

# St Mark's Catholic School

A group of five young people, three men and two women, are seated in rows of red theater seats. They are all wearing black t-shirts and have white face paint. The man on the far left has a small white dot on his cheek. The woman next to him has white paint around her eyes and a small white dot on her cheek. The man on the far right has white paint around his eyes and a small white dot on his cheek. The woman in the front center has white paint around her eyes and a small white dot on her cheek. The woman on the far right has white paint around her eyes and a small white dot on her cheek. In the bottom right corner, there is a white logo featuring a stylized sun or flower design with the word "KINETIC" written below it.





# The Opening of the Kerry Sullivan Theatre

Following the opening of The David Sheath Sports Hall in the Autumn term, the School was delighted to celebrate the official opening of the brand new Theatre located in the heart of the School in place of the old gym.

The Kerry Sullivan Theatre was officially opened on the 9th July on the first night of the School musical production of 'Oh! What a Lovely War'. The new Theatre was named after Kerry Sullivan in appreciation of his contribution to the School in his position as Chair of Governors, a post he has held for over 15 years.



Mr Enright emphasised that the plan for the new Theatre was intended to go hand in hand with the opening of the new Sports Hall – an idea which the School had on the drawing board for a while. Mr Enright asserted that the old gym had become obsolete and was, in fact, more in line with the historical sports and games oriented curriculum.

"By recognising where the old gym was located, it was evident that the new Theatre also belonged at the heart of the School to enhance the Arts at St Mark's. Subjects outside of the English Baccalaureate, including P.E, Music, Art and Drama are essential for a well-rounded, holistic education", he affirmed.



The Theatre is already proving to be a success for the school community, having hosted St Mark's Got Talent on the 19th of June and the Rock School Concert on the 3rd of July. The production of 'Oh! What a Lovely War!' ran across two evenings, with many parents and staff enjoying the lively presentation of a serious subject.

In its first year, the Theatre is set to be reserved for School use only, but in the long term it is hoped to be used as a resource for the local community, for external drama and music groups, lead lessons, retreats, conferences, as well as internal assemblies, Awards Evenings, Orchestral Events, the annual Choir Festival, and perhaps even Art Exhibitions.



The new Theatre was built by Quinn, the same construction team who undertook the building of the David Sheath Sports Hall. Half of the funding came from the Education Funding Agency, with the rest supported from the School's budget and by parents' donations to the Building Fund.



Mr Enright would like to thank all parents who contributed, as well as Catherine Ramsden, the designer of the Theatre, our construction team at Quinn, our premises co-ordinator Maggie Boyce, who organised the day-to-day liaisons, and the Governors for their commitment to the scheme.

Geneva Vilasami Year 12



The audience was treated to a mix of humour, poignancy and theatricality in the end-of-term musical production of 'Oh, What a Lovely War' staged on 9th, 10th July. The play pays tribute to the men and women who fought to save the nation over 100 years ago. The war time satire exposed the futility of a war that claimed 10 million lives through songs, sketches and period newsreel. The amazing cast had the audience singing along and smiling at the ironic jokes, but at the same time there was an electronic relay of stark and sobering statistics being projected in the background.

Through the exceptional performance of Oscar Crowe (playing the MC) the audience were taken through the tragedies of the war. Along with many others, Liam Gavin (British General), Luigi Medri (General Haig) and Anna McConell (Mrs Pankhurst) gave winning performances throughout the play.

The cast threw themselves into the songs that carried the musical wonderfully. There was a great mix of sing-along war time classics such as 'It's a Long Way to Tipperary' and 'Roses of Picardy' and anti-war songs such as 'When This Lousy War is Over' and 'I Don't Want to be a Soldier'.

This terrific production could not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the cast, band and production team. To perform in the brand new Theatre made this production extra special.

'Oh What a Lovely War' was a real testament to the talent that exists at St Mark's. A huge well done to everyone involved!

Catherine Moriarty Year 12

## HeadLine



Welcome to the first digital only copy of **Veritas**. Please do share it with family, friends and the wider community. **Veritas** captures very effectively what St Mark's is all about; fulfilling God given potential, working hard, taking on new challenges and having fun along the way. 2014-15

has been a very successful year for the School starting with the outstanding examination results and recognition from Education Ministers regarding the School's success. On 29th May Bishop John Sherrington wrote to congratulate staff on the way in which St Mark's has "furthered the progress and attainment of pupils." He also thanked parents "who support the school in so many ways."

Since the last edition of **Veritas** students have enjoyed a wide range of enrichment activities including House events, Retreats, Rock School Concert, Duke of Edinburgh weekends, Charity Walk, trips to Madrid, Paris and Rome, the School Musical in our new Theatre, St Mark's Got Talent, Sports Day and Activities Day to finish off the term. I would like to thank staff for all the time and effort that goes in to planning and running these activities.

We are entering a challenging period for school budgets. The Institute for Fiscal Studies recently estimated that school budgets would fall in real terms by 12% over the course of this Parliament. This jeopardises curriculum enrichment as the first priority will be to protect classroom teaching. Perhaps I can take this opportunity to emphasise how important the School Fund contribution by parents will be in the coming years. Thank you for all your support which is much appreciated by staff at St Mark's. Have a good Summer break.

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 Vilasami, Felicity Bearfoot-Fallon, Max Mayo Dell, Tom Stilson, Elona Doci, David Brady, Jason Burksfield, Aine Súmer O'Flynn, Sam Robinson, Stacio Fernandes, Klaudia Zaporowska, Liam Gavin, Jack Gilbert**

Front cover photograph taken by Mr Guegan



# St Mark's Got Talent



The new Theatre was bursting with talent on Friday 19th June as students prepared to wow the audience with their individual talents at our very own St Mark's Got Talent. The event was organised by Ms Jackson and Sixth Formers to celebrate St Mark's day and to showcase the huge variety of talent that exists in our school community. From singers and all kinds of dancers to the skill of completing a Rubik's Cube in under 30 seconds we saw the very best of our talented students.

The show consisted of three rounds, producing three overall winners. Whispers of excitement spread throughout the Hall as the audience were awed by beautiful acts and dramatic acts which left us on the edges of our seats, willing the students on!

Our most talented student was Dennis Gyamfi, aka 'The Rap God', who won two out of the three rounds as he entertained us with his fantastic rapping and dancing skills to Kriss Kross' *Jump*. The audience was up on their feet jumping along to his rap, which can be heard on St Mark's Soundcloud page.

From an energised atmosphere to a more sombre one, we were left teary-eyed and covered in goosebumps by Conor Guerin's rendition of Whitney Houston's *I Have Nothing*. Our very own host Shannon Friel came on stage in tears following the act, clearly showing how this act touched all of the students.

