

VERITAS

St Mark's Catholic School

No. 11 - SPRING 2016



Faith In Action

World Book Day Cake Sale

On the 3rd March Ms Reid's Year 12 Faith in Action group held a book themed cake sale to celebrate World Book Day and raise money for Shooting Star Chase, a children's hospice charity which cares for babies, children and young people with life-limiting conditions, and their families too.



When Ellie Christianson, a representative for the charity, came in to talk to our class we were inspired to help such an excellent cause in our local community. Ellie made us aware of the bespoke service that the charity provides for children with life-limiting conditions 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, free of charge for the families. Our group was amazed by how inclusive the service is, as the charity supports families from diagnosis to end of life and throughout bereavement with a range of nursing, practical, emotional and medical care.



Seeing the awe-inspiring work performed at the hospices, our Faith in Action group organised various fundraising endeavours, with the book themed cake sale first to take place. Our group thought we could bake some home-made literary delights and dress up as our favourite book characters, thus promoting the pleasure of reading whilst fundraising for such a great cause. It was a collective effort with everyone baking homemade treats from deliciously chocolaty brownies to 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' cupcakes to smooth and spongy marble cake to World Book

Day cookies! Some of us even volunteered to dress up with the likes of Little Red Riding Hood and Harry Potter making an appearance at the cake sale stand!



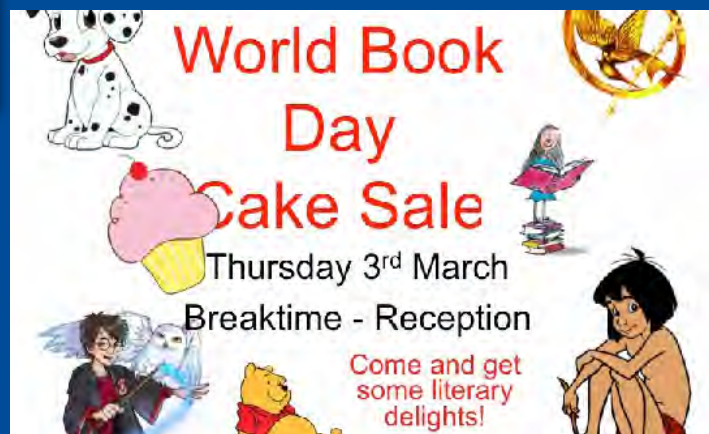
(Alice McGann, Rose Doyle, Jathuson Arulthasan and Tiffany Vavrie)

The cake sale was a huge success, with the cakes selling out in minutes and raising over £100 for the hospice. However, the remarkable work that Shooting Star Chase does is very costly and with only around 10% of government funding the charity relies on the generosity of others to keep the service running. In light of this, our group is continuing its fundraising work throughout the rest of the year, organising various events such as movie nights, a teachers versus students Basketball Competition and a sponsored walk. We encourage everyone to support such a worthwhile charity; through attending these events or putting a small donation into the Shooting Star Chase collection buckets found around the school you are directly supporting a great cause.



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James Sinton (Year 12). Photography by Stacio Fernandes (Year 13)



Year 7 Easter Egg Hunt

On the 16th of March, members of our Form had the pleasure of organising an Easter Egg Hunt for Year 7 students. This was in order to raise money in response to the issue of homelessness, which we are currently focusing on in Faith in Action.

The charity that we are supporting is called 'The Passage', which takes its values from the teachings of St Vincent de Paul, who believed in action rather than words. It offers hands-on service to vulnerable people and focuses on tackling homelessness in London and many other areas.

This competitive hunt of eggs took place after school in the senior playground, where we hid over fifty mini plastic eggs in various places - actually in every nook and cranny we could possibly find; we couldn't let it be too easy now, could we?

The aim for the Year 7 students was to find as many eggs as they could; the student who found the most mini eggs was rewarded with a glorious chocolate Easter egg. To add an extra twist, the mysterious golden egg was also hidden!

On a whole, it was a great success! We would like to say a massive thank you to all the Year 7 students who participated and to anyone who has generously donated.

Serena Vales (Year 12)



Storehouse

As part of our Faith In Action project for this term, 12MWA have teamed up with the Storehouse Project in Hounslow to collect donations of a variety of tinned foods. The project is run by Riverside, the Christian Community Church, who distributes the food to local families who are facing financial hardship.

The aim was to donate 1,000 items of food including tinned vegetables and fish, UHT milk, soups, beans, dry rice & pasta and coffee and tea. We have already smashed this target, as we have 1,658 items collected so far with a few days left of term.

Thank you for all your amazing support and donations!

Jade Chopra, Eryk Wiszenko & Julianna Zielonka (Year 12)

HeadLine



As another busy term comes to an end I am pleased to reflect on the many positive aspects of the last few months. On 4th February Sam Gyi-mah MP, Parliamentary under Secretary of State for Childcare and Education wrote to congratulate the School on winning an award in the Key

Stage 4 category of the Pupil Premium Awards 2016. He stated that "It is clear that your staff have provided your disadvantaged pupils with a good start in life." This is a high priority for all Catholic Schools and something we make a big commitment towards at St Mark's.

This good news was followed on 18th February with a letter from Nick Gibb MP, Minister of State for Schools who congratulated the staff and students on the "very high standard of achievement at GCSE exams in 2015." He informed us that St Mark's was placed among the top 100 non selective schools in England for 5+ A*-C including English and Maths, the percentage achieving the English Baccalaureate and the Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4 value added measure "reflecting the fantastic progress made by your pupils since the end of Primary School." The School also received a Certificate of Excellence for being in the top 10% for value added at 'A' Level over the last three years. Thank you to parents for your contribution towards these successes.

The following pages demonstrate that St Mark's is not simply focussed on academic achievement and we encourage the students to get involved in a wide range of very worthwhile activities including Duke of Edinburgh, Field Trips, Visiting Speakers, House Competitions, Choir Festival, Maths Challenge, Charity Activities, Public Speaking, Sporting Competitions, Music and Cultural opportunities. Please do continue to encourage your child to get involved in the wider life of the School.

Paul Enright, Headteacher

The Veritas Team

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

Katie Jenkins, David Brady, Stacio Fernandes, Zak Green, Vianca Santillan, Molly Jenkins, Ellie Sherwood, Eunice Flores, Holly Logue, Richard Harvey and Jade Chopra.

Front cover photograph taken by Mr Guegan

Fairtrade Fortnight



"Before you finish eating breakfast in the morning, you've depended on more than half the world."

These words of Martin Luther King were explained in assemblies held in school during Fairtrade Fortnight. Just by eating the food that we choose to eat each morning, we're all connected to the people who grow it, but it is easy to forget this when we go to the supermarket or shops. In some of these countries, the farmers growing these crops do not have enough money to cover the costs of growing them. This is unsustainable, which means it is not possible to carry on in this way long-term.

Fairtrade Fortnight reminds us that people deserve a fair price for the work that they do, so that they can afford to feed their families, buy medicines and send their children to school.

£100 billion is spent on cocoa each year across the world, but life is tough for cocoa farmers. It is very hard physical work and although we eat a lot of chocolate and drink hot chocolate, the price that the farmer gets remains low. However, when we buy chocolate or products with the Fairtrade logo we know that the farmer growing the food gets a fairer price.

During Fairtrade Fortnight Sixth Form students, as part of their Faith in Action, sold bars of Divine chocolate. Divine Chocolate is co-owned by the 85,000 farmer members of Kuapa Kokoo, the cooperative in Ghana that supplies the cocoa for each bar of Divine. As owners, they get a share in the profits, a say in the company, and a voice in the global marketplace.

