller's famous tragedy became a stirring, dialogue-driven court-room drama.



The highlight of the cast was the actor playing Reverend John Hale, who elevated the performances around him through both a passionate and earnest portrayal. This is not to forget the incredible Giles Corey who brought comic relief to the otherwise hard-hitting drama.



Overall, the company conveyed Miller's powerful story in a thought-provoking style which will undoubtedly benefit the Year 11 students in their study of *The Crucible*.

Jessica Ulisse and Ciaran Donnelly (Year 12)

# Debate and Public Speaking

Congratulations to the two Sixth Form students Alex Moreland and Phillip Garcia on their excellent first round win in the ESU Schools' Mace. They beat a strong team from Hampton School to progress to the second round, where they convinced the judges that they should oppose quotas to impose diversity at the BBC.

The Rotary Club Public Speaking Competition was held at Hounslow Civic Centre and the School had four teams; two in each of the Junior and Senior competitions. Although no team won their competition the Juniors did well, with Gabriel Millin awarded the Best Speaker on the night and Valeria Atik the Best Chair. Congratulations to all those pupils who took part in both the Senior and Junior competitions!

Also, well done to Jessica Ulisse and Ciaran Donnelly for their excellent performances in the Catechian Public speaking competition. Both did well but sadly did not win the overall prize.

# Jack Petchey Speak Out

The 'Jack Petchey Speak out Challenge' was a fantastic day overall. The trainer, Alistain Brunner, was an extremely lively and interesting character who always had something to say that kept us intrigued.

Never at one point was it boring. Towards the end of the day, we learnt how to be more confident speaking to an audience - even I, as confident as I believed myself to be, really benefited from this challenge. At the end of the day I felt much more confident about public speaking.

There were a lot of fun, original mini games, which were hilarious to play, such as the 'left-right story game', which kept everybody endlessly laughing.

Overall, the 'Jack Petchey Speak out Challenge' was both fun and beneficial, and I would highly recommend it. If you are lucky enough to get the chance to take part, you should take up that opportunity because otherwise you would miss out on a day full of fun, and a day without school lessons....and who doesn't want that?

Marco Tronci (Year 10)

# Jack Petchey Awards

This term we have awarded three Jack Petchey prizes to the following pupils who have shown either leadership qualities or 'gone the extra mile to 'help'. The winners were Snovia Fernandes, Sebastian Fox and Dylan Camara. They all receive a cheque for £200 to spend on a project on their choice. Snovia wanted to spend hers on a musical instrument, Sebastian bought a bowling machine for cricket and Dylan bought equipment for Geography fieldwork. Well done to all!



# Fish Head Dissection

Year 11 separate Science dissected a salmonid fish head to look at the gills as an exchange surface and to compare their structure to the human lung. They also used other methods to remove and examine the eye and brain slices.



# Oxford Interview Preparation Day

On Tuesday 17th November, a group of Year 13 students attended an interview preparation day at the Jewish Free School in Harrow. The day was offered to all Oxbridge applicants and non-Oxbridge Medicine, Dentistry & Veterinary applicants, as well as other students applying to universities that interview. The day was run by ex-admissions tutors, Oxbridge graduates, undergraduates and a communication skills consultant, all on one intense day. The aim of the day was to enable students to become more accustomed to the interviewing process which proved helpful for many. As one applicant asserted, "The day was very useful as we were able to learn exactly what qualities the admissions tutors were looking for and how to implement them."