We also had amazing dance crews which broke down some serious

moves and had all the audience pumping with energy. We also had a Ukulele band, rock school band, a contemporary dancer, singers, guitarists, a drama group and a keyboardist.

A massive thank you to all who took part. Their talents made the day highly successful and reflected the true spirit of our school, one which is full of talent, joy and happiness.

## Winners: Show 1

1st Dennis Gyamfi Year 8

2nd Imani Oakley and Conor Guerin Year7

3rd Year 10 Band

## Show 2

1st Dennis Gyami Year 8

2nd Conor Guerin Year7

3rd Imani Oakley Year 8

## Show 3-

1st Gabrielle Estorninho Year7

2nd Rock School Band Years 7 - 9

3rd Imani Oakley Year 8 and Conor Guerin Year7

Elona Doci Year 12





# Schools Physicist of the Year Award



Piotr Gnap received an Ogden Trust Schools Physicist of the Year Award at Royal Holloway University. Along with students from a number of West London schools, Piotr was given an insight into the work done in a university Physics

department and attended a lecture on levitating superconductors. As part of his award he has been made an alumnus of the Ogden Trust providing him with possible grants and scholarships if he studies Physics at university.



## JET in Culham

The Year 12 Physicists embarked on a journey of discovery to Oxfordshire in order to find out about the future of the world's energy production – nuclear fusion.

The world's largest magnetic confinement plasma physics experiment is based at the Joint European Torus (JET) site at Culham Centre for Fusion Energy. In short, it is the largest place in the world where nuclear fusion can take place efficiently. Here, Deuterium and Tritium can be fused, forming a hydrogen atom and a neutron, which means energy can be released. This is called DT fusion.

Special conditions are required for fusion, and it has been difficult for scientists to create a controllable, non-destructive way of using fusion. Seeing as we are running out of fossil fuels and renewable sources of energy are not efficient in providing enough energy, the development of nuclear fusion is key as it may be the only way to power the world in the future.



Ashen De Silva and Dom Religa

## Hounslow Heath Biology Trip

On a sunny Tuesday 23rd June, Year 12 Biology students went to Hounslow Heath in order to prepare for their forthcoming A2 biology course. The day was focused upon sampling in different areas of the Heath, along a transect line, to measure how succession developed from a pioneer to a climax community. By using grid quadrats and point quadrats we were able to compare our results between the two sampling techniques. Alongside the learning, we were trying to spot some interesting species since Hounslow Heath incorporates a mixture of heathland and acid grassland communities, blocks of scrub, and areas of bare ground – which is the habitat for Adder snakes, meadow pipit birds and the common toad. Although unsuccessful at finding a snake, some students did find some snake skin!



Aine Sumer O'Flynn Year 12

# Natural History Museum 'Cell-fies'

As part of their GCSE preparation the Year 10 single science students visited the Natural History Museum. They were equipped with worksheets and tasked with finding and exploring various displays and exhibits relating to their studies – and with presenting their findings in a creative way. Students Michaela Mannion, Charlotte Evans and Veronica Palys chose a light-hearted approach with 'cell-fies' to record their scientific discoveries!

## Natural History Museum competition Team: lichen cell-fies

Group: Michaela M., Charlotte E., and Veronica P.

### Darwin statue...



### GIANT Redwood



### Any Dinosaur - Giant Moa



### Another of your choice- We (metamorphic) rock!



### Two precious



### A cool mammal - Asiatic elephant

(It keeps 'cool' by having ears with a large surface area)



### Guy the Gorilla



Are all the bananas that Guy the Gorilla eats? Because there aren't "enough".

### Fact of the day!

Pufferfish use their elastic stomachs and the ability to quickly ingest huge amounts of water (and even air when necessary) to turn themselves into a virtually inedible ball which is several times their normal size.





# Young Reporters' Award



I have enjoyed the challenge of writing different articles. The scheme has opened my eyes to what is required to become a journalist

Tom Stitson

of sporting events in the local area: from match reports on London Welsh to Chelsea's possible move to Twickenham. On 24th June, Tom went to Quadrant House in Sutton to scoop up his prize and had the following to say

This year, fifteen students from St Mark's took part in Newsquest's Young Reporters' Scheme which involved students from over sixty schools across London. Students wrote a series of articles over the course of the year and of the seven hundred students who took part, we were delighted to discover that **Tom Stitson** was chosen as one of this year's winners.

The judges were impressed by Tom's sports journalism in particular, as he reported on a number

about his award:

"I was really surprised and chuffed to be chosen for an award. At times it's been quite challenging having to meet the programme's deadlines on top of the demands of the GCSE courses, but I really enjoyed being given a taste of what it's like to be a journalist. I especially enjoyed being able to write about my favourite topic: sport!"

We'd also like to congratulate **Geneva Virasami, David Shaaya, Siobhan Kelly, Liam Gavin, Anna McConnell, Samantha Bowman, Klaudia Zaporowska** and **Katie Porter** who have also been given letters of recognition from Newsquest for their achievements on the scheme.



# Twickenham's got the Chelsea blues

As Premier League giants make plans for a move to Twickenham, local MPs express concern

TOM STITSON

RESIDENTS have turned the air blue after Premier League giants Chelsea asked the RFU for permission to use Twickenham Stadium for a season while Stamford Bridge undergoes expansion.

Chelsea are planning to expand the ground's capacity from 41,800 to 60,000 to boost match day revenue and help the club meet UEFA's financial fair play guidelines.

Blues owner Roman Abramovich had initially considered seeking a new permanent home but there were few suitable sites in London. The RFU confirmed that talks with Chelsea are at an early stage. The House of England Rugby has never hosted a football game. Any possible move could not take place before the 2016-17 season as the stadium is the venue for the 2015 Rugby World Cup.

This alleged move has caused con-

trovercy among locals. Vince Cable, the Liberal Democrat local MP, leads the opposition against Chelsea's plans. Cable tweeted: "I have written today to RFU about Twickenham Stadium and possible use for a year by Chelsea FC. V serious concerns and need for facts ASAP." Other local councillors have expressed concern. Alexander Edmunds delivered letters to all members of the RFU board on behalf of the St Margaret's and North Twickenham councillors expressing local people's views. Richmond Council Deputy Leader Geoffrey Samuel described the approach as "alarming".

Councillor Edmunds said: "While we have nothing against Chelsea Football Club or their fans, the public announcement of Chelsea's interest in relocating to Twickenham is broken and unwanted by local people [...] the impacts on traffic, road access and the requirements for more extensive levels of policing would be catastrophic."



Chelsea are seeking a move to Twickenham, but local MPs have publicly denounced the plans. REX

# Sky Journalism Day



On 16th June, a small group from the Veritas team were invited to Sky Headquarters at Gillette Corner for a unique insight into the media world.

