

# VERITAS

St Mark's Catholic School

No. 28 - SUMMER 2022







I hope that you enjoy reading this Summer edition of Veritas. We know that positive relationships between staff and students are at the heart of St. Mark's and this has been a joy-filled term. There have been so many wide-ranging activities from House Competitions, the Spelling Bee, Sports Fixtures and Duke of Edinburgh, to trips, debating and our very first Arts Festival. Our students have continued to demonstrate support for charities through Faith in Action, and the Teacher Karaoke and Staff Vs Student Basketball were highlights. It is wonderful that our students not only are so committed to learning, but also participate in the wider life of the school and this enriches their time at St. Mark's.

I hope that you and your families have a restful Summer break and we look forward to welcoming our students back to school in September.

Andrea Waugh-Lucas,  
Headteacher

***On Thursday the 9th of July St Mark's Liturgy Choir was invited to sing at the Pentecost Liturgy at Westminster Cathedral. When we heard about the trip and the fact that we got to sing at the magnificent Cathedral we were so happy and excited. When the day came we were nervous to sing but at the end we realised there wasn't anything to be nervous about and everything went brilliantly. The Cathedral itself was beautiful and it felt so special to get to sing there surrounded by other schools of all ages. The mass was fun but really important. We didn't expect the drama but it was brilliant and enjoyable, we could see just how much hard work has been put into it. It was an honour to be asked to sing and a joy to meet new schools and the special priest.***

**Maja P.   Wiktor R.   Zoë M.**





Doing an EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) was one of the most beneficial experiences that I have had in school; through supplementing my A-Level courses as well as extending and challenging me beyond them, it provided me with what I was missing in my time in the Sixth Form.

An important aspect of the EPQ is the freedom of choice that we were given in choosing our project topics, which we would research and write a 5,000 word report on. This gave me an opportunity to figure out which specific area of Biology I was most interested in and wanted to spend my time researching. The EPQ allowed me to venture beyond the borders of my A-Level course specifications. I did my project on the potential application of mycorrhizal fungi in degraded boreal and temperate forest ecosystems, something which is not covered at all in Biology A-Level but I found myself fascinated by. The EPQ is the perfect opportunity to delve deeper into a topic that interests you, regardless of its relation to your current courses.

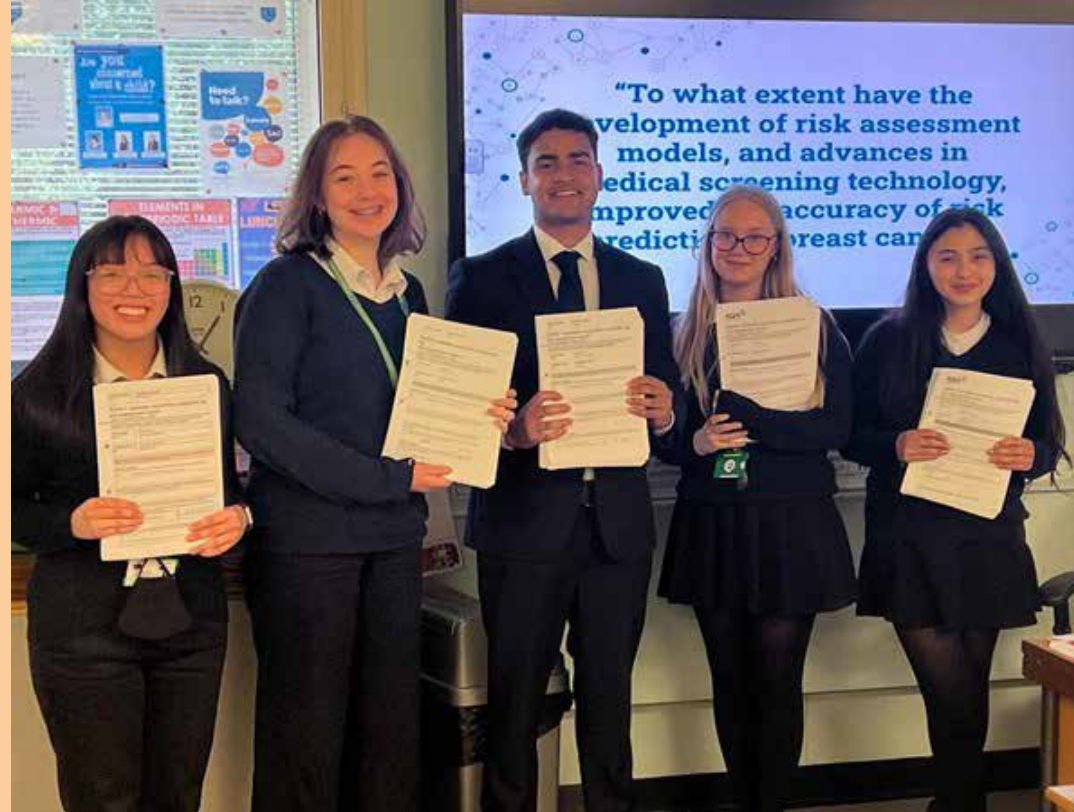
Although starting a project to be concluded with a 5,000 word report seems intimidating, the EPQ process was manageable as the support we were given was balanced well with independent study. We were given structure, accountability and guidance from the Centre Coordinator (Dr Chakraborty), our supervisors and the teachers that led our taught sessions. We completed an online course, as well as doing research on our topics independently whilst meeting regularly with Dr Chakraborty and our supervisors to discuss our projects and track our progress in our log books. The taught sessions by Mr Shore, Dr Callaghan, Mr Mihailovic and Mr Fanning helped us develop skills like referencing, writing for different audiences and presenting confidently. I think that the balance between being left to independently develop research and writing skills through the writing of the report and the backbone given by teachers, allows the EPQ to be a good intermediary between A-Level and university study.

Doing an EPQ requires a great amount of effort, time and motivation, which can take time to develop. I struggled the most with timing and developing the background knowledge required to write my report, but I think that it was through developing these skills that I gained the passion and therefore motivation to complete my project. I think that because of my growing interest in my topic, it became easier and more enjoyable as I progressed further. This, I think, is one of the most valuable parts of the EPQ as it taught me how much easier it is to put time and effort into something you enjoy and love. All of the lessons I have learned over the course of my EPQ journey have led me to produce a report that I am proud of and have taught me things that I will take with me well into the future.