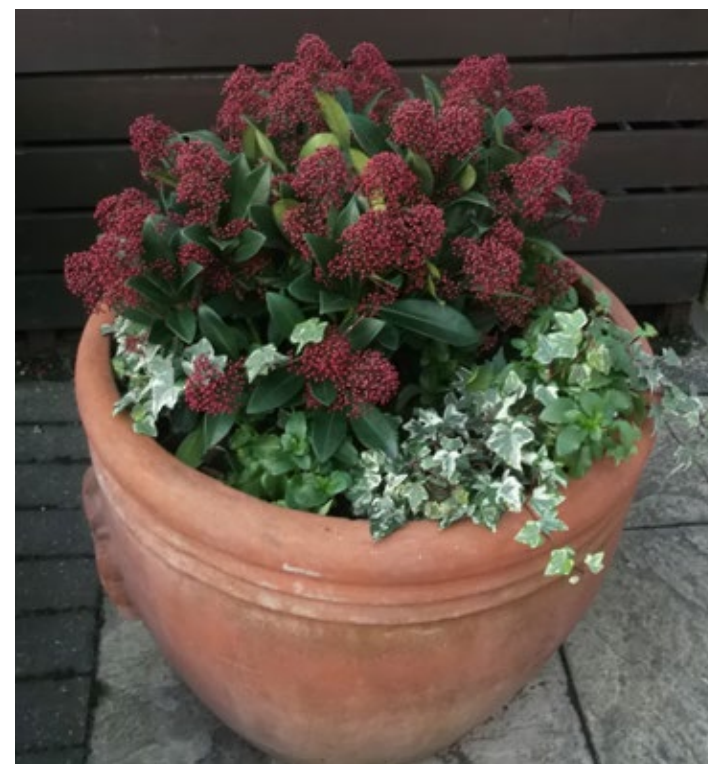
The day comprised of a rotating schedule of three workshops: a talk from a former Oxbridge admissions tutor and subject tutorial, interview skills and mock interviews. As one student has said, "The admission tutor talk allowed me to see what it was an admission tutor is actually looking for. I learnt that admissions tutors aren't expecting you to know everything, they just want to see you're a motivated individual."

The students gained such vital skills as confidence building, lateral responses to challenging questions, building rapport with the interviewer and relaxation techniques. The students were perhaps a bit nervous undergoing a host of practice interviews but they were able to gain a wider perspective on the make-up of an interview. One student explained that, "Mock interviews, although daunting, have given me an opportunity to practise what I learnt throughout the day. The feedback was even more useful as it allowed me to pinpoint my weak areas and what I needed to work on."

*Geneva Virasami (Year 13)*

# In memory of Jack Austin

Jack Austin, one of our Governors, sadly passed away in the summer. He was a long term Governor of St Mark's School and a valued member of the Special Educational Needs and Disability sub-Committee. I attended the Autumn term meeting of this committee to say a prayer to thank God for Jack's life and his contribution to our school. The school Gardening Club has planted a pot in the junior playground in his memory.



The school has also named a new bench to acknowledge the contributions of both Jack and his wife Maria to the life of our school.

*Geneva Virasami (Year 13)*





# Boys' Sports

## Football

The Boys' Football Teams have made an excellent start to the year with three of the five Year Groups entered reaching the Middlesex Cup quarter finals.

The Year 7 Team have so far beaten Chiswick 6-3 in the Borough League as well as Abbotsfield 8-2 and Heathland 3-2 in the Middlesex Cup to secure their quarter final place. It has been so pleasing to see so many boys keen to play for the school and at training with many more opportunities to represent the school coming up.

The side has been excellently captained by Ramon Rose with other valuable contributions from Tyler Falzone, Daniel Okolo and Ethan Murphy-Amarteifo amongst others.

Year 7 Football Squad:



The Year 9 Team has also made an unbeaten start to the year beating Chiswick in the Borough League and beating John Lyon 8-0, Drayton Manor 7-3 and Capital City Academy 8-4 to reach their quarter final.

What has been particularly impressive this year has been different players making an impact within the squad and the team. Players such as Matthew Ighalo and Britan Nikelkaj have really come into their own with key contributions being made in great team performances.

Year 9 Football Squad:



## Rugby

Our developing rugby extracurricular programme continues to progress well.

We have representative teams at Year 7, 8 and Year 9 and we are always looking for new players to join teams that train after school on Mondays.

Teams have so far enjoyed fixtures in the Middlesex Cup and have produced good performances which include victories over Gunnersbury, Cranford and Heathland.

If students want to progress their rugby further outside of school, they should look at our links we have with London Scottish and Ealing Trailfinder RFC. Please see the posters on display in the Sports Hall corridor for further information.

Year 7:



Year 8:



Year 9:



# Girls' Sports

## Football

Year 7

Year 7 girls are unbeaten with firstly a 0-0 goalless game against Gumley, followed by a 4-0 win against Chiswick, with a special mention for Centre Midfielder Alice McGann with her two goals and to Tiffany Xavier and Tatiana with 1 goal each.