The day began with a talk from presenter Isabel Webster, who works alongside Eamonn Holmes on Sunrise. She described the pressures of delivering breaking news to millions of viewers each morning and witnessing historic events such as the Royal Wedding, the London riots and the disappearance of flight MH370. Afterwards, Neil Dunwoodie, a Sky executive producer, and Martin Stanford, the presenter of the evening news, joined us for an in-

teractive lesson on how the team put together a typical news bulletin. They demonstrated the importance of their job in reporting the gripping stories in the news as quickly and as accurately as possible.

We were then treated to a VIP tour of Sky News Centre, including a visit to the weather room and the central studio where Dermot Monaghan was hosting live. Following this, we were also allowed access to Sky Sports News HQ, witnessing first hand the home of Jeff Stelling's Soccer Saturday and Jim White's Deadline Day Live. The final part of the day consisted of a talk with Jim Cockin from internal communications, and a Q&A with the Sky Sports team, David Miles and Laurie Tucker.

The whole Sky experience gave us a fascinating taste of life in the media whilst also providing the incredible opportunity to network with leading journalists, broadcasters and producers.



Sam Robinson Year 12

# Year 10 Guardian Workshop

On 25th April, a group of Year 10 Students visited the London Headquarters of an international newspaper and online journalism corporation. Many of the students had expressed an interest in journalism through taking part in the Young Reporters' Scheme, writing for Veritas, or through English lessons.

The memorable events of the day had started off even before we had arrived at King's Place with a brief run-in, so to speak, with the Mayor of London Boris Johnson on an escalator at King's Cross station. The scruffy, blonde haired politician climbed the steps next to us and greeted us with a cheerful wave – it seems as though commuting to work on the underground isn't below the Mayor.

At year 10 primary news meeting on page 3  
Students visit Guardian workshop on page 3  
Award ceremony at Veritas on page 2

## St Mark's Gazette

Friday 24 April 2015  
St Mark's Catholic School

### Apple's 'biggest' gadget yet

Millions wait online to purchase Apple's first wearable device



Apple has produced their first wearable device, the Apple Watch, which is available in three models and has many impressive features. The Watch is available in three models and has many impressive features. The Watch is available in three models and has many impressive features.

### Reward for Easter raid information

The police have issued a reward for information that will lead to the capture and conviction of all members of the London-based gang known as the 'Gangster' who are responsible for a series of robberies and burglaries. The reward is for information that will lead to the capture and conviction of all members of the London-based gang known as the 'Gangster' who are responsible for a series of robberies and burglaries.



## GCSE Product Design



## GCSE Graphic Design





## Election Day

On May 7th, the quinquennial nationwide election took place not only in the 650 parliamentary constituencies across the UK, but within our own school as well.

In the weeks leading up to the election the Year 12 Government and Politics class lead whole school assemblies on the topic of Democracy and the importance of all citizens, young and old, engaging with the issues and voting. Information was posted about the electoral system, the candidates from the local constituency Feltham and Heston, and the proposals in the Party manifestos.

On the morning of the General Election students and staff cast their vote with the Year 12 Government and Politics class collecting the ballot boxes from each Year group. In

the afternoon the Year 13 Government and Politics class duly counted the votes and the result was declared just after lunch with Seema Malhotra, the Labour candidate, winning with a 46% share of the vote.

It was an excellent way to allow the school to see democracy in action, and the hope remains that a political spark has been engaged in the younger members of the school community, and maybe a few of the older ones as well!

Mr Enright voted early, watched closely by a number of interested parties, before they sped off to their constituencies. Shame some strange blonde guy managed to photo bomb!

*Geneva Vilasami Year 12*



## Tech Future Girls' Club



The Tech Future Girls' Club is a brand new club, which launched on the 11th June. It is specifically aimed at girls in Years 7, 8 and 9 who are interested in Technology and IT.

The Club helps girls develop their skills in IT through a

series of graded challenges and activities in areas such as fashion, music, sports and celebrities.

The Tech Future Girls' Club is great for encouraging girls to stay engaged in Technology and IT whilst having fun.

The Club runs every Thursday in Room 43 from 3.05-4.05pm with Ms Box!



## Junior Maths Challenge

Once again, St Mark's students have done their teachers, their parents and themselves proud. Over a quarter of a million young number-crunchers from nearly four thousand secondary schools around Britain entered this year's 25 question, multiple-choice competition at the end of April.

Every year, the top 40% of the entrants are awarded Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates in the ratio 1:2:3 so Gold award winners will be amongst the top 16-17,000 young mathematicians in the country. This year, St Mark's students garnered 4 Gold, 13 Silver and 33 Bronze awards. An honourable mention should also be made of the 23 students who were within one correct answer of a Bronze

award.

Congratulations to all our award winners. A special mention goes to Tom Moreland and Karina Ursua, both of Year 8, who were selected for the follow-on round, the intriguingly-named Junior Kangaroo.

Remember, the Year 7s get another chance next year and the Year 8s will then step up to the Intermediate Challenge for Years 9, 10 & 11.

Many thanks to Ms Keegan, Ms Wickenden and Mr Bamrolla for preparing and organising the students this year.

*Mr Gold*

## Music Composition Masterclass



GCSE Music students took part in a Composition masterclass with Adam Komar, a postgraduate student at the Royal College of Music. Adam is currently working on projects for professional orchestras in the UK. This Masterclass will be become a regular feature of the GCSE course. The class was funded by the generous help of the Worshipful Company of Musicians.

The Masterclass, with its emphasis on Gustav Holst and the Planet Suite, was an excellent experience and enjoyed by all students.

*Mr Martin*

## Rock Concert



This year we were celebrating a very special event in Rock School, its ten year anniversary!

It was, therefore, especially fitting to celebrate this milestone in the new Theatre. This made the whole event so

professional, with a great light show, excellent sound and a very excited audience! All the students involved were outstanding; they relished showcasing their talents before a packed house.



During the evening we had a wide range of music ranging from Pink Floyd to Green Day. The bands performing had a lot of pressure on them and they all rose to the occasion and provided a truly rocking night!

Please check Soundcloud for audio recordings of the Concert.

Once again thank you to all students involved and Mr McKean, Mr Martin and Mr Cox for making it such a memorable evening.



## The Land of Fire and Ice



On the 19th of March Year 10 students departed from Heathrow airport to embark on a Geography trip to Iceland, a country renowned for its inspiring landscapes, astounding natural wonders and its fascinating history. We spent two nights in a hotel in the heart of Reykjavik, from which we went by coach to a number of once-in-a-lifetime places.