As well as promoting Fairtrade any profit from the sale of the chocolate went to our Faith in Action charity funds.

Nuala Durkin Year 12

Year 7 Charities Week

February 8th was the start of Year 7's first Charities Week. We had an amazing week.

On Monday 7 Becket kicked it off by hosting a tuck shop at break and having football and basketball penalties. Overall Becket made an amazing £117.40! Tuesday was Pancake Day and 7 Clitherow wowed the crowd by selling pancakes, making an outstanding £154 and being Charities Week winners! On Wednesday Campion had a busy day with their tuck shop at break time and their donut limbo at break time had a big turnout. Overall Campion made an



impressive £119.73! On Thursday More and Fisher had an amazing day, More started by opening up a breakfast tuck shop with croissants and cookies. Then Fisher carried on by writing and performing their own Form play at break time which was fantastic, five stars! As well as this, they also had a tuck shop and a raffle. More made £106 and Fisher made an outstanding £136.08. On Friday Pole finished off our Charities Week by having a raffle and a bake sale raising £113.

Tamara Offori-Atta Bossman and Nicholas Murzello (Year 7)



Intermediate Maths Challenge

Well done to all our young mathematicians in Years 9, 10 and 11 who took part in the annual UK Intermediate Maths Challenge on the 4th February. As usual, it is a pleasure to report the success of the many candidates set to receive Award Certificates.

Of the 175 entries, 41 gained Bronze Award, 18 Silver and 10 Gold. 28 further students across the three years were within one correct answer of Bronze Award. Maybe better luck next year! Eight of our students have done so well that they have been invited to take part in the follow-on Kangaroo competitions on the 17th March, which are harder versions of the multiple-choice paper that they originally sat.

A special mention should also go to Sean Porter of Year 10 whose top score of the 175 put him in the top 500 of the over 200,000 students who took part around the country this year. Well done indeed!

I'd also like to thank all the Maths teachers who helped organise the competition for their students. It simply would not run without their organisational skills.

Mr Gold



Romeo and Juliet

Seeing *Romeo and Juliet* was a wonderful, exciting and fantastic experience which every student who went undeniably enjoyed. Whether it was the amazing actors or the homeliness of the Orange Tree Theatre itself, the atmosphere was exhilarating. The special effects were marvellous and gave the audience something enjoyable to watch. In addition to this, the play truly respected the language of Shakespeare and brought it to life, giving the audience a deeper understanding of the play. Also it was appropriate for audiences of all ages as a certain amount of comedy was used.



The actors were incredible. Overall there were six actors who played the parts of all of the different characters; however this was not confusing at all as the difference between tone, costume and posture made it obvious when a new character had been included. Personally, my favourite part was when Romeo and Juliet died as the scene was very interesting to watch and moved some of my friends to tears. It really made me think of the tragedy that is these two star-crossed lovers' deaths and made me think about the play carefully in general.

I was particularly impressed with the props and the realism of the blood; this really made the audience believe what was happening in front of their eyes. Furthermore, the music and special effects really made the scenes interesting and exciting to the point where everyone in the audience was on the edge of their seats. The glowing cubes created an eerie and tense atmosphere.

I particularly enjoyed my time as I was lucky enough to have a front row seat in the Theatre which was a fantastic experience as it allowed me to really 'get to grips' with *Romeo and Juliet*. I personally believe that anyone who saw it performed would find that their understanding and knowledge of the play improved as it really benefitted our study of *Romeo and Juliet* at school.

Celeste Phelan (Year 9)

Bend it Like Beckham



On Thursday 25th February, ten students from Years 9, 10 and 11 took a trip to the Phoenix Theatre in London, to see *Bend it like Beckham*. The small group led by Ms Davies and Ms Jackson were taken to watch this remarkable theatrical performance in

order to reward the students' behaviour and effort in lessons during the past term.

The story is of a talented teenager Jess who is spotted playing football in a park in Southall. A world of unexpected opportunities then opens up before her. But as her sister's traditional Indian wedding approaches, Jess must try to keep her family happy and still follow her dreams.

"It was brilliant, enlightening as well as wonderfully fascinating and fun to watch" Delina Maleku.

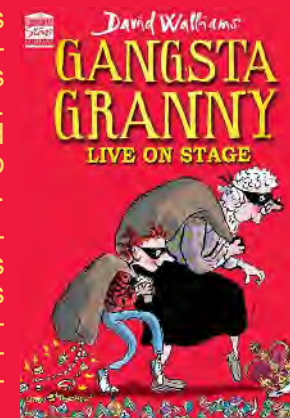
'The music and singing were fantastic and the humour throughout the performance was very entertaining. I thoroughly enjoyed it!' Ms Davies.

Holly Logue (Year 10)

Gangsta Granny & Hetty Feather

This term has seen St Mark's students flocking to the theatre to enjoy the theatrical extravaganzas of best-selling writers Jacqueline Wilson and David Walliams. Both of these renowned writers have had their most popular novels translated into hilariously exhilarating stage productions.

From best-selling author Jacqueline Wilson, the tale of plucky Hetty Feather is brought thrillingly to life on stage in this Olivier Award nominated production. Following a sell-out West End run, Hetty returns home to the Rose Theatre in King-



ston. With beautiful storytelling, original songs and live music, spectacular circus and a huge heart - this is a terrific adventure story.

As well as Wilson, the students of St Mark's have been enjoying the comic delights of comedian David Walliams in *Gangsta Granny*. Richmond Theatre has been successful in translating the witty humour of Walliams's characters onto the stage, leaving audiences chuckling and roaring with laughter.

Ms Smith

The Bookshelf

Hounslow Teen Read

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

This year the judges are:

Year 9 students Spencer Alley, Gabriel Millin, Michal Malinowski, Valentino D'Sousa, Elizabeth Khortiyeva, Ellen Smith, Cora Beatty, Nia Enokkaran, Giorgia Julian.

This is a Borough wide reading activity, which involves students across Hounslow reading the same six titles, and then deciding on their own winner.

This year's shortlisted titles are:



Our group had a visit from a Librarian from Hounslow School Library Service, who discussed all the books and helped us choose our own winner.

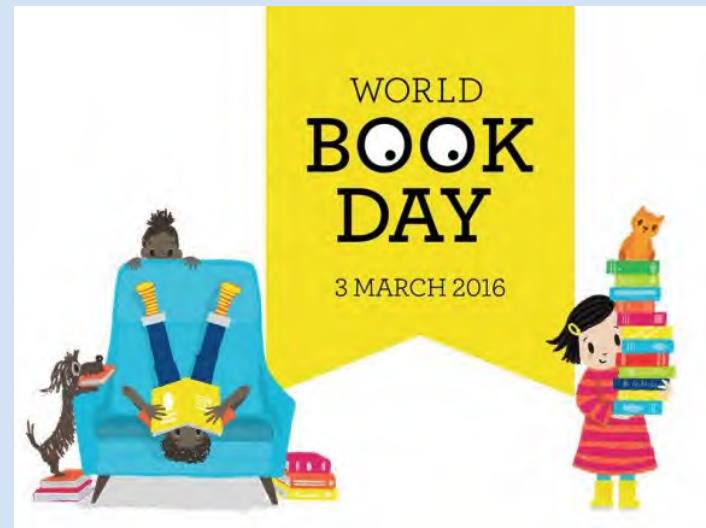
The overall Hounslow Teen Read 2016 winner was announced on March 15th, at a presentation event hosted by the highly acclaimed author, Anthony McGowan.