Years 8 and 9

Years 8 and 9 gained a significant 7-1 win against Heathlands B, followed by a 2-0 win against Heathland A. However they were very unfortunate as they lost against Chiswick 2-1.

Senior

The senior team has managed to squeeze in two games. They had a decent start with a 1-1 draw with Gumley, however were unlucky as they conceded two goals against Heathlands School.

## Netball

Year 7

The Year 7 Netball Team has had an up and down season so far. They won against Heathlands A Team managing to pull off a compelling 3-0 victory. Also in their match against Lampton they came out on top with a 5-3 win. Sadly they did not perform up to the same standard against Gumley School as they lost 10-1. However the team spirit is still riding high and they hope to get back on the winning streak in the New Year!

Year 8

Again in Year 8 there has been a mix of results. They defeated The Green School in an emphatic 8-3 win; however they suffered a similar defeat themselves with an 8-4 loss to Heathlands A Team. They then rescued their injured pride by beating Heathlands B Team in a convincing 5-0 win. Our Year 8 girls were once again successful in another resounding victory over Lampton School with a result of 13-2. However, in spite of their recent good form and run of wins our Year 8 Girls' hot streak was ended by a 12-5 loss at the hands of Gumley School.

Year 9

Year 9 have had one of the best seasons so far in the netball scene! They have had some of the highest scoring games, starting off by beating Lampton School 21-4 and moving on to beat Cranford with an incredible score of 43-2! To conclude the year they beat Gumley School 26-7, the only team in KS3 to beat their opposing group from our friendly rivals!

Year 10

Another successful season has been enjoyed by our Year 10s! They have not had many games yet, however they have won both convincingly. This started with a 17-11 win over the Green School, and continued with an 18-13 win over Gumley School.

## Basketball

On Tuesday 8th December, the Year 8 and 9 girls played in their first Basketball competition, hosted here at St Mark's with Heston and the Green School in competition.

Heston School specialises in Basketball and this was always going to be a tough game.

However, the St Mark's team contested well and made it very difficult for the Heston team who did, nonetheless, eventually come out on top winning the game.

The game against the Green School saw St Mark's dominate more of the play. Slick passing and quick movement on the court enabled the St Mark's team to come out as winners of this game.

Well done to all who played!



# Cross Country

On the 24th November, a St Mark's team entered the annual Hounslow Borough Cross Country, with some notable performances amongst excellent effort from all the students.

Medal winning performances came from Charlotte Henry-Stumpe in Year 7 who took first place, Jonathan Bartholomew in Year 9 who also took first place, and Alfie Buckmaster in Year 8 who took second.

Other standout performances came from Gabriel and Issac Phelan in Year 7.

Well done to all those that took part in difficult conditions.