The landscape was phenomenally diverse, allowing us to gain invaluable knowledge into a range of geographical features, ranging from its stunning lagoons to extraordinary geysers and of course, the enormous volcanoes that Iceland is so famous for. There was not a single dull moment throughout the duration of the trip as there were always spectacular sights to admire or culture to be absorbed; we were even lucky enough to see the Northern Lights in Reykjavik, something few people have ever been lucky enough to experience. On top of that the group visited numerous waterfalls yet the thing that impressed people the most was the glacier walk where the endless snow offered an exciting new experience - with the added bonus of getting ice picks!



Kasie Brookfield said, 'It was a really great trip and I think everyone had a lot of fun. My favourite part would have to be the glacier walk just because of how amazing the landscape was there and because of the real top quality banter. Yes, lads....!'

*Katie Porter and Matthew Moleod Year 10*

## Hengistbury Head Visits



**Operation HH 2015. Objective? Get the data!**

Mission accomplished, thanks to some expert geographers, two very organised groups of students, Ms Morillon and Ms Reid and a mercy stop at Rownham Services on the northbound M27. The latter was a thank you for

the excellent behaviour and participation of (both staff and) students on the day. Not even a rushed chicken nugget or a brain freeze from a hurriedly undigested ice cream could affect the positive atmosphere of both trips.

The Thursday (green trip) was rather dim and cloudy and Old Harry and the Isle of Wight did a no show, yet all was well by the time we returned to the coach. There were still a few reddened foreheads the next day to show the rest of the school that proper work had been done. The Monday trip had rather hazy sunshine, 21 degrees C and a constant 17mph sea breeze that fooled everybody with its ability to dazzle/frazzle. Students were organised and the work was done in excellent time.

Congratulations on two excellent trips and now the hard work starts in prep for the Controlled Assessment write up!!

Good luck, Year 10 Geographers.

*Mr Rogers*

## Duke of Edinburgh



### Silver

The Silvers went out on their assessed weekend in early July to the New Forest. Whilst thunder and lightning presented them with a wonderful light show on the first night, it did not dampen any spirits and the 18 participants completed the expedition successfully.

This year we have had 18 Silver and 39 Bronze young people complete their awards. We are really excited to be offering the Gold award this year too.

Here are the thoughts of our young people doing their DoE awards this year.

*"I feel that I have become more strong mentally and have become more confident."*

*"I feel more independent and have made loads of new friends which has helped me to be an all-round cheerful person and have brought joy to my life."*

*"The best bit of doing my expedition was getting to see surroundings with beautiful scenery and spending time with my friends, without technology."*

*"I have learnt that you need grit and determination to get through certain things. I have given back to the community through my volunteering and have further developed my skills in piano and karate."*

Embarking on and completing the DoE at St Mark's is a journey our students and the staff enjoy and appreciate. This would not be possible without the support we receive from Dot Hasler [DoE Operations Officer London/Hounslow] and of course the staff and parents who volunteer their time to support us on the training and assessed expeditions.

The DoE Team would like to thank all those who have made 2015 season such a success.



### Bronze

After one medical course, countless DoE preparation lessons, three to six months of volunteering, physical and skills work and two practice expeditions, the Year 10 Bronze DoE group headed for Dorset to finally apply our newfound skills in our assessed expedition. Using maps, compasses and route cards, we traced a route that we had previously mapped in our DoE preparation lessons, and navigated our way around hilly terrain to find our campsite for the night. Once there, we put up tents, cooked our evening meals, and collapsed for the night.



and equipment. After a second day of walking, all groups successfully completed the weekend with few problems, and we all headed home after a tiring, yet enjoyable weekend.

*Kasie Brookfield Year 10*





## Year 11 Prom

Year 11 celebrated their time at St Mark's with a wonderful Leavers' Mass followed by their Prom on Friday 8th May.

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

Later on at the Prom the young ladies looked fabulous and the gentlemen were all dapper. Students and staff enjoyed watching each arrival in the many impressive modes of transport ranging from stretched limos to pony and trap. Year 11 went on to dance the night away at the disco, cheer each other with the award ceremonies, 'Ooh!' and 'Aah!' at the fireworks, enjoy the photo-booth and casino, and then finally depart - tired but very happy!

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

God bless,  
Ms Mould







## Year 13 Prom

The Year 13 Prom on the 8th May at the Holiday Inn, Brentford Lock was full of many of our favourite things: beautiful people in fabulous outfits, fine dining (the three-course dinner exceeded our expectations), fun filled amusement provided by the Lilybean Photo Booth, Mr Guegan (the official photographer) and amazing dancing to the music provided by the very popular DJ from Ritzymusic.

One of the highlights of the evening was the Prom Award Ceremony. George Barrow received the 'Most Likely to be Famous' award; Emily Drulovic – 'Most Caring Person'; Joe Theobald – 'Newcomer Award'. The 'Sunshine Award' – for the happiest person - went to Ellie Haines; 'Strictly Female – the Best Dancer' – Arianna Shahkarami; 'Strictly Male – the Best Dancer' – Michael Currie; 'X- Factor – Most Talented' – Chanel Fernandes; 'Stand-up Award – Best Comic' – Robbie Farrell. Students had voted for all of those awards in advance of the evening. Just like 'The Oscars', tremendous applause was given for not just the prize winners; but the long list of nominees for each award. On the night Sean Gallagher in his immaculate white jacket was awarded 'Best Dressed Male' and, much to Ms Crouch's disappointment (she came a close third!), Ms Bennie was awarded 'Best Dressed Female'.

The 2015 St Mark's Prom made history with the inaugural coronation ceremony for the Prom King and Prom Queen. Ciaran O'Halloran and Becky Savage were the very first St Mark's Prom King and Queen, they danced the night away with their dazzling crowns on their heads! It was a wonderful evening for both staff and students and provided us all with more happy memories.

The Sixth Form Leavers' Liturgy took place on the 21st May in the School Hall. We gathered together as a Year group to give thanks to God. This beautiful service included much meaningful symbolism. At the end students saw their Prom photos on the screen, whilst listening to the song, 'It's Time to Say Good-bye' and realised this was the end of an era – they would only be returning for their exams. A small reception was held in the LRC for our most senior students.

We will miss them and wish them every success for the future.

Thérèse Ferguson

Thanks to Ms Crouch, Ms Ferguson and all the teachers that helped towards creating a great way to bid farewell to our time at St Mark's. The Year 13 2015 prom could not have gone better, and as King I would like to thank all my subjects for a great seven years!

King Ciaran





## Year 9 Retreat - Wintershall



Year 9 students went on retreat to Wintershall Estate, Bramley near Guildford in June. The Theme: Growing in relationship with Christ 'Be still and know I am God' (Psalm 46:10) allowed students and staff to reflect on their own life and to have time for personal reflection.