Also, the Carnegie Medal shortlist has just been announced. More to follow next term....



World Book Day 2016

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



A group of Year 7 students attended a special World Book Day author event, at The Paul Robeson Theatre, in Hounslow. This was arranged by the School Library Service, and attended by students from all over the Borough. The author of the Roman Mysteries, Caroline Lawrence spoke to us about her writing and read from some of her books, which are very popular in school.

Hounslow Teen Read Winner 2016

The winner of the Hounslow Teen Read 2106 is:

The Art of Being Normal by Lisa Williamson.



Young Filmmaker's Competition

I first found out about Spark! Young Filmmakers' Competition in my A Level Media lesson. I was motivated to enter the competition to experience something new as it sounded very interesting, and it would give me the chance to put what I had learnt about the production process in the film industry into practice.

To enter, I signed up and had to go to GSK in Brentford to meet the Spark! organisers Kiran and Ruby, and also Richard - a professional producer of short films who would act as a mentor. Here, we discussed the process of the competition, what we had to do and what the theme of our film had to be. This year's theme was SECRETS.

We were instructed to create a 'treatment', which was an outline of what would happen in our film. My idea revolved around the topic of teenage identity, parental expectations and relationships.

Having written the treatment, it was sent to the judges to choose. After a few days of nervous anticipation I received an email saying I had been chosen. I was really excited. I was invited to return to GSK for a series of meetings to plan the pre-production and production schedule.

Richard and I had various meetings. In these sessions, we initially worked on my screenplay, which took a lot of time and effort, and then moved on to making character profiles, location briefs, costume and wardrobe briefs which I had to do at home to send back.

In January, I held the first auditions for my short film in our new Theatre. Here, young people from various Hounslow schools auditioned for roles in my film. I then had to choose who I wanted to play the parts, with the help of Richard. Recently, there was a read through where most of the cast and I were invited to GSK to read through my final screenplay and see how it sounded being read out loud. It was great fun, and we even got free pizza!

At the moment, I am still working on the pre produc-



tion stage of the film. We are due to have more read-throughs with the full cast at the BFI on the South Bank, and a dress rehearsal also. Filming will take place over a few days during the Easter Holiday. It should be great fun taking the role of Director and seeing my screenplay being performed and filmed.

Vianca Santillan (Year 12)

A2 Media BFI Study Day

On Wednesday 3rd February twenty A2 Media students met on a bright sunny day by the Thames in central London to attend an A level Study Day at the BFI Southbank.

We joined other students from across the country to take part in a very interactive morning of exam related activities, including watching and analysing a wide variety of film clips and exploring the representation of youth identity and how this was constructed. The presentation by Matthew Hall was interesting and very useful in terms of the examination.

The highlight of the day, however, was watching the London Film Festival 'Best Film' nomination, "The Falling" (Morley, 2014) star-



ring *Game of Thrones* star Maisie Williams. Unfortunately Maisie was not the big guest for the Q&A that followed the screening but producer Cairo Cannon instead. She gave an intriguing insight into the making of the feature film from the producer's point of view and some fascinating insider knowledge about the making of the film. She also offered other useful information about how to get into the film industry.

All of the students, myself included, left NFT1 after a day of non-stop media information with new resources and plenty to think about – both things very useful for the exam in June.

David Brady (Year 13)

Life After St Mark's

Dr Rakesh Jivan

In January Dr Rakesh Jivan joined us for a Life after St Mark's talk about his school career and how he entered into his current career as a General Practitioner. Dr Jivan gave an inspiring talk on entering a medical career through an alternative route. Despite not having gained entry into medical school the first time around, he obtained a degree in General Sciences and then continued on to undertake a degree in Medicine.

Faye Marshall (Year 12)



Dr Susy Broekhuizen



This term Dr Susy Broekhuizen, Procter and Gamble R&D Section Head, graced us with her presence to describe her experience of working with Procter and Gamble for over 20 years.

She gained a PhD in Material Science and Physics from Oxford. From there she went onto to work for P&G where she was given many different roles ranging from UK Section Head of Oral Care, EMEA Whitespace expansion to being on the I-Quality Design team.

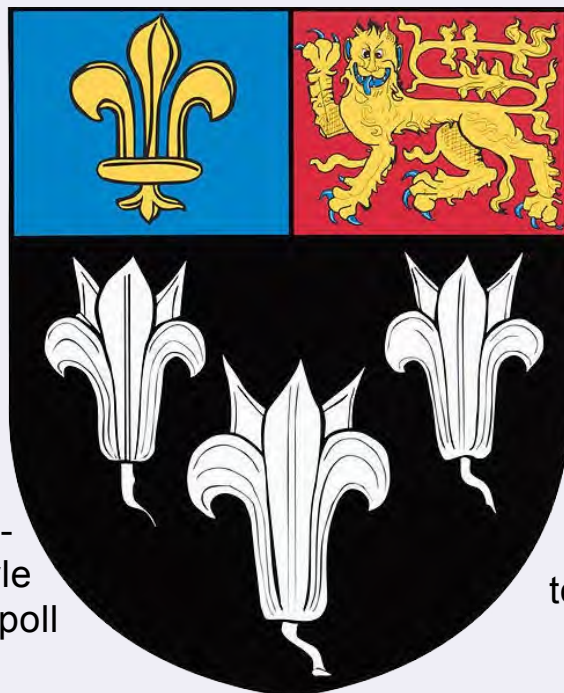
We are extremely grateful to have Dr Susy Broekhuizen tell us all about her wonderful experiences and hopefully some of us plan to follow in her footsteps. She has inspired many of our students to go into consumer product industry and even study abroad as she herself joined P&G in Germany.

Chelsea Owusu (Year 12)

Economics, Eton & the EU

The Year 12 Economics students attended a debate at Eton School on membership of the EU. The Students had to enter the theatre to the left if they wished to remain and to the right if they wished to leave. From my secret observation most wanted to stay.

After four lively presentations and a questions style debate another straw poll



was taken and although the majority was reduced the audience voted to remain in the EU.

It was useful for the students to hear the views of top economists, top business people and economic writers.

All in all a valuable experience and now we are all more informed and ready to vote

Homerton Shadowing Scheme at Cambridge University



A couple of weeks ago I was lucky enough to participate in the Homerton Shadowing Scheme, whereby I was given the opportunity to shadow a student studying at Cambridge for three days.

Hollie (my mentor) was a first year Education with English and Drama student, and hence was the ideal student for me to shadow, especially considering her course is the only one at Oxbridge that offers drama as a component. There were around 15 shadows all together, from both London and Yorkshire (there were, surprisingly, some familiar faces) and, although most of our time was spent with our mentors, there was definitely a sense of camaraderie amongst us.

I arrived in Cambridge at around 16.30 on the 27th and made the short walk to Homerton with the other shadows, as well as the person responsible for the whole scheme – who turned out to be only a second year student! We then met our mentors and made our way to the rooms in which we'd be staying: our mentors had kindly vacated their designated rooms to give us the true feeling of Cambridge life. I had been under the impression that university rooms – especially for first years – were some sort of horror story, with shared bathrooms and claustrophobic rooms barely passing for accommodation . . . but Hollie's room was nothing like that; she had plenty of storage space and an en-suite, which was a very welcome surprise.