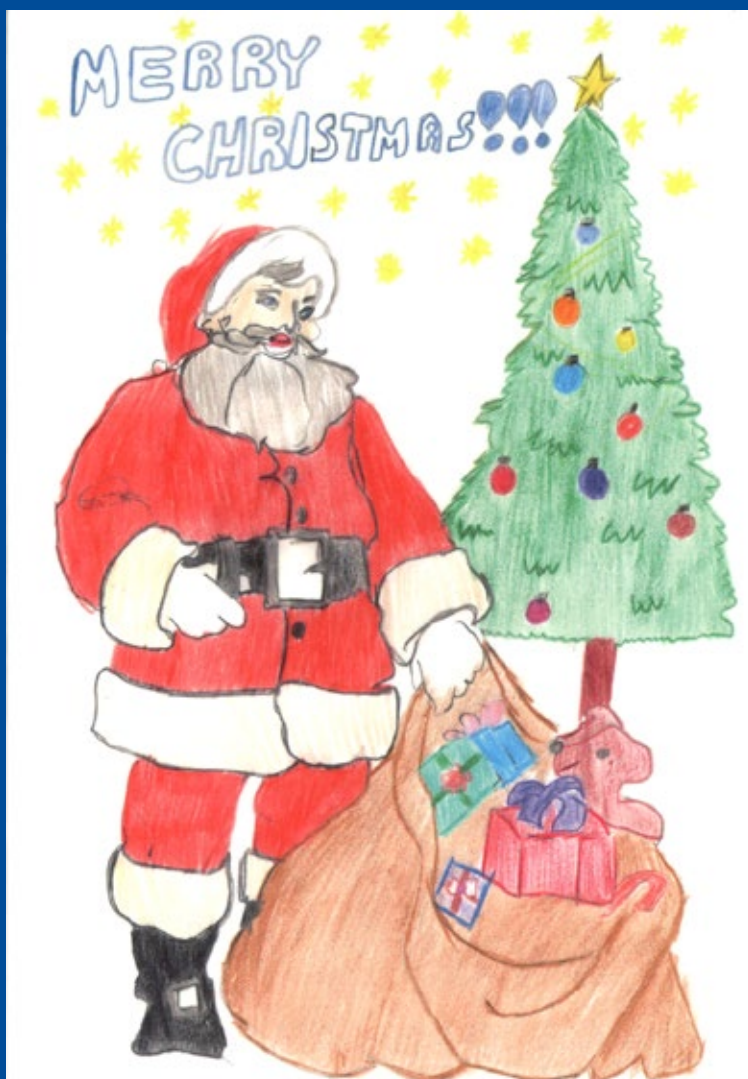




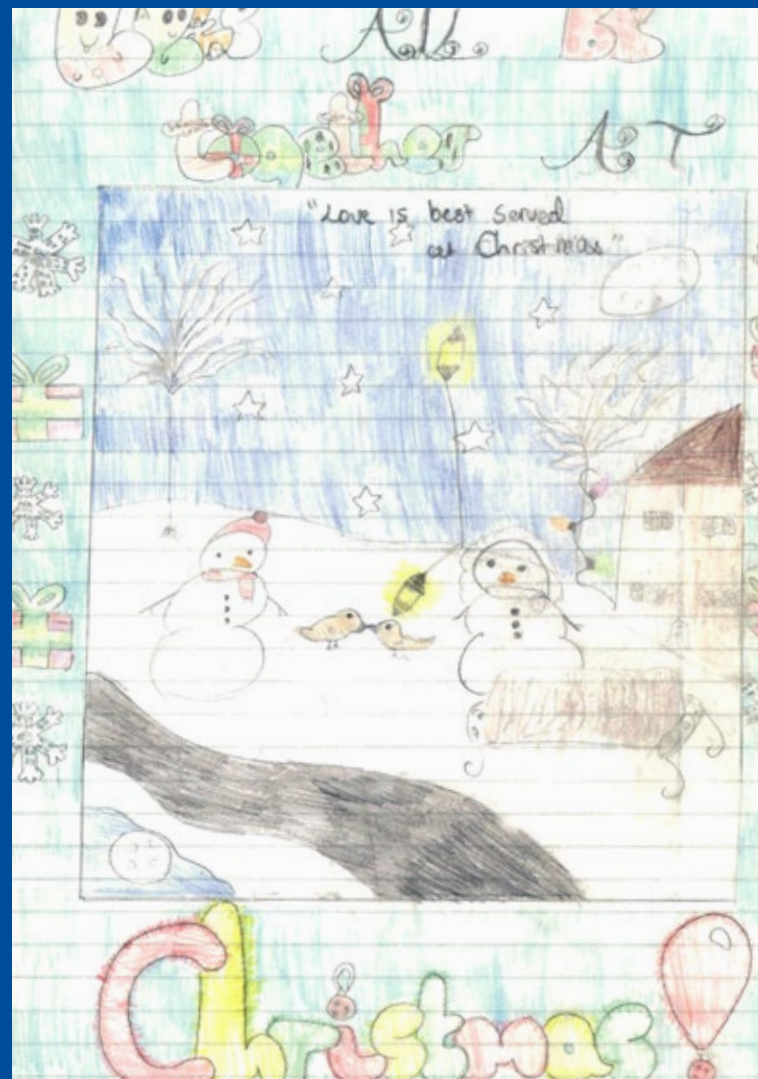


Designed by Eve Pettigrew

# Year 7 Enterprise Christmas Cards



Designed by Milosz Garbacz



Designed by Lynette Ossei-Yeboah