The day was run on a carousel, with students rotating between the following activities:

- Students walked the Stations of the Cross in between five beautiful lakes and wonderful woodland and fields, linking "know that I am God." We know God through Jesus, and we see his love for us through the Crucifixion
- Reflection on the stations and their own lives; students had time in the Chapel of The Resurrection for an active meditation on the tree of life, reflecting on different areas of their lives, who influences them, the values and dreams they have, and where is God in all of this, linking seeing God in the bigger picture.

- Also group team building games outside, looking at importance of teamwork, finding God in each other and in the joy of each day.

We were very blessed to have amazing weather and to have The Westminster Diocesan Youth Team who kindly gave of their time and supported in the planning, running, and praying for this amazing day.



Magician, Acrobat, Priest, Teacher, Friend, - RISE presented the extraordinary life of St John Bosco (Don Bosco) A Magic Saint (Soldier to Saint) for Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9.

This brought to life the inspirational story of Saint Alban, Britain's first Christian martyr, celebrating the bicentenary of his birth this year. Don Bosco shared the difficulties of growing up in poverty, battling with his brothers and overcoming many obstacles to fulfil his dream, which has gone on to influence millions of people 200 years later.

Set in a future where religious expression has been made illegal, John Alban, an ordinary soldier, strikes an unlikely friendship with a fugitive priest - a friendship that could cost him his life. Students heard how John Bosco, was called to become Priest Don Bosco. (Don means Father). He walked the streets caring for abandoned youth, encouraging them to come to his youth club where they were cared for and taught to read and write.

Don Bosco turned his dreams to reality starting a school / boarding house despite facing opposition and threats to his life. Students reflected on how, like the parable of the mustard seed, they were called to take their dreams / passions and allow God to add water so they would grow and become reality like John Bosco.

## Rome Trip

Bright and early on Tuesday 23rd June, 30 excited students met at Hounslow West Tube Station at 5:30am ready for the week ahead in the historical city of Rome. After arriving in Rome Fiumicino Airport we boarded the coach and set off to the Catacombs San Sebastian. The tombs were dark and very small; our guide explained that many Christians were buried there; it was a very educational (and slightly scary) experience.

After the visit to the Catacombs, exhausted and hungry we arrived at our hotel just giving us enough time to unpack before we set off for our evening meal to Ristorante Barbablù - it was delicious! Then we went back to the hotel to rest, ready for the next day's adventure.

Our alarms were set for 6:00am, after a quick breakfast we departed to the Vatican, to see Pope Francis spread God's message in so many different languages. It was a once in a lifetime experience to see so many people gathered for this special service with the Pope. We then walked to Piazza Navona, where we were able to explore, eat our lunch and buy some Italian ice cream!

The next place we visited was the Vatican Museums. The collection built up by the Popes throughout the centuries, including some of the most renowned classical sculptures and most important masterpieces of Renaissance art in the world were displayed for all to admire. This visit concluded with the Sistine Chapel, which words cannot describe!

After a quick look around St Peter's Cathedral, and listening to the thunder storm outside we continued onto the Castel Sant'Angelo and saw the most spectacular view of the whole of Rome, and the bridge of Angels. At the end of the day we stopped for a well deserved evening meal in Pastarito where we devoured delicious pizza. It was a

very busy day!

The following day brought another early start to explore some amazing sights such as the Trevi fountain and the Spanish Steps. The highlight of the day was a guided tour of the Colosseum and the Roman Forum, the architecture was extravagant. We cooled off after a fun packed day with an enormous burger in the Hard Rock Café, surrounded by the guitars of famous musicians.

The night ended with a guided Night Bus Tour of the beautiful city. However, some pupils were so exhausted after the action packed day that they fell asleep before the end of the tour! We had never been so happy to see our beds at the end of the incredible day.

Our final day arrived far too quickly. After packing our suitcases and having breakfast we set off for our last sight-seeing trip to the Cathedral of John Lateran and the Cathedral of Mary Maggiore.

We offered our own prayers, and lit candles for our family and friends, in the Baptistery of John Lateran, and where blown away by the people on pilgrimage at the Sacred Steps. The guide also showed us where the relics of St Peter and St Paul were in the Cathedral of John Lateran, and the crib from the Nativity in the Cathedral of Mary Maggiore.

We were then met by a coach to depart for the airport after having a brilliant trip, and made it home safe and sound!

Thank you to all the teachers who came on the trip and made it such a memorable experience. We would highly recommend this trip to other students, as it is an ideal life-time experience; we learnt so much and made so many new friends.

Jessie Stitson Year 8 and Dylan Camara Year 9





## Art Exhibition



On Tuesday 2nd June we were able to attend a wonderful display of GCSE and A Level artwork. There was a great variety of high level pieces that inspired us and gave us a good understanding of what we can achieve in later years. It also provided us with many new ideas for creative approaches, such as bone sculptures, face distortion, contemporary painting and creating with glue. In addition we seized the opportunity to look through the sketchbooks of the students which clearly showed us what we are aiming to achieve - high quality, emotive and creative artwork.

Patricia Yanni and Zuzanna Rozanska  
Year 10



Angela Warwick



Devangi Khagram

## AS Photography

Elona Doci







# Modern Foreign

## Year 7 and 8 Paris Trip

36 Year 7 and four Year 8 students enjoyed a fun-filled four day trip to Paris in the penultimate week of term.

While there we visited Disneyland Paris, the Musée d'Orsay Art Gallery, the Eiffel tower, the impressive Sacré Coeur Basilica and surrounding area of Montmartre. We also enjoyed a boat trip up and down the Seine, seeing other famous sites along the way. On our return journey we stopped at Vimy Ridge, a stunning monument to the Canadian contribution to World War 1. The students enjoyed the trip hugely, embracing both the cultural experience and the opportunity to immerse themselves in the French language.



*'It was a great experience for everyone. I enjoyed the things we did and saw, and I look forward to travelling with the school on more trips again!' Michael Hollow*



*'France is a spectacular place which has more activities than you can imagine. I especially liked the massive but beautiful Eiffel tower' Kacper Wrona*



*'I really enjoyed Paris as I learnt lots of new things about another culture. It also helped me to improve my French.' Cora Beatty*



## Year 7 Spanish Trip

As you may know, students from Year 7 visit Madrid once a year. The Year 7's were very excited to go on the trip because of all the fun things they were about to do.

On the first day, we visited St. Bernabéu (the Real Madrid Football Team stadium) which was a great experience for all of us. It gave us a sense of what it was like to be a real football player and we got a tour of the whole building. After that we got to Plaza de Toros de Las Ventas (a bullfighting ring), travelling by metro.



Our tour guide there explained to us why bullfighting happens, because many people think it should not be done, but you cannot change a tradition. We walked into the massive arena, where lots of bullfighting has taken place. Then we watched a video about it, but it was very gruesome because of all the blood! Later on, we walked to La Carmela restaurant. We got a taste of some traditional Spanish dishes, such as paella. It was delicious and we had a full three course dinner! Then we had to go to sleep because of the busy day ahead of us.