After settling in, we were given a tour of Homerton, which consists of both historic and more modern buildings as well as being very close to the Education Faculty. We then made our way to the Great Hall for dinner – all of our meals were provided by the college. Each of the shadows' experiences were tailored to their interest, meaning Hollie and I occupied our evening with a trip to the Corpus Play Room, where we watched *Next Door*, a student written, directed and acted play. I was even lucky(?) enough to see the ever so slightly dingy dressing rooms, which emanated a student-theatre vibe. A quick taxi back to Homerton ended our evening, ready for the 9am lecture the following day.

Before arrival, Hollie had suggested I read up on *Wise Children* by Angela Carter, the book the first

lecture was on. It was almost exhilarating to witness the intense level of teaching, whereby the lecturers before you were experts in their fields, and in many cases had written the books you were reading. The lecture lasted an hour and a half, and was very small (due to the small number of people studying EDE at Cambridge) and was, according to Hollie, a very traditional form of lecture, as many of hers become very seminar-like due to the small number of people in attendance.

After the lecture, I accompanied Hollie to a script read-through for a new (student) play she'd been cast in at another college: Wolfson. Wolfson is a mostly mature/ post-grad college, and differs greatly architecturally from Homerton (along with all the other colleges), but was very interesting to see nonetheless.

On our way into town, Hollie and I walked via Selwyn College (my favourite so far!) and the English Faculty, before walking along the Backs, passing the University (Copyright) Library and stopping for lunch in front of Senate house – all very exciting. We continued our tour of Cambridge with King's Chapel and College, Queen's, St John's, Christ's, and finally, the ADC theatre before we made our way back to Homerton. That evening I attended the Homerton Lent Music Concert which Hollie was performing in as a part of the Homerton singers. The college orchestra, chartered choir, Homerton singers and Jazz orchestra performed in what was an astounding plethora of musical skill, orchestrated with immense discipline and precision, making for a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Saturday morning brought with it an admissions talk in which the new entry exams were explained, brunch, and our journey back to London. Homerton had fast become a very hospitable environment that I was very sad to be leaving, but happily the scheme includes an e-mentoring aspect, and so that won't be the last I will be hearing from Homerton!

The three days were thoroughly enjoyable and allowed me to experience first-hand what study at Homerton is like, something that will be irrefutably helpful for the decisions to be made later this year.

Jessica Ullisse (Year 12)

ESU Performing Shakespeare

It all started when Ms Hutchison asked us if we would be interested in preparing a monologue or a duologue in order to compete in the English Speaking Union, Performing Shakespeare Competition. We learned our monologues and duologues, and worked to perfect these in preparation to send a recorded copy off to the judges at the ESU. We waited eagerly for several weeks for feedback and finally, a few weeks into the New Year we received an email to congratulate us on getting through the video round, which meant we were now through to the London Regional Finals. These were held at Dartmouth House, Mayfair, on Thursday 25th February 2016.

Dartmouth House is a huge manor house and there were 32 participants there from many different schools. We had a short workshop, meeting and working with those who were soon to be our competitors, and then it was competition time. The competition was really tough and I knew it would be a challenge after seeing performances from the students from the other schools, who were very skilled performers.

It was difficult to get across all the passion and emo-

tion needed to really impress the judges. Even though I was really nervous before I performed, I tried not to let it show. There could only be one winner for the monologue performance and the duologue performance. Unfortunately, the students from St Mark's did not win first place, however, I was awarded a special Judges' Commendation for my performance. They had deliberated for almost an hour on the winner, and according to the Judges I was, 'pipped to the post' by another student who performed a monologue in the character of Lady Macbeth. Although we didn't make it through to the National Final, it was still great fun and such a great opportunity to have been given!

Eliot Dorsey: Iago, from *Othello*

Jonathan George: Shylock, from *The Merchant of Venice*

Ines Walker: Juliet, from *Romeo and Juliet*

Shanice Koongoda and Naana Ohene: Portia and Nerissa, from *The Merchant of Venice*

Eliot Dorsey (Year 9)

Uxbridge College Drama Workshop

On Monday 14th March, 40 of our students, mostly from Year 7, arrived at the Kerry Sullivan Theatre in the morning eagerly awaiting a showcase of dance performances from students studying at Uxbridge College. The performances had been choreographed using the stimulus of Greek plays, a theme the Year 7 students could relate to after studying this in their Drama lessons.

Once all of the dances had been performed, the students from Uxbridge invited our students up to the stage, and in groups they were each taught a section of one of the dances and given the opportunity to put their own spin on it. All of our students took to this challenge and got involved with their own choreography ideas.

I was enormously proud as I watched our students working alongside the college students; they were polite, creative and highly focused, and in such a short time managed to create and perform some of their own stunning choreography. Well done to all of the students involved!



On Thursday 17th March, students once again visited us from Uxbridge College. They were touring the play, *Blackout* as part of their Theatre in Education project. They performed their version of this play to our Year 10 GCSE students and then led a workshop, giving the Year 10's the opportunity to devise their own performances based on the themes in the play.

The focus, energy and enthusiasm in the room was incredible and the tutors and students were very impressed with the high quality work produced by our students, commenting that they were the best group that they had ever worked with!

It was a fantastic afternoon for all involved and we are looking forward to collaborating on future projects with Uxbridge College.

Ms Hutchison

GCSE Drama Showcase

On the evening of Tuesday 23rd February, the Year 10 GCSE Drama students took to the stage to showcase their devised performances. There were a total of six performances which the students had created in their separate groups from the same given stimulus. The students were asked to consider using a range of dramatic conventions and styles within their performances which allowed for many contrasting ideas to be achieved. The Year 10 students from the two separate Drama classes made up the audience

for each other. They were all very supportive of one another's work and many commented on how much they had enjoyed watching the work created by the other students.

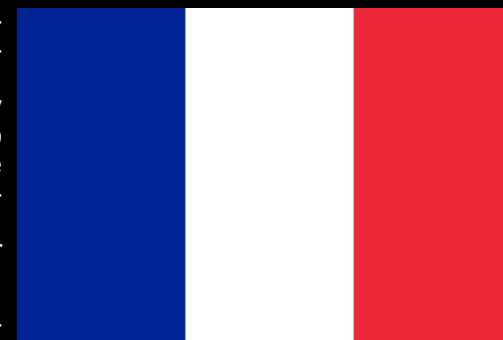
It was a lovely opportunity to see all of the students being so professional in their performances as well as celebrating the achievements and talents of their peers. Well done to all those involved!

Ms Hutchison

French Play Review

On 27th January, Campion, Fisher and Pole Houses had a fantastic opportunity to watch a French play. The play was about a baby called Bruno and the person who was babysitting Bruno for the night. It was a very good experience to listen to a whole play in French because it broadened our knowledge of the language itself.

The plot was quite easy to understand through the acting which helped us when we didn't know what certain words



in the play meant. Also, it was fun to watch because the plot was quite funny and the actors made it very interesting. The play was interesting because the actors interacted with the audience and asked for volunteers to speak in French to the other actor which made the play enjoyable. Overall it was a good afternoon which we enjoyed a lot.

Elly Smith and Harry Black (Year 9)

Spanish Play Review

On Wednesday 9th March, we had a really enjoyable afternoon watching a Spanish play that took place at St Mark's. The play was about a boy and a girl who asked each other out to go on a date. They are really happy but need to get ready quickly to be on time. They end up going to the cinema but they did not have a great time so once the movie was over, they quickly went home.