I am extremely grateful for all the help that I have received from Dr Chakraborty, Mr Crone (my supervisor) and all of the teachers that led taught sessions. I recommend the EPQ to any Year 12 that has an interest that they want to develop and share.

Isobel Gilham

# EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION



An EPQ is a perfect opportunity to gain a better understanding into a topic that you are passionate about. For me, it was centred around the role of the gut microbiota in Autism Spectrum Disorder; it allowed me to look at the current research being conducted as scientists try to determine a cause for Autism. It also provided an opportunity for me to analyse the effectiveness of treatments that have developed from their findings. Although an EPQ requires independent study, there are taught sessions offered by teachers ranging from sessions on how to reference and how to engage your audience during a presentation. Throughout the process, I have been able to develop new skills and reinforce those needed for A Levels, such as organisational skills, time management and presentation skills, all of which will be beneficial for future studies. It has been incredibly rewarding to see the project come together, all culminating in the final presentation, where I was able to share my findings with teachers and other

students. I also enjoyed watching other presentations to find out what my peers had been researching, as I gained insight into subject's areas I would not have researched otherwise. While the process can be challenging there are numerous benefits and I would highly recommend undertaking an EPQ.

Aaliyah Camara

The following students have successfully completed their Extended Project Qualification:

Aaliyah Camara, Scarlet Crowe, Lucy Elliott, Isobel Gilham, Megan Jones and Abhijith Sabu-Mathew.

Well done to all of them!

Thank you also to all the Supervisors who have supported them during this year and the teachers who delivered the taught sessions:

Mrs Mould, Ms John, Mr Janman, Mr Crone, Mr Mihailovic, Mr Wilkinson, Mr Fanning, Mr Shore and Dr Callaghan

Dr Chakraborty  
EPQ Coordinator





We asked our Year 9 students 3 questions on the way home:  
 What was the best thing about the day?  
 What was the best activity / stall you saw?  
 How much did you enjoy the day?

These are a selection of their answers:



the insects stall because we got to hold different insects



anesthetic stall because you got to try an intubation



The best activity I went to was the Unboxed: Creativity in Science because there were a range of activities involved in one stall. Unboxed is a festival that does the creative aspects of science like colours in our minds, optical illusions, and the whistle stop tour through the cosmos. It was really fun to try out the quizzes and solar system model.



Being able to talk to professionals and actually getting to see and use equipment.



The best thing about the day was that I got to explore multiple stem careers which was fun as you could experience situations in different types of jobs.



The day was an amazing opportunity and I am happy I could go to it



I got to take fake blood from a fake arm which and I observed some other students from a different school using an ultrasound machine which is helpful as it is relevant for my future career as a specialist doctor/physician.



The day was great and fun if you love learning about all STEM subjects and careers. There are plenty of stalls and at least one will definitely attract you whether it was the workshop about aeroplanes or how lighting works. There's definitely something for you and at the end of the day, at least you get to have fun with your friends!



Collective paper was an interesting and fun stall since we got to work together and have fun with friends. Earth Wind and Fire was also very interesting and was genuinely cool to have been at because we got to learn about smoke rings and lightning.



# CEIAG at St Mark's - (Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance)

'Parents and carers have significant influence on their child's career decision making. Careers guidance is key to social mobility. It provides young people – whatever their background – with the skills and information they need to make good decisions about their best next step. The Labour Market and the various education and training pathways open to young people are complex and can leave many parents and carers feeling ill-equipped to advise their children on something outside of their lived experience.' Career Development Institute

Free information for parents and carers, as well as students, can be found at this website: <https://www.youthemployment.org.uk/careers-advice-for-parents/>

At school opportunities, events, competitions and resources are posted in the Careers Google Classrooms for Years 7-11 and in the Year 12 and 13 Google Classrooms.

Some students taken advantage of these opportunities and great things happen!

Here are some examples.



## Year 10 Careers Days

The Year 10 Careers Days will be happening after publication, however, we are grateful to Spark! for organising a speed networking event for our students that will bring in people from 30 different businesses/industries. We are also grateful to Annice Abanda from ASK, Richard Fisher from Kingston College and Astrid Ley from the West London Careers Hub who will also be contributing. We very much look forward to welcoming back Teyah Davies and Lisa Slade from Accenture to kick start our two days. Lisa is an Associate Director at Accenture and came to St Mark's to present certificates to our Year 9 Careers Cluster students. Lisa gave an unforgettable address that included a motivational video she has created, with her team. We are excited that Lisa will be able to share this with our Year 10 students.

## A message for parents and carers

**We are ambitious to involve many more people, businesses and industries in our Careers programme. If you or the business you work with are interested in helping young people with their careers education please do get in touch.**

**Thank you,  
Mrs Ferguson**

**[fergusont@st-marks.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:fergusont@st-marks.hounslow.sch.uk)**

## spark! CONNECT Mentoring

Pearl took part in the CONNECT mentoring programme organised by Spark! 'I would definitely recommend doing the Spark! CONNECT mentoring programme. It has been beneficial to me in so many ways. You get to be mentored 1-1 by a professional in a field that you might want to be in, such as finance and your mentor gives you personalized coaching and advice, that is tailored to any needs that you may have such as confidence with public speaking, CV writing, higher education advice and even interview practice. I had some great sessions with my mentor and would urge any students to take this amazing opportunity and make the best of it !'

Pearl also took advantage of a work experience opportunity advertised by Spark! "The work experience at the architectural firm BPTW (who won employer of the year in the Architect of the Year Awards 2021) allowed me to cement my decision of what I want to do in the future - the business admin field is for me! Before doing this, I was unsure about the next steps in my career path however, after being mentored by the very friendly and experienced employees in HR, Graphic Design and Marketing at BPTW, I realised that this was exactly what I wanted to do. My mentor also helped me create a CV and organised a mock interview for me. I was able to gain employability skills and the whole experience increased my confidence. I am so grateful that I had this opportunity."



UK. They are attending the book launch of 'The Town of the Future Will...', that features essays by 30 students (including Angelina, Patrisha and Olsha) and 20 industry figures, on Friday July 15th.