On Friday we would be visiting Mercado San Miguel (St Michael's Market) and Parque de Atracciones (A Theme Park in Madrid). But before that, we had the chance to have a look around Puerta Del Sol, the very centre of Madrid. Going around we noticed how the road was what you would call delicate or antique. The buildings had

an old-fashioned sense and a beautiful appearance. After a two-minute walk to Mercado San Miguel, we walked into the glass building. Inside the atmosphere was lively with delicious smells coming from all around us. The stalls each had a specific thing that made them unique, such as a massive swordfish head and mini ice-creams (for 2.50€)! After having a stroll around the market (and eating churros!) we left and got on the metro to the station Batán.



# Languages Trips



## Year 12 French Trip to L'Institut Français

Described as the 'epicentre for the rapidly growing French Community London', South Kensington is home to L'Institut Français which the AS French class were lucky enough to visit.

The group of seven students and two teachers participated in a French music talk and quiz, as well as a screening of 'La Vie en Rose' inside the intimate Ciné Lumière.

Both educative and entertaining, the music talk inspired a fair few members of the class to rekindle our love with modern (and some classic) French artists, having previously been introduced to the world of French music during our AS course.

'La Vie en Rose' began after lunch and left many of us teary-eyed; the heart-warming and triumphant film depicting the life of legendary singer Edith Piaf won multiple awards including the Academy Award, Golden Globe and BAFTA for Best Actress.

The trip was a great success, a great way to experience French culture outside the classroom and a great outing for the AS class to be together before the end of the year.

By Geneva Vilasami Year 12



## Year 7 Teach French!

On 6th July, 10 students from 7 Campion went to St Michael and St Martin's Catholic Primary School, accompanied by Ms Bandarian where they taught Year 6 students how to order in a French café. To do this, they played games with the children. The games were handmade by the Year 7 students and all the equipment was provided by them as well.

The activities included: Bingo, Taboo, O and X, board games and finally a real café. In the real café the Year 6 students were given fake euros to purchase food provided by Year 7. The Year 6 students really liked the fact that in most games they were awarded with sweets if they won or answered a question correctly.

Both the Year 6 and the St Mark's students enjoyed this day, and we hope to be able to repeat this exchange next year.









## Charity Walk

On the day with the "Highest recorded temperature in Britain, reaching 37.4 degrees Celsius", St Mark's, Gunnersbury and Gumley Schools bravely stepped out of their cool, air-conditioned classrooms in an attempt to complete three miles in the scorching heat wave in order to raise money for charity.



The morale was high from start to finish. The beautiful route wound its way through scenic places such as Syon House and Boston Manor Park. Not only were they lucky enough to stroll through the eye catching scenery, they were also provided with matching white T-shirts which triggered many conversations and questions with the passing public. It took around 1-2 hours for every student to complete the walk, with some confident (or insane!) staff running the three miles in the intensive heat.

The achievement was celebrated at the end when Gunnersbury School set up a marvellous barbeque for the returning warriors, which was soon devoured by staff and students.

The day will also be remembered as the final Charity Walk organised by Mike Hrywniak who is retiring after 15 years of fantastic walks which have raised over £32,600 for charity. And what a glorious day it was! The Sixth Form students of 2015 are proud and to have taken part in such an experience and to have helped to raise over £2,930 this year alone, with funds allocated to Alzheimer's Society (£100), Nepal (£100), The Log Cabin charity supported by Gunnersbury (£200) with the majority going to SMILE TRAIN (£2500).

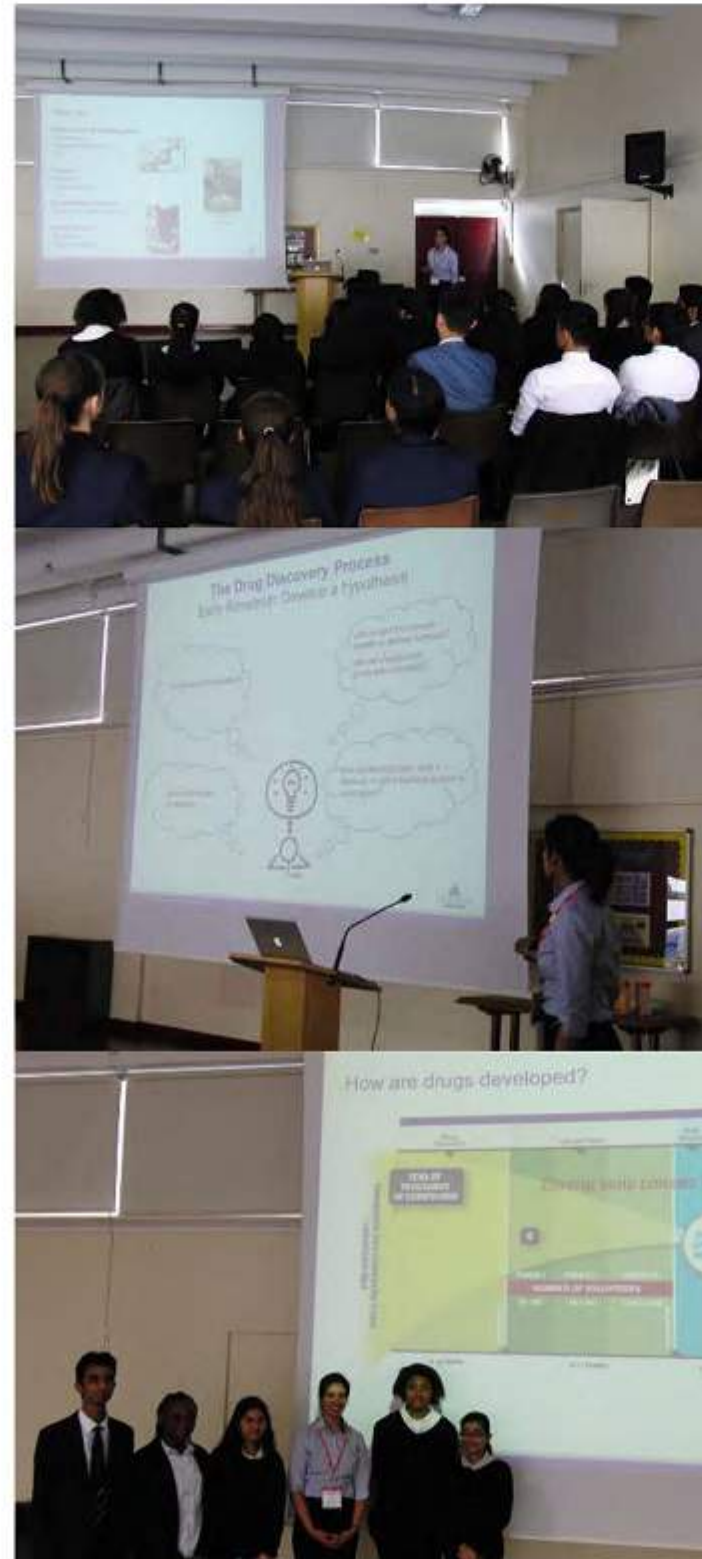
Max Mayo-Dell and Ciara Nolan Year 12



## Life After St Mark's

Dr Nadia Ahmad took time out from her busy schedule, working at Vertex Pharmaceuticals to tell us all about the opportunities that come with doing a chemistry degree. She gave us all an interesting insight into the world of clinical trials and drug development including Vertex's current research into cystic fibrosis and autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis. Everyone got involved as she asked the A Level students some challenging questions about functional groups. One of the best talks yet!