I think that the play was funny and interesting. The words that the actors used were easy to understand so everybody knew what was happening. Also, the actors involved the audience which was really great as we could be part of the show. Overall, I think that it was a great play and a pleasure for us to see them perform.

Thomas De Silva (Year 9)



Science Week

Science Week is a wonderful opportunity for students to learn and develop their knowledge of Science. It offered a wide range of engaging activities which it encouraged students to explore different aspects of the subject.

Science Week 2016 at St Mark's kicked off on Tuesday 15th March with the pig's trotter dissection with Mr Shore and a group of about 20 Year 7's. They enjoyed themselves; they were curious and enthusiastic about the dissection. They used scalpels and other tools to get under the thick skin of the pig in order to see the tendons and bones underneath. Whilst having fun dissecting the pig's trotter, they also learned much about the structure. It was an exciting activity!

The second day of Science Week was also a big success with the Biology Museum in Mr Shore's room and the Science Week assembly. The Biology Museum was an amusing experience. It displayed a range of specimens of interesting creatures like various insects, squid, salamanders and many, many more. The Science Week assembly in the theatre was engaging with the demonstrations they had.

The Tropical Forest was a massive hit. This is where various classes found themselves in the company of various animals and insects. There were three snakes, a frog, a toad, a millipede, a cockroach and a couple of lizards. This was a fascinating experience as students were able to touch the creatures and learn about laws of sending animals to different countries. One Year 10 student, Jerome Gorleku, said "We got to conquer our fears with these animals and we were able to learn how they interact with other animals. It was an amazing, fun and exciting activity".

Another Year 10 student, Jeffrey Igbokwuwe said, "It was amusing to touch the animals. I learnt many things I didn't know before and it widened my knowledge about animals." This event lasted for two days of Science Week as it was a very popular activity and a great experience for students. There was also an 'Engineering your Future' workshop for Year 12 students.

The last day of Science Week ended with a bang, literally! Firstly, a group of Year 7's watched Mr Grover conduct an experiment where his 'hands got set on fire'. He covered his hands in soapy bubbles filled with methane, and set fire to them, with flames that touched the ceiling (no damage though!) It was definitely an intriguing experience as many gasps could be heard! Many were enthusiastic to take part in Mr Grover's practical which it involved getting liquid (this is what they thought) poured onto their heads. However, when cornstarch was added the liquid turned into a solid! This really engaged the students and reminded them of states of matter.

Following this, Mr Yiu set fire to jelly babies, and they were screaming! The Year 7 students learnt about energy and glucose, which made them very enthusiastic about this practical. The last activity was the nitrogen rockets demonstrated by Mr Shore, where bottles filled with nitrogen were being fired across the junior playground. It gave off a series of loud bangs and it was really thrilling to watch. A brilliant way to end Science Week!

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

Eunice Flores (Year 10)



Debating

This year debating has moved on to a much higher level and the students across all Year groups have really responded.

In the Sixth Form we reached the London Regional Final of the ESU Schools' Mace, perhaps the most prestigious competition in the UK. In the earlier rounds we had despatched Lady Eleanor Holles, Hampton School and Tiffin Girls' School. The Final, of course, was a step up again as six schools were competing for one slot in the national final. Hosted by St Paul's Girls' School, and with competition from Harrow, Frances Holland, St Paul's and Queen Elizabeth's Grammar, our St Mark's students proudly took their place.

Alex Moreland and Jessica Ulisse had to propose the motion, 'This house would legalise the buying and selling of human organs'. After a fine debate, and a most memorable summation by Alex, St Mark's did not progress further. However they performed brilliantly throughout; nobody who was there will forget Alex's final remarks which drew huge admiration from the Harrow and St Paul's teams as his remarks fatally wounded Frances Holland's chances!

In Year 10 we have progressed to the ESU Final for Public Speaking after triumphing in the earlier rounds. The students Eoin Hanlon, Nicole Ahlawat and Charlotte Early have to speak on the topic, 'The war on drugs has been lost in schools'.

In Year 9 we have entered the Godolphin and Latymer Schools' Debating Competition for students in Years 9-11. We have put the Year 9 team in to give them experience before the full league next year. The topics are unknown and the pupils must prepare on the night, a real challenge! We have two teams of two, with Thomas Moreland, Valeria Atik, Joseph Nagle and Gabriel Millin taking part. Although new to British Parliamentary Debating, some of them are previous winners of Debate-mate. We have high hopes for their success.

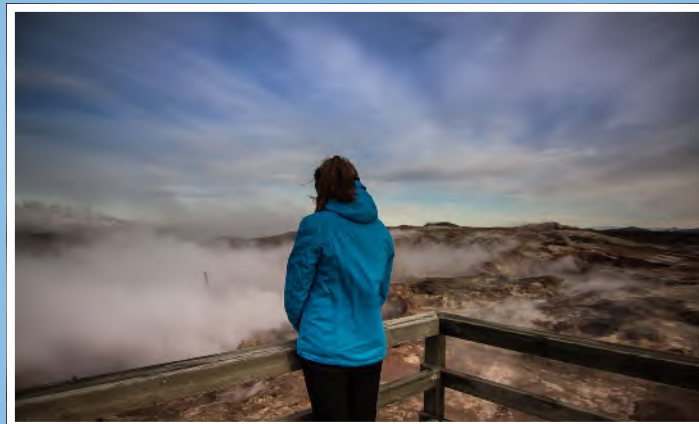
Finally, the Year 12s are preparing for the European Youth Parliament on the 21st March at Europa House in central London. Nine students act as a committee of the EU and must propose a motion on the treatment of refugees as well as speak on a range of other items - including one wholly in French. Bonne Chance to all!

Mr Alexander

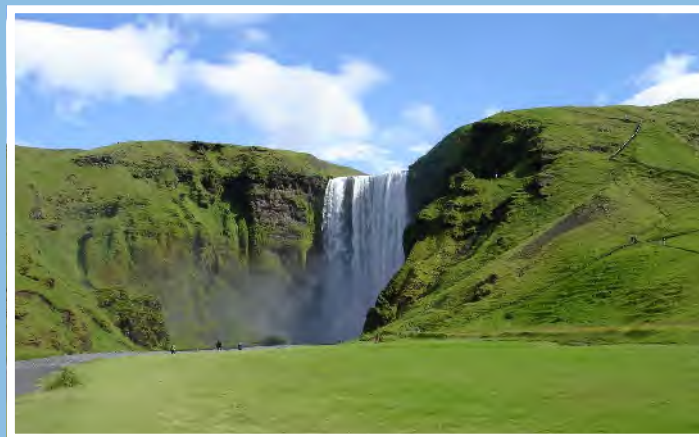
Iceland Trip

Year 10 Geography students (myself included) and some A level Geographers are lucky enough to be going on a field trip to Iceland on the 17th of March. The trip is one that will benefit us with our GCSE that we are taking at the end of Year 11 but will also be, we hope, an experience that we will will never forget.

We are going for four days and three nights and we will be visiting different parts of Iceland. We will be able to experience weather conditions that are colder than Britain but also see some spectacular scenes that are exclusive to the country Iceland. On the day we arrive in Iceland we plan to visit Gunnuhver and Reykjanes which are geothermal power stations. This means that the electrical power being generated is using the volcanic rocks from Iceland as a power source for heat energy. This renewable source of energy powers the whole of Iceland which is why it will be so interesting to actually see how these power stations work.