'A home to once 8 billion, now a polluted party house with no relationships. But it could have been different with less consumption, enjoying bright blue skies.'



No one will see the pretty things in the stores of the town for what they were, but for ecological disaster that'll be in the store for all of us if we don't stop this consumeristic gutting of our mother planet.'



'The nostalgic traces of legacy and charm adorned the mysteriously entwined being, as it stroked the skies and stood proud in its roots encasing the poetry of the scenes in an everlasting emerald green embrace. The tree was revived.'



In November 2021 seven students from Year 10 were given work experience opportunities, as part of our involvement in the Hounslow Careers Cluster project. One of them went to work with a small stationery company, based in Brentford, called Martha Brook. This small company is experiencing great success and they make great use of social media. When they recently advertised for a couple of summer studio assistants, it seemed a perfect opportunity for one of our students, who might be looking for summer employment. Marlena from Year 13 saw the screenshot, emailed them, had an interview and has landed her first job!



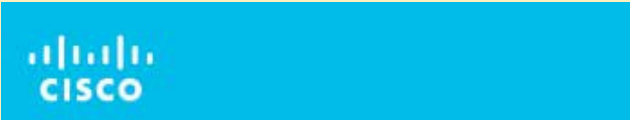
# Summer Volunteering

Five students responded to the advert to help children develop their enjoyment of reading through volunteering with the Hounslow Library Service's Summer Reading Challenge for 2022. This is a great way to get a useful work experience and will be useful when writing a CV or a UCAS personal statement.



Annice Abanda from ASK, The Apprenticeship Support & Knowledge for schools and colleges programme, returned to St Mark's this year to deliver assemblies to Year 12 and Year 13 students. Annice will also be presenting to our Year 10 students when they have their two Careers Days in the last week of term. Our Sixth Form students also had a really enjoyable and informative virtual session from four apprentices at Cisco. This was organised

through a former Consortium A Level student, Zoya, who studied Computer Science at St Mark's. THERE REALLY ARE APPRENTICESHIPS FOR EVERYONE!



If you're a parent, guardian or carer, you can help inspire the apprentices of tomorrow. Apprenticeships are designed by employers so the training reflects the skills, knowledge and behaviours an apprentice will need for a particular occupation. Apprenticeship training is of a high standard and only training providers who are on the register of apprenticeship training providers can deliver the training. Working as an apprentice means they earn as they learn. An apprentice works in a real job and spends 20% of their working hours training. So they gain the skills needed for their chosen occupation. Some apprenticeships include a qualification, including a degree. All of the training is free, so the apprentice has no student debt to worry about.'

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resource/parents-carers-pack-july/>



This year's guest speaker from Speakers for Schools was Jacks Thomas. Jacks is an international books and culture specialist with over twenty five years' experience. She led The London Book Fair, as Director, from 2013 to 2020. She is now Guest Director at BolognaBookPlus. Having had such a varied and interesting career, that began at the BBC and covered the arts and corporate sectors and took her around the world, our guest speaker was a sheer delight - we would love her to return to meet with other students!



Anna-Marie and Aleena had prepared brilliant questions for Jacks, but proved themselves to be natural 'chat show hosts' - able to pick up on what Jacks shared and present a more intimate fireside chat than just a question and answer session. The audience joined in too - it really was a great success!

*Thanks so much for the warm welcome extended to me at St Mark's today. A fab school and unbelievably well-behaved and attentive pupils - you guys should be very proud!*  
*Please do thank my chat show hosts who did a masterly job with a slippery interviewee - I was so impressed by their intelligence and enviable self-possession and really enjoyed their questions.*  
*With all best wishes,*  
*Jacks*





All of our KS3 students had the opportunity to take part in a financial education workshop called 'Money Twist' organised by My Bnk.  
Year 7 : The functions of money, understanding their relationship with money and the impact that advertising, peer and media pressure, and shopping deals can have.

Alongside comparing costs and benefits of a range of goods and services.

Year 8 : Exploring the cost of living, wages and income to learn budgeting skills, differentiating needs from wants and making financial decisions based on their circumstances.

Year 9 : Making good money decisions based on current and savings accounts, interest, flow of money, understanding bank statements, overdrafts and the future of money.



## St Mark's in partnership with Accenture

Through our involvement in the Hounslow Careers Cluster programme we were very fortunate in being paired up with Accenture for our first pilot project. Teyah Davies, an apprentice with Accenture, planned the range of activities and organised a brilliant team of Accenture volunteers to come into school to help deliver the different



skills workshops and mentor students. The overall intention of the project was to improve student confidence and increase employability skills. This particular project, that involved

30 Year 9 students, was successful in many ways and even brought us an award from Spark! - the School/Business Partnership of the year.



*We are grateful to these companies for helping us with our Year 11 Business Challenge Day that happened earlier in the year.*

**Shark NINJA**

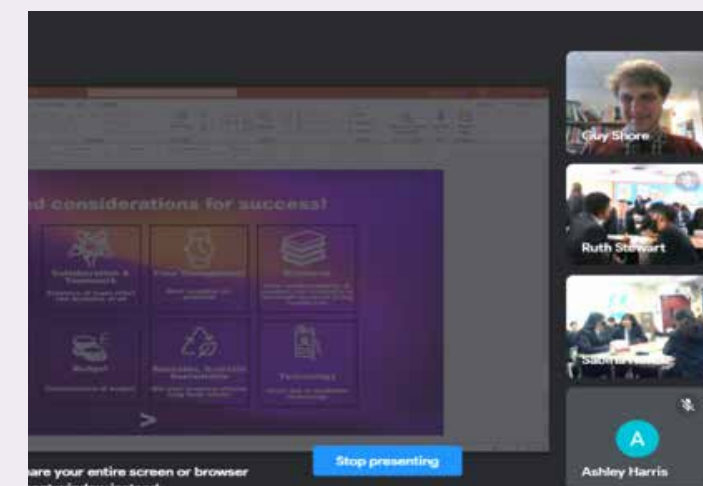
*Many thanks to Simon and Pippa from Shark Ninja, Kiruba and team from GSK , Paul and Saad from Lego and Faye and team from Spark!*



**spark!**  
KICK START  
CAREER



*We are delighted that Accenture have agreed to endorse our Careers policy and are continuing to work with us on other exciting projects. We are really grateful to Bally, Vijay, Kabitha, Muzhakkir, Adenike and Karishma for all of their hard work in enabling ALL of our Year 7, 8 and 9 students to take part in two employer engagement sessions, with the help of the KS3 PPLs and webcams!*





# Natural History Museum - Year 8

*What was the best gallery you saw during the day and why?*

The dinosaurs because they made it really realistic and then I thought it was real



The Dinosaur Gallery because I find dinosaurs interesting and found out a lot about different dinosaurs and how they behave and look like.