Katie O'Leary



## A Level Media Trip

On Tuesday 16th of June, the Year 12 Media A Level students took a trip into central London to visit the 'Bond in Motion' exhibition at the London Film Museum and the BFI IMAX cinema. With a later start than on a usual school day, both media classes met at Covent Garden station at 10am and had a short walk to the Museum which was located just around the corner. The Museum gives people the chance to see the equipment and props used in the 'James Bond' movies, for example, the famous cars 007 drives.



The main exhibition space featured many of the well-known cars and equipment seen in the films and the group was given access to venture around all three floors of the museum. The famous car from the franchise, the Aston Martin DB5, was on show from the movie 'Golden Eye'. Each vehicle and prop had its own video clip playing behind it which saw it in action in the films, giving everybody a real taste of the creation of the movie. The class was able to take pictures with the cars and information fact files were available to see details of when the cars were made and featured.



As well as the array of vehicles, there were also previously unseen artwork and storyboards on display showing the tiny detail involved in the pre-production stage.

Everyone enjoyed visiting the museum, and described it as something fun, new and interesting to do. Tom Gilbert said, "It was cool to see how much detail went into making each one of the cars and their own little details like the rockets, also having the clip in the background made the car seem even more interesting."



The group was then given the time to make its way out of Covent Garden, and towards the BFI IMAX cinema, crossing Waterloo Bridge and seeing the huge glass drum that is the cinema. Once everyone had gathered inside of the IMAX and had been given their tickets, the group were finally able to step inside of the screen room, and prepare for 'Jurassic World'. The movie was perfect for the trip. Filled with action, we were able to experience the film through the huge screen – the biggest in the UK – the surround sound speakers and in 3D! A magical experience you could not feel anywhere else; everybody thoroughly enjoyed the movie and felt part of the action. The students commented, "The IMAX was amazing as I've never been there before. The sound and screen quality was next level, and I felt the film from all 360 degrees", and, "The highlight of the day was the film in the BFI IMAX, the screen was massive, it was like nothing I had ever seen before, one of the best days out I've had in a long time!"



The group had a great day out, and learnt a few things as well! A thank you is in order for the teachers who organised the trip and accompanied us on the day.

Jack Gilbert Year 12



# London Fairtrade Schools Conference

On Monday 22nd June five Year 9 students travelled to Friends House in Euston to represent St Mark's at the London Fairtrade Schools Conference. The day started off with chocolate tasting where we were taught how to eat dark chocolate properly using all our senses! Then we attended and got involved in two workshops about Eco-Fashion and Fair Trade food. We learnt what Fair Trade is about and how it changes other people's lives in less economically developed countries.



**FAIRTRADE**



Alongside the chocolate tasting, one of our other highlights was talking to two farmers in Ghana via live video link about how cocoa is made and how Fairtrade is changing their communities for the better. We arrived back to school with a range of ideas and stories that we look forward to sharing with the school community.

*By Max Bartrip, Shauna Kelly, Jessica John, Shishigina Evans and Rebecca Owen Year 9*



# Coca Cola Challenge Final

On the 17th March, we set off from School to central London. We were both excited and nervous about being in the National Finals of the Real Business Challenge.

After we placed our bags in our hotel rooms, we made our way over to the Houses of Parliament. There, we were told that we had to present our campaign to several distinguished guests including Nick Boles MP, Cathy Jamieson MP and representatives of Coca Cola Enterprises, Sky and The Special Olympics Council. This was unexpected so there was a slight atmosphere of panic however we quickly organised ourselves and started presenting. When this part of the day came to a close we were given a tour of the Houses of Parliament. That evening we made our way to the Hard Rock Café for dinner, followed by the fabulous musical 'Billy Elliot'. We had a wonderful day and night.

Unfortunately we didn't win the National Final, the standard was very high which gave us an insight into other students' abilities and this will help us greatly in the future. It was a fantastic opportunity; we have grown in confidence, become closer as friends and discovered skills we never knew we had.

Below is a picture of Year 10 Business Studies students standing at the bus stop on Bath Road, Hounslow where our winning poster design was displayed for two weeks as part of the campaign to raise awareness for Special Olympics 2015. We were very proud to see our design and hopefully it will encourage more people to become involved and 'Do Something Special'.



The next day was the final challenge. At the Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre, we were told that our challenge was to represent the juice brand which we had created at the beginning of the competition. We were given a few hours to improve our presentation before we had to present to over 100 people. This was a daunting experience and as there was a strict time limit it was important to communicate clearly and keep to the point. While the judges were deliberating over the result we had a question and answer session with two Special Olympic contestants which we found inspiring.





## Sports Awards

On Monday 13th July parents, students and teachers came together to celebrate the sporting achievements of the very talented students of St Mark's.

The evening offered the packed hall an opportunity to recognise and congratulate the students on their achievements. The evening provided a summary of the School's sporting year, with many Year groups being crowned Borough Champions, some for the second year in succession. Every student who has represented the School in a range of sports received a certificate for their performances. Special awards were given to the most valuable player for Football, Rugby, Basketball, Rounders, Cricket and Netball for their outstanding performances over the year. St Mark's athletes with School Records and Borough Sports successes were recognised.

The Sports Stars of the year were applauded for their sporting talents. The final Award of the evening was the presentation of the 'Victor Ludorum' Cup for sporting excellence, this year awarded to all-rounder Aidan Bradshaw.

Congratulations to everyone for their sporting achievements over the year.