On the second day of our visit we plan to do many different activities, one of which is a glacier walk where we hope to see some geysers. These are vents in the earth's crust that periodically eject a column of hot water and steam. As well as this, between the Friday and Saturday of our stay we plan to visit two waterfalls named Gullfoss and Skogafoss. These both look equally exciting and when looking at pictures from last year's trip they also seem to look very pretty.



At the end of our stay on the Sunday morning/afternoon we plan to visit the Blue Lagoon which I am most excited about. This is a geothermal spa and is one of the most visited places in Iceland. The whole trip looks like an amazing adventure for educational and fun purposes; I cannot wait to get there!

Molly Jennings (Year 10)

Duke of Edinburgh

Practice Expedition to Richmond Park

'An energising and exciting trip in an open scenic park' is how one student chose to describe this year's Duke of Edinburgh practice trip that took place Saturday 16th January. This trip was led by Ms Stewart and Mr Shore who were accompanied by numerous other teachers who generously volunteered their time. The purpose of this trip was to prepare students from Year 10 to Year 12 for their Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. Students needed to develop map reading and navigational skills as well as gain knowledge in how to correctly use compasses and prepare for expeditions.

Silver Duke of Edinburgh: Wendover Woods

On Saturday 5th of March we went to do our Silver Duke of Edinburgh practice walk in Wendover Woods. When we arrived it was snowing and absolutely freezing! We had a quick snowball fight and then separated into groups of three; our task was to find 20 points scattered across the woods with a map and a compass. We all found Point 1 together, and then separated off to find the rest of the points in the time given. Soon after starting we found Point 5, even after some tactical lies from another team trying to persuade us that there was no point there!

The weather became clearer and the walk became a lot more pleasant, and very funny. Apart from difficult points and myself falling over a log (which I had previously warned my group about), the walk was really enjoyable. Our group got 15 of the points and was the first back in the time given, quickly followed by the other groups.



To conclude the walk, we took some pictures with a Gruffalo and a Drone and made our way back to school in the mini buses.

Emily Willmer (Year 12)

This practice walk was good exercise for students - 12km of good exercise following a pre-planned route for four hours around Richmond Park! Students were well prepared - they had had nine previous weekly lessons in preparation for this trip and in case of emergency had taken lessons in first aid.

'In the end it was rather a nice trip,' commented Holly Logue, a Year 10 student. 'It encouraged great teamwork and was a scenic expedition. Even if we got lost there was always an opportunity to capture a photograph of Richmond Park's wildlife and lakes'

To younger students wanting to take this trip in the future, the best advice that can be offered is to break in your walking boots before you walk for four hours!

The practice walk enabled us to practise our map reading and navigation skills prior to the assessed expedition later this year.



We had checked the forecast before the day of the practice walk and therefore we knew what to expect. It was cold. Snowfall the previous night had settled leaving the ground covered in puddles of mud and ice, and it was still lightly snowing when we arrived at the car park in the Woods.

Gathering outside a café, we were given instructions that explained the activity we would partake in during the day. The activity involved the group separating into smaller groups of three in order to find letters located at checkpoints in the Woods under timed conditions. At the end, the group with the most letters would win a prize, which turned out to be a rather delicious bar of chocolate! Using a compass and a map of the area, which marked the positions of checkpoints in the Woods, we had to navigate along footpaths, through the terrain to find the checkpoints. As we had a limited time to find the letters we had to plan a basic route through the woods that would enable us to visit as many points as possible.



This exercise was very useful as it gave us the opportunity to practise walking under timed conditions across steep terrain in poor weather, preparing us for the real expedition in the spring. As a group are all looking forward to the upcoming expeditions we and completing the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award.

Kyle Quadra Year 12

House

Competitions

House Drama Competition

This term the School Houses competed in an intense battle of skill, imagination and characterisation; the House Drama Competition. Each House was given the task of creating a five minute long piece based on a song of their choosing. All that was needed to participate was a group of three or more and an imagination. For weeks groups prepared their performances - script writing, dancing and rehearsing ruthlessly until the day itself arrived.

The competition itself was a complete success. The audience was left shocked and / or enlightened after each interesting performance using themes from heart-felt romances such as upper school Becket's entry of 'Let Her Go' by James Bay to thought provoking historical dramas like Clitherow's heart-wrenching performance based on the problems around capital punishment.

Zofia Komorowska, 10CA, co-directed the Year 7's winning performance of 'Everything has Changed' by Taylor Swift and Ed Sheeran which targeted topical issues of bullying, jealousy and change within a school which acted as a microcosm of society as a whole. She described her experience of directing as "something I never thought would interest me."

It was clear that both directors (Zofia and Ellie Sherwood, also 10CA) thoroughly enjoyed the process of directing. "It's really interesting to hear the Year 7's ideas contrasted with our own," said Ellie. "They were really open-minded to all of each other's ideas and had an outstanding rapport."

At the end of the performance the lower school entrants did a chair sequence to their chosen song, reflecting the resolution of the play and how everything had changed, not only in the attitudes of the characters towards each other but in maturity and understanding also.

Jay Reader (10 Clitherow) was in the audience watching all of the performances. "The Year 7s were very good at performing in front of everyone in the Drama Competition, especially Jake (7 Campion)."

It was clear that each performance was well thought out and rehearsed, and the acting skills and techniques used have definitely raised the bar for next year's competitors.

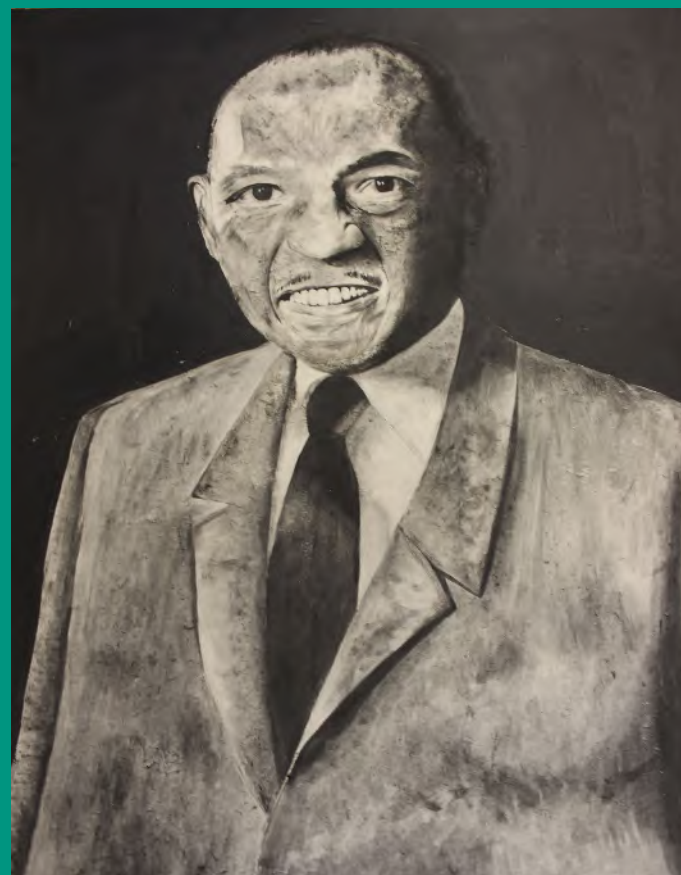
Overall, both Campion's upper and lower school entrants gained a first place win within the competition. Zofia told us, "I think it's a great achievement for Campion to win a House Competition for both lower and upper school. The Drama Competition is something I'm really glad takes place in school as it allows students to be creative and express themselves and their feelings using various drama techniques."