In my opinion, The best gallery I saw during the day was Dippy the dinosaur as the manufacturing of the skeleton is a cast of parts from five different Diplodocus skeletons, including a fossil found by railroad workers. The room was entirely filled with live videos surrounding the entire space with calming colours soothing the atmosphere.

creepy crawlies because there was house you could interact with them



Creepy crawlies because I like arthropods and I liked being able to walk around the whole exhibit finding different interactive information



The best gallery was the Mammals gallery because it was amazing to see such a variety of species in one place.

Volcano, I learnt about different types of volcano and the effects it had on the world.



Creepy crawlies because they had many realistic sculptures



*What was the funnest activity you did and why did you enjoy it?*

The Animal Picture Finding activity. This is because of the fun challenge of having to find the correct animal but then realising they match one of the photos. Each time you found one it was exciting.

*Give a quick quote about the museum or the whole day in general we can put into Veritas!*

The funnest activity was when we went into our broken planet because we saw many issues about why our planet is dying and in trouble since we aren't taking care of it.



The funniest activity was the crossword as looking for the different dinosaur nicknames was difficult but it felt very satisfying when you found one



Choosing which fact was most interesting as you learn new things.

The funniest activity that I did was taking selfie's in the most random yet interesting places!



The day was interesting and I saw a lot of creatures that I didn't really know existed and my favourite part was the Diplodocus because it was really big and I thought the T-Rex was the biggest dinosaur.



The trip to the museum was very fun and adventurous, it was very educational and fun!



An amazing day full of learning It was fun to meet Dippy the diplodocus







Eco Club has come around due to the request of 6th formers concerned about climate anxiety. We wanted to transform worry into action. A club was formed where we could educate each other about climate change and biodiversity loss as well as making actionable steps within our school. Although this was quite an ambitious task, the St Marks Eco club has come very far. This included promoting our simple but crucial initiatives.

In April 2022 we delivered our ideas about a more environmentally friendly school to Ms Waugh Lucas and Mrs Fear. Since the meeting the following initiatives and changes have been made in the school.

The first initiative was "recycle it": we thought it was such a waste that so much of our plastic was not being recycled, and with the hard work of the eco club, we have introduced two bins stationed all over the school and in classrooms to encourage recycling plastic card and paper.

The next initiative was to "switch it off"; this was brought about to reduce carbon footprint, as our electricity bill was a whopping £120,000 this academic year! All staff were given a sticker to remind students to switch off electrics in the room when not in use.

Lastly, the third initiative was to "reuse it", in which we challenged students at St Mark's to use reusable water bottles instead to reduce and stop the waste and use of plastic. This saw an extremely positive response, with 1 in 5 students changing their mindsets and bringing in reusable water bottles! Reducing plastic waste is extremely important, as it's still on the rise and is expected to increase by 5 by 2050. We need to take a stance now.

Currently, microplastics (small pieces of plastic) are found in 80% of drinking water across the globe, so we need to act immediately. To ensure that this incredible project continues, we assigned two eco warriors in each form, who represent our initiatives and encourage their peers to be environmentally aware.

We have had a really POSITIVE response from staff and students. The teachers have also commented on the changing landscape of St Mark's: "Yes to reusable water bottles" and "the eco initiatives are a great idea, the red bins (plastic) are so useful". Let's keep this up by working together to promote a cleaner environment.

"I think the Eco club has made good progress. I am feeling good seeing the changes, it makes me happy. The club brings togetherness and I am happier when I see students express their care for the environment." Yr 13 student.



We really appreciate ALL that you are doing to make positive and sustainable change. PLEASE take these initiatives into your homes and wider communities.

Act locally think globally

By Esther Colaco and Sinead Law

# Jack Petchey's "SPEAK OUT" Challenge!

On March 1st, the best young speakers of Hounslow assembled at the "Speak Out" Challenge! Regional Final 2021-2022. As you know from the last edition of



Veritas, the whole of Year 10 received public speaking training and battled through several in school stages until there was only 1 pupil left; that pupil being Joy Soriano of 10 Clitherow. Her task; to represent St Mark's against some really tough competition under the pressure of a stage, a spotlight and a fearsome looking judging panel.

The evening was hosted by our very own Thea Kurukulasuriya Fernando who did a great job introducing each speech and ad-libbing between them - all with the pressure of no script!

Joy delivered her speech entitled 'the Importance of relationships' and really did deliver on such a big occasion. If I was on the judging panel, I would have placed her in the top 3 but it wasn't to be on the night. Although Joy didn't win a prize, she was an outstanding representative for St Mark's and should be extremely proud of the journey she had and the massive improvement in confidence she had as a result of her involvement in this competition.







On Wednesday 15th June, a group from year 7 went to the Design Museum in Kensington. The visit started with a Sustainable Design workshop which introduced the group to a range of ways items have been adapted to be more sustainable. The students were most surprised by the Gumdrops

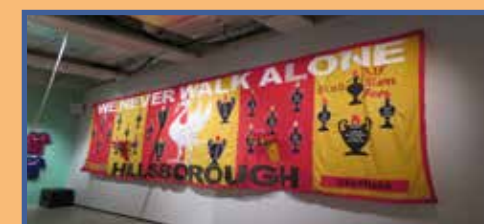
bin that not only is used to collect used chewing gum, but is also made from used chewing gum!

Towards the end of the workshop the students were challenged to think creatively about how they could design a more sustainable version of an everyday item. The students came up with some amazing ideas including a clothing kit that encouraged adaptation of the item to keep updating it rather than buying another one.