Tom Stitson

### Borough Athletics Champion 2014/15

Year 7 Boys 300m - Liam McNulty  
Year 8 Boys Hurdles - Matthew Ighalo  
Year 8 Boys 1500m - Jonathan Bartholomew  
Year 8 Girls 800m - Pippa Dawson  
Year 8 Girls Discus - Jade Walker  
Year 10 Boys 100m - Tristan Odón-Cabrera  
Year 10 Boys 300m - Osaze Umehopide  
Year 10 Boys Long Jump - Tristan Odón-Cabrera  
Year 10 Girls Hurdles - Megan Marsh  
Year 10 Girls 4 x 100m Relay champions

### Middlesex Athletic Champion 2014/15

Y9 Rachel Harvey Hammer 36.64m



### Sports Star of The Year 2014/15

Year 7 Girls - Lois Edet  
Year 8 Girls - Elly Smith  
Year 9 Girls - Jessica John  
KS4 Girls - Sophia Murray  
Year 7 Boys - Liam McNulty  
Year 8 Boys - Britan Niklekaj  
Year 9 Boys - Jack Hurley  
KS4 Boys - Tom Stitson



## Year 9 Valencia Trip

Over the Easter weekend the now annual Year 9 school football tour to Valencia took place.

The boys flew out from Gatwick early on 1st April and were soon checked into their hotel. A city tour and a trip to Valencia beach swiftly followed.

The following day the squad had to register for the tournament and participate in their first training session with the Valencia youth team Coach Margo. The boys entered into the Valencia cup matches over the next two days. Despite winning their second game well and losing a close game to the eventual tournament winners 1-0, they were unfortunately eliminated at the group stage.



On Sunday they attended a La Liga fixture with Valencia playing Villarreal which ended 0-0. The boys also had an opportunity to tour the stadium and enjoy other excursions as well as undertaking a further training session with the Valencia coach and a friendly against a team from Bishop Auckland.

All the boys thoroughly enjoyed the trip and the current Year 8 squad are looking forward to their trip at Easter 2016.

Mr Taylor





# Girls' Sports

## Netball

The Year 8 Netball Team have had an outstanding season. Crowned Borough Tournament Champions earlier in the year, they have gone onto to do the double by becoming League Champions too! The League Results: Played 6, won 6, goals scored 108, goals conceded 30.

Well done to all of the girls who have been part of the team this year!

*Team: Jessie Stitson, Elly Smith, Eliza Fatscher, Jade Walker, Chantelle Tetteh, Macey Rajkovic, Claire Wiener, Shaniyah Temple, Shanice Koongoda, Lourdes Tumwa, Gemma Gilbert, Naana Ohene*



It has also been an outstanding season for the Year 9 Netball Team, who were also crowned Double Borough Champions. The League Results: Played 5, won 4, lost 1, goals scored 74, goals conceded 41.

Congratulations to all of the girls who have been part of the team this year!

*Team: Bronwyn Polley, Emily Alexander, Eve Considine, Rachel Gorton, Ciara John, Megan Da Cruz, Milly Brand, Ona Okechi-Nworjeh, Jessica John*



The Year 7 Team - not to be outshone by the older girls, have also been very successful this year, finishing runners up in the Borough Tournament and winning the League. They also faced a tough final against Gumley School this week; whilst they lost they should be proud of their performance as they played really well.

The League Results: Played 6, won 6, goals scored 63, goals conceded 9.

*Team: Lois Edet, Ines Walker, Grace Lollingwood, Francesca Gilham, Francesca Williams, Francesca Medri, Sophie Reardon, Ella Doyle, Tia Flanagan, Cherie Ampsah, Elaina Cutamora*



## Rounders

The Year 8 Rounders' Team were crowned Borough Tournament Champions after winning the annual tournament. They played some outstanding rounders; it was a fantastic team effort and a pleasure to watch.



Many congratulations to all of the Year 8 girls who have played in the team this year.

*Team: Elly Smith, Jessie Stitson, Shanice Koongoda, Eliza Fatscher, Claire Wiener, Naana Ohene, Jade Walker, Pippa Dawson, Anna Kuczynska, Gemma Gilbert, Lourdes Tumwa, Ewa Kuczynska, Justyna Janowicz, Loju Owolabi, Savannah Matoket*

Ms Davies

# Boys' Sports

## Football

### Year 11 win the Middlesex Schools Cup!

Congratulations to the Year 11 Boys' Football Team who managed to win the Middlesex Football Cup after defeating a strong St Ignatius side 3-2 at Oxhey Jets FC.

Although always ahead, the boys had to withstand considerable late pressure to hold on for the win, continuing St Mark's strong record in County wide competitions. It was Captain Aidan Bradshaw who scored the crucial goal with the whole squad playing their part in a cup run which started early in September.

*Squad: Chihab Moussa, Sean O'Sullivan, Zak Green, Luke Sagay, Justin Polluk, Gavin Fernandes, Taylor Elliott, Giuliano Oggioni, Aidan Bradshaw, Anelka Evans, Morgan Noel, Mark Jadunath, Charlie Reader-King, Jamal Arrowseklia, Arthur Quayle, Ben Brownscombe*



## Athletics

During the Summer term we have seen a number of excellent athletics performances in athletics from our students. Students have performed well in a number of competitions and at the recent Borough championships.

### Results

Year 7 Boys' Quad Kids	3rd place
Year 7 Girls' Quad Kids	3rd place
Year 7 Boys' Super 8s	3rd place
Year 7 Girls' Super 8s	2nd place
Year 8/9 Boys' Super 8s	2nd place
Year 8/9 Girls' Super 8s	4th place

### Year 7 Borough Athletics

Boys	4th place
Girls	2nd place

### Year 8 Borough athletics

Boys	3rd place
Girls	2nd place

### Year 9 Borough athletics

Boys	2nd place
Girls	1st place

### Year 10 Borough athletics

Boys	2nd place
Girls	2nd place

### Borough Champions

Year 7 Boys' 300m	Liam McNulty
Year 8 Boys' Hurdles	Matthew Ighaldo
Year 8 Boys' 1500m	Jonathan Bartholomew
Year 8 Girls' 800m	Pippa Dawson
Year 8 Girls' Discus	Jade Walker
Year 10 Boys' 100m	Tristan Odotei-Cabrera
Year 10 Boys' 300m	Oszae Urhoghide
Year 10 Boys' Long Jump	Tristan Odotei-Cabrera
Year 10 Girls' Hurdles	Megan Marsh
Year 10 Girls' 4 x 100m Relay	Champions

### School Record Breakers

Year 7 Girls' 100m	Natasha Ighalo (13.4 seconds)
Year 10 Boys' 100m	Tristan Odotei-Cabrera (11.4 seconds)

### Middlesex representative

Massive congratulations to Rachel Harvey (Year 9) who won the Hammer at the Middlesex Athletics championships and will now represent Middlesex at the English Schools' Athletics Championships in Gateshead.





# A2 Photography

Chris Marques



Louise Fontana



Abbie Tussler



Corinne Gaynor



Caeron Matthews