All that's left now is to wait in anticipation for next year's competition and its spectacular performance - may the best House win, whether it's to be or not to be!

Ellie Sherwood Year 10

House Art

This year's House Art Competition theme focused on the upcoming Rio Olympic Games that will be held later this summer. We have some talented and creative artists here at St Mark's...



Helen Okeke - Special Prize

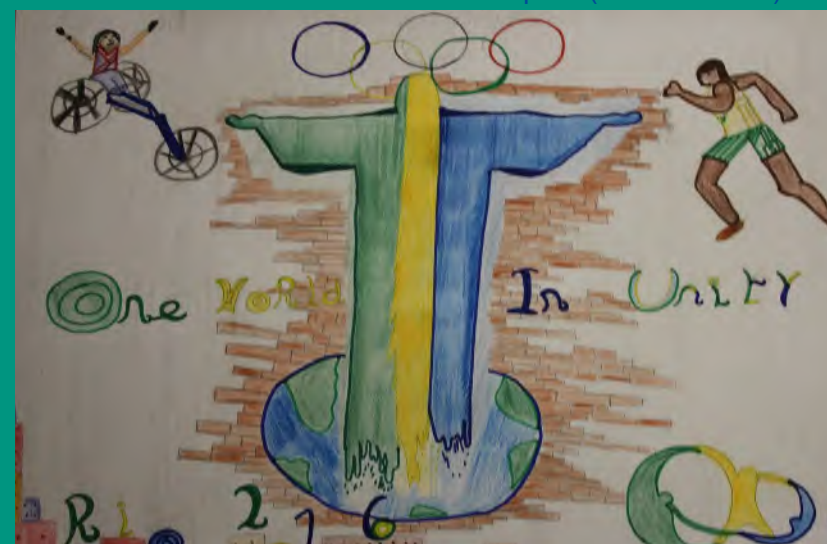


3rd Prize - Shanice Munasinghe (Years 7 & 8)

Rio Olympics 2016



1st Prize - Monica Marques (Years 9 & 10)



1st Prize - Sofia Piletto (Years 7 & 8)



2nd Prize - Woliny Fernandes (Years 9 & 10)



3rd Prize - Elizabeth Khortiyeva (Years 9 & 10)



2nd Prize - Lilian Dela Cruz (Years 7 & 8)

House Quiz

The House Quiz from our point of view was very exciting and it was a very entertaining event. We all enjoyed it because it was an opportunity to get to know the rest of the members of our House and have a laugh with them also. Even if everyone else thought it was about winning, we felt it was more about teamwork.

House Quiz Results:

Years 7 and 8:

1st More, 2nd Campion, 3rd Pole, 4th Fisher, 5th Clitherow, 6th Becket.

Years 9 and 10:

1st Fisher, 2nd More, 3rd Campion, 4th Clitherow, 5th Becket, 6th Pole.

Oliwia Garniewska and Kimberly Pangilinan (Year 9)

A Level Photography



Angela Warwick
A2



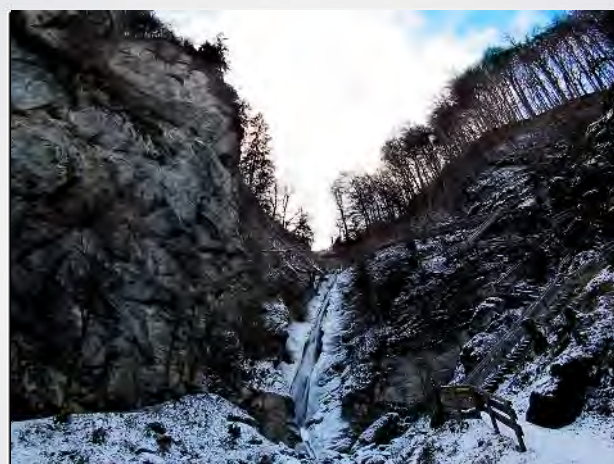
Devangi Khagram
A2



Emily Willmer
AS



Eryk Wizenko
AS



Felicity Bearfoot-Fallon
A2



Katalynna Vícera Estavillo
A2



Lia Volcere
AS



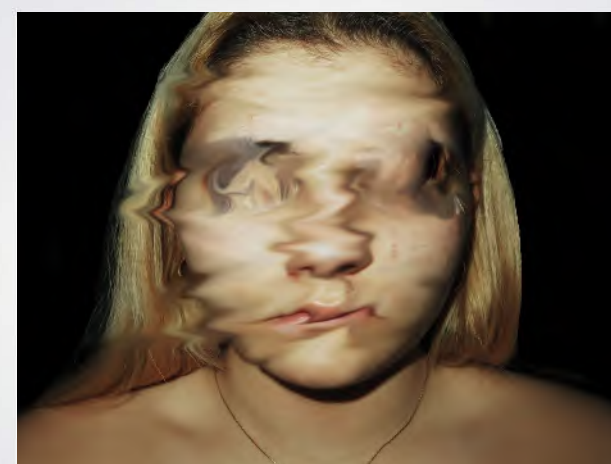
Luke Blackford
AS



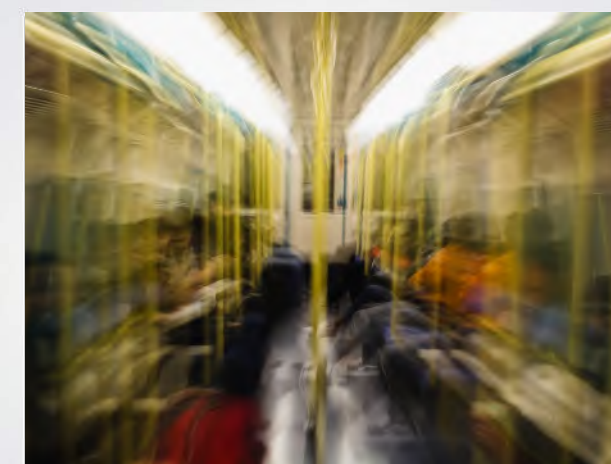
Elona Doci
A2



Stacio Fernandes
A2



Jade Chopra
AS



Patryk Seaman
AS

Choir Festival



On Wednesday 3rd February St Mark's held its annual Choir Festival. The Primary schools that attended this event were The Rosary, Mount Carmel, St James's and St Michael and St Martin's. Each school sang two songs and then sang one song individually in the massive medley. St Mark's sang 'Forget You' by Cee Lo Green and 'With or Without You' by U2.

Diana Fernandes, Year 8, said, "I enjoyed the songs that the choir performed and I think that the way Ms Jackson always puts a twist on things in the choir with every single song that we do is brilliant. I also think that they were modern and fun to sing. 'Forget You' was particularly enjoyable to sing because it required a lot of attitude!"

The medley was a mix of Jersey Boys songs. St Mark's sang, 'Can't Take My Eyes Off Of You' which

led straight through to the last song which all of the schools participated in, 'Who Loves You?' which sounded amazing. The band consisted of two cellists, a saxophone, a trumpet, a bass, a guitar, seven violinists and a drummer and was directed by Mr Martin.

Every year at St Mark's there is great excitement in the Choir about this upcoming event. I enjoyed it immensely and thought that all the schools did an amazing job with their songs and the medley. My favourite part was when I was performing in the orchestra during the medley and I was listening to the choir sing. Hopefully the primary schools enjoyed it as much as we did. We can't wait until next year when it will be even better!