In the afternoon we had time to look at some of the different exhibitions, starting with the Designer Maker User exhibition which gave students a chance to see how a range of items they regularly use or see have changed over time. The students were fascinated by the array of items ranging from kitchen design through to how gaming controllers have changed.



Finally we went to an exhibition about football - Designing the Beautiful Game, which looked at the ways design has changed many different aspects of football. The students got to see how footballs and football boots have changed, how stadium design has developed and how initiatives at the grassroots level are pushing back against the way football has become more commercialised. The students enjoyed seeing the range of artefacts, having a chance to design a football stadium and watching a video centred around Zinedine Zidane's movement during a match.





# Green Shoots Gardening Club

*We have been busy in the Gardening Club since we last reported, we have been lucky enough to be joined by two Year 12s who are volunteering with us for their Silver Duke of Edinburgh award – thanks to them for their support. We are a lively/giddy group and the Year 12's bring some calm to proceedings!*

*We are growing some vegetables in troughs and containers to see what we can grow in small spaces. It has been fun to grow courgettes, cucumbers and tomatoes which have been successful, despite visits from foxes who seem to like digging in the containers. The sweetcorn is making progress, but is a bit slow and our spinach seems to have disappeared completely. We all enjoyed planting cucamelons. The alternate cold and hot weather is not great for gardening. We are also growing some edible flowers and wildflowers to attract more helpful wildlife to our garden.*



*Most of us have made friends with the worms, but maybe not such good friends with spiders, despite being told they are our friends in the garden! We definitely prefer planting and watering to weeding. The biscuits and hot chocolate are well earned and enjoyed by us all.*

*Alana, Giana, June, Matylda, Zoey, Valenka, Rena, Klara, Mason, Maida and Anaida*

*Mr Fisher, our celebrity visitor, planting a hazel sapling given to school by “abundance london”, a voluntary organisation that plants orchards, hedgerows and trees, and tries to reconnect people with nature and protect it in an urban setting.*

## CLASSICS TRIP

On the 1st of June, our Classics class had the amazing opportunity to visit the British Museum. Being the only state school offering Classics A Level, it was an enriching experience to explore the artefacts alongside our consortium students from Gumley and Gunnersbury. It was a fabulous way to extend our learning beyond just the setting of a classroom, particularly through such a practical and palpable approach.

One of the key things that stood out to us was the extensive number of vases that depicted Odysseus in his nostos (homecoming journey). He is the starring protagonist in half of our course and all of us found it incredibly enlightening because we were able to fully understand how the ancient Greeks perceived one of their most complicated heroes through the red and black figure vases. It's akin to a portal in time! Seeing ancient history from our textbooks come alive in the form of statues, painting, coins and vases allowed us to view the ancient world in a new, more tangible light. The statues breathed life into

our knowledge, especially of Roman politicians, as we stared into the depths of the souls of Julius Caesar, Augustus, Pompey, and Alexander the Great. We also took the opportunity to explore different periods and spaces in time to broaden our historical and cultural horizons as we came across Egyptian mummies, Japanese honorary armour and figureheads of Socrates, Euripides, and Homer.



We also had the fantastic chance to visit some of the unique exhibitions. As a class, our favourite one was Feminine Power: the divine to the demonic. There were many paintings and statues

that displayed females in myths who have extraordinary influence even to this day. The goddesses Venus and Athena enjoyed their spotlight in the exhibition as epitomes of feminine beauty and intellect. One specific painting that stood out to our whole class was that of the sorceress Circe by Waterhouse. Her story is more than relevant to our course as her power as sorceress turned sailors into pigs leading to Odysseus staying on her island Aea for a year on his adventures. It was one of the most beautiful paintings in the gallery!

Overall, we found it an enriching experience as we had the opportunity to see artefacts we study and spent some fun time with each other and really enjoyed the day!

Anna-Marie and Aleena







The St Mark's Sixth Form Prom was held at the Holiday Inn at Brentford Lock on Friday 13th of May. Although an unlucky date for some our year 13's had a fantastic evening. Having sadly missed out on the year 11 prom these students made it a memorable, lively and intimate occasion. They enjoyed a three course meal and then sat back while Mr Sheehan and Mr Windmill did an impressive rendition of the 'Will Smith incident' which brought lots of laughter (and some shock) to the room. Students celebrated various awards including Prom King who went to Samuel Carvalho and Prom Queen who went to the well deserved Nora Sharma. Our glamorous young people danced and sang all night, supported by many staff members who took the time to attend this special occasion. It was a pleasure to have worked with these students over the last two years and Mr Monaghan and I felt very proud of them on the night.

By Ms Wade

# Year 13 Prom





In the final term for 'Aiming for Oxbridge' students, we were given the final task: to create a children's book and pitch it to a theatre of expert judges (including the likes of Ms. McIntyre, Head of Child Development, Mrs McGinty, Deputy Headteacher and English teacher

and Ms. Quigley, Head of the LRC), parents, peers and teachers. This task tested our creativity, teamwork and public speaking skills.



The teams started with research, getting an idea of the target demographic, the content of the book and art style. We were also given a workshop by Ms Quigley, our school librarian, and expert judge, who used her expertise in the children's books field to aid us as best as

possible. To go hand in hand to really get a taste of what the book industry is like, teams had to scramble around school and pitch our book ideas and future plans to collect as many signatures of teachers as we could; this was to indicate that the teachers were invested in our vision for our books and if it were in the market, they would be willing to purchase it.

Following a mad dash to complete the

book, collect signatures and keep the team up to date with any new updates, the day of the pitch and presentations finally came. Prior to this, we were given the opportunity to practice our pitches making sure that they were polished and ready for the big day.



On the final day, parents were given an opportunity to view this event as it was held in the theatre. Teams had gone all out, from costumes to audiobooks to prototypes of the books, the evening was a showcase of immense talent. Although, there could only be one team coming out victorious. After much deliberation and discussion the expert judges announced the winner of the nerve-wracking and nail-biting evening. The victors were announced with Team Mockingjay vanquishing, and Team Turtle coming at a commendable second place.



To conclude, The Apprentice was a break from the

typical, busy year 9 day, or it may have added to the workload; depending on how you see it. It was a platform for us as students to showcase our abilities of teamwork and helped us develop skills to aid us in future endeavours, but also daily life. Next up we will be interviewed by subject specialists and this could influence our chances of getting on to the programme in Year 10 as we wrap up all the skills and knowledge we have built up this year.



Chloe D'Souza & Leire Reyes





As a part of the pupils' spiritual development, all Year 9 pupils participated in a retreat in school. The day was led by a team from RISE Theatre - a professional Christian theatre company with a passion for delivering exciting, original, transformative theatre. The retreat day incorporated a rich variety of thought provoking drama, fun interactive sessions and a chance for students to reflect.

We are very grateful to the RISE team for giving our students a spiritually enriching experience.



*"It opened my eyes to the importance of God in our lives especially after hearing how God changed peoples lives."*



*"Junior's story was very inspiring and really taught me on what God can do if you ask for his help."*



*"The presentations were very funny and it showed us example of the things we have to do in life."*

*"It was fun and inclusive."*

*"The retreat showed me how quick fixes in life don't count for long term. I also enjoyed working with my team."*



*"The retreat helped me to start doing good in my life like praying to God and improved my mental health."*



*"It really elevated the thought of working as a community/ team inside of me."*

*"It was entertaining and captivating with the joyous mood from the visitors."*



On Monday 23rd May, we participated in the Year 9 retreat. This was a non-uniform day and was an experience to help us grow spiritually and also as a community. First, our chaplain Ivan explained the definition of a "retreat", concluding that it has different meanings as in military terms it means to "fall/go back" but in spiritual terms to "reflect". Alongside this, we had a theatre company, Rise Theatre, come to school.

They performed many acts and showed us many videos, challenging our minds to help us think more spiritually and show us how to grow closer to God. The acts included imagining the teachings in scripture as a metaphorical marathon and sharing their experiences of their spiritual life and what led them on the path they're on. With this, there also came workshops with our forms that involved lots of drama, thinking and communication. These workshops included constructing performances based on the good Samaritan, drawing trees of life from a small mustard seed and making



an advert on living water. To conclude, the retreat was a day of reflection to really question our current relationship with God and deepen and strengthen it.

Prylon Estrocio & Chloe D'Souza





A MASSIVE well done to the Year 7 rounders squad who were victorious at the Borough Rounders Tournament on Wednesday 23rd June! Playing 7 games, winning 6 and narrowly losing 1, they earned themselves the title of Borough Rally Champions! Well done to all!

Squad:

- Alona Vince
- Natalia Wasik
- Zara Vas
- Klara Szybiak
- Phildena D' Mello
- Anna Pal
- Martyna Moskwa
- Zara Carrasco
- Matylda Kucjharska
- Nadia Koza
- Alana Taylor
- Elisha Fernando



A fantastic rounders season for the Year 9 team. Winning 4 out of 5 games and therefore a second place finish in the league.

The team got better and better with each game, but the game of the season was the game against The Heathland School. St. Mark's played some outstanding rounders; their batting was tremendous and their fielding was too. They scored the most rounders in this game and conceded the least in this game throughout the whole league campaign. Final result in this game was St. Mark's 25 rounders, Heathland School 9.5 rounders.

Unfortunately, the Borough rounders rally was due to take place on 24th May but was rained off and it was unable to be re-arranged. I am sure the team would have been a team to beat at this tournament.

I am looking forward to what this team can achieve next year. Well done to all of you who have played for the team this year and have made it so successful!

Results:

- V Green School: St. Mark's win 25.5 - 19
- V Heathland School: St. Mark's win 25-9.5
- V Springwest Academy: St. Mark's win 18-15
- V Gumley School: St. Mark's loss 6.5 - 11
- V Rivers Academy: St. Mark's win 19-18.5

Squad:

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Coleen Barry-Atherly | Victoria Krol      |
| Fabiola Cruz         | Matilda-Rose McCoy |
| Siobhan Grimes       | Angelina Oliver    |
| Ellie Evans          | Thea Peck          |
| Chloe Fernando       | Mary Shaymelo      |
| Olivia Fernando      | Roisin Stafford    |
| Delilah Guerra       | Amelia Targowska   |
| Grace Kelly          |                    |



# SPORT AT ST MARK'S

It has been a busy term for our athletics teams with several successes.

Congratulations to our Year 7 girls who were crowned Borough champions!

Also, well done to the following students for representing the Hounslow and the school at the Middlesex Athletics Championships:

- Finn Murphy
- Jerold Gorleku
- Michael Garcia
- Gabriel Davies

These successes followed some excellent performances at the Quad kids and Super 8 events at the start of the year.



We look forward to the indoor athletics season, cross country and the outdoor athletics season next year.



On Friday 8th July, 2 teams of Year 7 & 8 girls represented St Mark's in the Brentford FC invitation football tournament held in Gunnersbury Park. The event was held in partnership with the FA to celebrate women's football and run alongside the Women's Euros games being played that day at Brentford's Community Stadium. It was an amazing tournament and with 27 teams from across London entering, the standard of football was high! The sunshine was strong and so was the enthusiasm shown by the St Mark's girls! Charlayne Tetteh, a Year 12 student at St Mark's, did a fantastic job coaching throughout the day and her experience of playing under pressure certainly came in handy!

Some of our girls were lucky enough to be interviewed by the media teams of both the FA and the BBC so keep an eye out, we may just have the stars of the future right here!

Although we didn't get our hands on any silverware, I think it's safe to say that it was a thoroughly enjoyable day and hopefully we can build on the experience we had as we move towards next season....watch this space!!





# SPORTS LEADERS AT ST MARK'S



St. Mark's provided sports leaders from Years 8, 9 and 12 to assist with Wellington school and St. Michael & St. Martin school sports days.

Our students ran several events ensuring all the days ran smoothly and were complemented by both schools for the efforts and the ways in which they supported the younger students.

It is hoped the leadership programme can be developed further and involve more students in the future.

Well done to all those involved!



**Wellington  
Primary**

**St Michael &  
St Martins  
Primary**





# Sixth Form Charity Walk





# Ascension Day Mass

Year 7 students and other students and staff were able to gather for mass to celebrate the feast of the Ascension on Thursday 26th May. We are grateful to Fr Austin and Fr Benny for celebrating Mass with us and to all students and members of staff who helped to make this such a lovely mass. It was a beautiful way to start the school day.