Gabrielle Estorninho (Year 8)



Cupid's Day 2016

On 12th of February, love was definitely in the air! Sixth Formers gave up their mornings and became Cupid himself, for it was Cupid's Day. Gifts were in abundance in the common room as Sixth Formers hurried back and forth to deliver Valentine's gifts all around the school. The gifts involved were chocolate hearts, marshmallow lollipops, Valentine poems, red roses and cute teddy bears, all from anonymous 'secret admirers'.

We successfully raised £158.43 from this fun event and all of this will go towards the Leprosy Mission of England and Wales in response to their World

Leprosy Day Appeal 2016. The Leprosy Mission is an international Christian charity with 141 years of experience. Through The Leprosy Mission's global family, they serve a population of 305 million people in around 30 leprosy-affected countries. Leprosy is a disease associated with poverty and it is easily cured. Leprosy starts by damaging the small nerves on the skin's surface resulting in a loss of sensation which is very unpleasant for the sufferer. We are very happy that the money we raised can go towards this good cause.

Lucy Kenny, Vianca Santillan, Allyson McMenamin - Benjamin (Year 12)



We Day UK

WE Day was a free trip to Wembley Arena organised for students all around the country who have helped the community; the Year 9 team who organised the shoe box Collection for the Homeless in Hounslow for Christmas were invited to take part. The day included appearances and talks from celebrities such as singer Rita Ora and astronomer Professor Brian Cox, and performances from musicians DNCE and Labrinth.

On arrival at the arena we were greeted with free goody bags containing all we needed to know about participating in WE Day's new schemes.

The afternoon started with an incredible performance of 'Let It Be' by Labrinth himself which was a great way to get the crowd on their feet. The organisers Craig and Marc Kielburger gave us a very warm welcome and introduced their main speakers for the afternoon. Over the course of the day the speakers were going to take us through three stops to get from ME to WE.

But first Professor Brian Cox made an inspiring speech that made us consider our size in the universe and showed us the furthest picture of Earth ever taken. This was then followed by an energetic performance by DNCE of their debut single 'Cake by the Ocean'. A moving cover of Justin Bieber's 'Love Yourself' by Revelation Avenue, a gospel choir that made it to the semi-finals of Britain's Got Talent in 2013, was another great addition to the day.

Rita Ora made her first appearance introducing philanthropists Holly Branson and HRH Princess Beatrice; they made a speech about their project which helps young girls flourish in the world of the sciences. The crowd was lifted to their feet was once again by an all-dancing performance of her debut single 'Sax' by Fleur East. This was swiftly followed by an equally uplifting performance by dynamic Norwegian duo Nico and Vinz of their hit song 'Am I Wrong?' A soothing cover of Michael Jackson's 'Man in the Mirror' by Darren Criss, Glee actor, was a great way to get back into the spirit of changing the world by 'starting with me'.

Rita Ora made her final appearance to make a very heartfelt talk about the current refugee crisis and her genuine beliefs about how we should welcome all citizens from war torn countries with open arms. The singer described her own experience as a refugee, she was forced to come to the UK from Kosovo at only 1 year old with her parents because of war. She inspired us all to be open-minded and open-armed to all those in need and to do all we can for others without prejudice or thought.

The amazing Labrinth finished the show with his biggest crowd-pleaser 'Earthquake'. Sadly, there was not a surprise appearance from the featuring artist Tinie Tempah but it was nonetheless the best way to end the day by far. We hope to make it to the next WE Day with kind deeds here at St Mark's. Hopefully, we won't have forgotten the WE Day dance!

Valeria Atik (Year 9)

Sports News

NJIRC 2016

On 11th March St Mark's sent a team of 38 students to the National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships at Lea Valley Athletics Centre.

We have been able to enter these championships thanks to our partnership with London Youth Rowing who have allowed the school use of 5 indoor rowing machines as well as opportunities to attend free water rowing sessions at the University of London boathouse.

The students have been working hard in lessons and at rowing club to ensure they were ready for the day and all worked really well against tough competition. Notable performances came from Liam McNulty, Francesca Williams, Alrussel James Reyes Gabulac and Tatianna Mercedes who finished 10th, 14th, 24th and 29th respectively. A big well done to everyone that took part!



Year 7 Borough Netball Tournament

On Thursday 17th March the Year 7 Netball Team attended the annual Borough Tournament that was held at The Heathlands School.

Up until this point the squad have had a fantastic League run, finishing second and losing only one game to Gumley. It was hoped that the Team could replicate this good run of form and play to the best of their ability in the tournament. They are certainly a team with lots of potential.

Unfortunately Scarlett Clarke, the team's GA, was unable to play in the tournament - a big miss! However, the team remained positive and focussed.

There were 14 teams taking part and competition was fierce. The team started the Tournament really well and beat The Green School in the first game. A closely fought game between St Mark's and Brentford A team, again resulted in a St Mark's win. They comfortably went onto win their final pool game. This made them winners of their pool and they then faced the winners of the other pools in a round robin play off. Up until this point the team had played some fantastic, slick netball, improving with every game.

The first team to play against in the round robin was Feltham school. End to end action and a closely fought game eventually resulted in a 1-0 win to St Mark's.

Feltham and Gumley then played and Feltham School won. St Mark's then played Gumley who were a strong team and began to play much better than their previous game against Feltham. The St Mark's girls competed well, but Gumley won through.

This meant that all teams had won a game each. Goal difference would then be considered. Gumley had scored the most goals and conceded the least, so they came out on top. Feltham had scored one more goal than St Mark's, which meant they had finished second. St Mark's came third. This was a massive achievement – finishing third place out of 14 teams is to be commended. Well done to the whole Team!

Ava Gibson, Patience Bitumba, Lydia Shaymelo, Julia Lechoka, Jessica Kabanda, Tamara Offori-Atta Bossman, Isobel Gilham, Nora Sharma, and Charlotte Henry-Stumpe.



Year 9 Champions! Borough Netball Tournament

On Friday 29th January, the Year 9 Netball Team attended the annual Borough tournament held at Heston School.

Unbeaten in the league with convincing wins so far, the St Mark's Team was the team to fear; Double Borough Champions last year with the potential to do the same again this year!

Ms Thomas accompanied the Team to the tournament and true to form the girls played some exceptional netball! No other team could get anywhere close to them. Positive comments from teachers from other schools attending the tournament confirmed just how good the St Mark's Year 9 Netball Team are.

Needless to say, the Team comfortably progressed to the final where they played The Heathlands School. They came out on top and so for the second year in a row, this Netball Team are Borough tournament winners.

With one game to play in the league on Monday, there is every opportunity to replicate last years' achievement and be crowned double champions!

Well done to the whole team!

Jade Walker, Macey Rajkovic, Eliza Fatscher, Lourdes Tumwa, Chantelle Tetteh, Shanice Koon-goda, Claire Wiener, Elly Smith and Jessie Stitson.



Semi Final heartbreak for the Year 7 Boys' Football Team

The Year 7 Boys' Football Team lost a tough encounter versus Uxbridge High in the semi-final of the Middlesex Cup. Despite taking the lead and battling really well and with good performances from Dan-

iel Okolo and Ramon Rose, Uxbridge ran out 6-2 winners. The boys are still in contention to win the Borough title and should be proud of their efforts this season. Keep up the good work boys!

GCSE Food Technology



Prepared by Georgia Courtney



Prepared by Victoria Golec



Prepared by Ciara Egan



Prepared by Michelle Arackal



Prepared by Loretta Alvarez



Prepared by Nethni Athuraliya