## LOVE ONE ANOTHER

*This term we held liturgical services for our Year 11 students and our Year 13 students as they finish school to prepare for their GCSE and A' Level exams. Leavers' liturgies are always special, beautiful and emotional occasions. These particular students have lived through such extraordinary times and we are so, so proud of them. I would like to ask you to keep our Year 11 and 13 leavers in your prayers.*



## Aid to the Church in Need Prayer Initiative for Ukraine

Our school has been supporting the people of Ukraine materially and spiritually since the start of the war. We want to continue doing so by responding to Pope Francis' call to pray "intensely" for peace in Ukraine and for an end to the "diabolical senselessness of violence".

## Social Outreach and Charity Work

The international charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) has invited us to launch a prayer initiative for secondary schools across the UK. Each year, Aid to the Church in Need funds approximately 5,000 projects in more than 140 countries around the world, helping to support the Church in its mission, and bringing hope and solidarity to millions of people.

The charity has already committed €1 million (more than £830,000) towards emergency aid to support the work of the Church in Ukraine and has an ongoing appeal to support their project partners working in Ukraine.

The prayer initiative is to encourage secondary school-aged students to pray for Ukraine. We were asked to produce a series of short videos of teenagers leading prayers; either prayers they have written or well-known/traditional prayers or a mixture of both.

We were delighted to be involved in this campaign to encourage young people to pray. Students from across all key stages were involved in this initiative and we are very proud of their dedication.



## CATHOLIC LIFE





Since the start of June, year 7 have been battling it out to see who the Spelling Bee Champion 2022 will be. All year 7 students took part in the initial spelling test to determine who the top spellers were in each tutor group. These students then progressed to the knockout rounds where they came face to face with the top 18 students in the year group. Each student had to spell aloud challenging spellings from the Spelling Bee booklet and the top 8 made it through to the semi-final. This was a tense occasion as the top 8 students in the semi-final had to spell aloud in front of all of year 7 during assembly. The semi-finalists amazed everyone with their fantastic spelling ability and the audience cheered the winners through. Four students progressed to the final and this again was another enthralling event which saw Zara Vas come out on top as the Spelling Bee Champion for 2022! Well done to all year 7s who took part – next year’s cohort have a lot to live up to!



Top 18 Spellers

- Alinden Nunes 7MO
- Elina Madaya 7BE
- Matylda Kucharska 7CL
- Louis Doyle 7FI
- Wayne Rodrigues 7CA
- Meghna Abraham 7PO
- Rhys Cananicato 7MO
- Dominic McGhee 7BE
- Rovan Kakodkar 7CL
- George Jones 7FI
- Luke Donnelly 7CA
- Rachelle Perera 7PO
- Valentina Snell-Montaya 7MO
- Ryan Joseph 7BE
- Luke Burns 7CL
- Zara Vas 7FI
- Alexander Zecarias 7CA
- Selena Viegas 7PO



Semi-Finalists

- Elina Madaya 7BE
- Zara Vas 7FI
- Louis Doyle 7FI
- Meghna Abraham 7PO
- Rovan Kakodkar 7CL
- Luke Donnelly 7CA
- Rachelle Perera 7PO
- Valentina Snell-Montaya 7MO

Finalists

- Louis Doyle 7FI
- Rachelle Perera 7PO
- Zara Vas 7FI
- Valentina Snell-Montaya 7MO

Winner: Zara Vas 7FI



# Year 10 Reading Challenge

In January, Year 10 were set the challenge to read 5 books in 5 months from the St Mark’s 75. Many students embraced this challenge and worked their way through the novels; these ranged from classic literature to contemporary teen reads. The LRC was busy with year 10 visitors, and we saw the number of books taken out by year 10 rapidly increase as they engaged with the variety of texts. Last Friday all the students who read four and five books enjoyed a pizza party to celebrate their achievement and the students who completed the full challenge have also been awarded a voucher. Well done to all the students who took part – carry on reading! Congratulations to the students who took part in the challenge!

## Bedrock

KS3 students have been working hard on Bedrock Learning since the start of the academic year. Bedrock is an online platform designed to help students extend and learn important and relevant academic vocabulary. Pupils work on this independently as the Bedrock lesson explains the tasks and provides feedback. All key stage three students are set this for homework and year 7 and 8 also complete tasks during their reading lessons. Research has shown that there is a direct link between vocabulary understanding and academic success and we’re delighted about the impact this has had on students’ reading and writing skills. Congratulations to the students below who have done extremely well this year and have really worked hard and flourished! Prizes have been awarded to these students to recognise their efforts and achievement.

Top Five Students – Progress Made

- 1. Marley Louis 8Mo – 400% progress made!
- 2. Shemira Fernando 7CI – 166% progress made!
- 3. Tenosh Fernandes 7Mo – 143% progress made!
- 4. Shelly Ghouri 7CI – 140% progress made!
- 5. Marcellino Simon 9A3 – 126% progress made!

Top Five Students – Total Points

- 1. Shaun Rodrigues – 6605 points!
- 2. Darius Dias 8fi– 6567 points!
- 3. Arshman Mohammed 7Fi – 4874 points!
- 4. Bartlomiej Szubski 7Po – 4010 points!
- 5. Sarah Amadoru 9B1 – 3540 points!

- Top Groups
- Year 7 – More
- Year 8 – Clitherow
- Year 9 – 9A2





# Teacher Karaoke

On Tuesday 12th of July we were delighted to be

able to share the talents of the St Mark's staff at the teacher and staff karaoke. After a long three years we were so happy to be able to put this event on and the audience was absolutely thrilled with the performances. We had our very own St Mark's girlband (Ms Bray, Ms Ryan and Ms Heeney) singing a mashup of Kate Bush, TLC and Little Mix, plus a boyband comprised of Mr Sheehan, Mr Bowley, Mr Naiker, Mr Windmill and Mr Janman singing Backstreet boys. We also had a Motown duet from Mr Fisher and Ms Kingsland and amazing

solos from Ms Jackson, Mr Sheehan, Mr Yiu & Ms Stewart. We were delighted to make more than £300 which will go to the Sparrow School in South Africa.



## FIA TEACHERS V STUDENTS BASKETBALL

The long awaited rematch of the teachers Vs 6th formers basketball took place on Thursday 14th of July. Three years ago the teachers

were thrashed by the 6th formers and lots of us wondered if history would repeat itself. However, it seems in the last three years the teachers had been working on their form and they won 15-9! While the 6th form team, comprised of boys and girls, gave a great performance it wasn't quite enough to beat the teachers. Many 6th formers were stunned at the talent

of their head of year, Mr Windmill, and promised a rematch next year. After two games in the last three years it's 1-1 and both sides are keen for the third match next year to determine which team are the true champions.



As Headteacher, one of my greatest joys each week has been leading the Ivy House Award with a group of Year 12 students. The Ivy House Award is a leadership and life skills development programme for students. Through reflection and coaching style activities students are encouraged to think about their leadership skills, strategies for effective communication, their personal strengths, and their ability to adapt to situations that they might encounter. The Ivy House Award fits with our school aims by helping students to build the resilience and confidence required to fulfil their potential. As a school, we aim for excellence in all that we do, and I fully believe that this programme would enable participating students to develop their own personal excellence.



We were able to offer this prestigious programme due to sponsorship from Cooper Parry, an accountancy firm who heard about our fantastic students. They are so passionate about their links with St. Mark's this year, that they have created bespoke work experience opportunities.

Here are some quotes from those who participated:

"I believe it was beneficial to me as I've been able to work on 'my brand' and also the first impressions people have of me'.

"It has helped me to find my inner self and be a better person"

I have really grown from this experience and will take what I have learnt with me into my future"

"I have learnt how to be calm and have the confidence to deal with situations better'

Ms Waugh-Lucas







On the 6th May it was a great pleasure for the Year 11's to have a day of relaxation and enjoyment before the dreaded start of GCSEs. As per usual, we attended school, a day of 6 lessons and as for me and the boys of A side, we had our final PE lesson. Besides having our prom in the next few hours, we were all willing to put our life on



the line to do what it takes to win the final football match. The bell rang at 3:05 and we all rushed home to get ready for our special night. Having a shower, doing our hair, as for some - their nails and makeup; head to toe dripped in glamour, the night commenced at 7pm. From Rolls Royces to limos, the beginning of an unforgettable night was nothing short of extravagant. We walked down the red carpet, like celebrities, as the cheers of an over-enthusiastic crowd of teachers who



enveloped us with a warm, but somewhat emotional, greeting - one that would soon be the last for some of us. The main hall had been transformed! From lunch tables and the familiar stench of paninis to the unfamiliar grandeur of a casino with



music and flashing lights. With professional card dealers and on velvet-lined tables, 16 year olds, dressed in rented tuxedos and draped in floor-length gowns, stood sipping on their 'juice' trying their hand at blackjack and roulette.



But at the centre of it all, the real partying took place on the dance floor. As people undid their ties or tossed their heels to the corner, they danced to all types of music, smiles on each and every face, chanting and singing. A nonstop carousel. Whilst at any other time we would suffocate under the heat and sweat of it all, the pending sense of GCSEs and goodbyes meant we didn't care.



Once the songs became more sombre and mellow, we could feel the end was near. Erin in 11 Fisher kindly sang for us A Thousand Years by Christina Perri, and as we swayed close enough together for it to be considered a hug we belted in unison just like our primary assemblies had trained us. Our grand finale: a fireworks display.

Eruptions of fiery, neon streaks amongst an abyss of boundless darkness felt symbolic as our prom night signified our last bursts of energy to a seemingly 'dark' 2 year period of GCSE prep and the interruption of a pandemic. On behalf of the class of 2022 I would like to thank Ms Ryan and the wonderful teachers of St Marks who put their



heart into making this such a special night. Writing this article at home on our GCSE break allows me to reflect on the wonderful memories we made at our time in St Marks and these 5 years will truly be unforgettable. As we reach the end of an era prom enabled us

to commemorate the years we spent together with a blast, alongside those that are not only friends but we call family.



Raiden Human and Chloe Deocampo 11 Clitherow







THE DUKE  
OF EDINBURGH'S  
AWARD

Group 2 - We climbed many hills during our trip, both metaphorically and physically. Daria's singing kept morale up with her great voice helping us persevere. Hats off to Daria. More sunscreen should have been worn, Natalia is the living proof of that suggestion. Amelia and Maja were the walking map and compass. Amelia and Naomi suffered the whole way with hayfever, however Ellaina came prepared!



Group 3 - Overall the experience was very trialling but however through our excellent teamwork and resilience we were able to overcome the multitude of problems we faced along the way. For one the cows blocked our path which Harrison scared away. Also the horse we named Buster who Harrison trained. The horse followed Harrison for a while as Harrison was a great tramer. Philip is also a great tamer because he befriended a snail - we named him Gary. The experience was enriching in not just the challenge of physical activity but also our experience with nature and the



Group 6 - Amongst the constant brambles, fear of being chased by cows and overall suffering our group survived and made it back with a newfound love for each other ... and a tremendous amount of sunburn and blisters. We arrived home relieved and with regret of not wearing suncream. Our new freckles are a constant reminder of the weekend endured. It was safe to say our favourite part was visiting McDonalds at the service station afterwards! The only things that kept us together was a laminated photo of Mr Rogers and amazing Grace's stick #D.of.E.sa May



Group 7 - We believe that the assessment expedition was splendid. We managed to get back ontime before midnight (unlike last time) and we didn't get as lost. However, on our Sunday route, we were slightly confused and unknowingly went on the road, nonetheless, we tried to find a different way around and still managed to pass. Even though a few members joined us randomly, we were able to co-operate together and achieve our ultimate goal: get to the campsite in one piece! Undoubtedly there were moments of highs and lows (which we recorded on our mood graph) yet no-one fell apart.



In group 5 we were able to complete the expedition in one piece and in moderate timing, due to our amazing planning, teamwork and map-reading skills! During our journey we showcased our map compass, sign and cooking skills - credit to Mary and Eugenie. However, we learnt from some of our mistakes such as walking on the road and taking some long paths. Overall, D of E was an educational experience to develop skills while also strengthening our teamwork. None the less we had fun!





