



Statue of Jesus in the Cloister Garden, being removed for restoration, see more overleaf

from the heart

THE FEAST OF THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

The sun shone for our gathering of the whole school community on Friday 7 June 2024, as we celebrated Mass for the Feast of The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus; and Sacred Heart sisters renewed their vows.

After Mass the students enjoyed ice-creams and fun activities. This is always an incredibly special event and involves a considerable logistics! Sixth formers spoke extremely well and the choir and orchestra performed at their best!

A joyful day.



Statue of Jesus taken away for restoration



The statue in the 1930s



Small hoist used to carefully lift the statue from its plinth, 29 May 2024



Having restored the planting in the cloister garden last year, we have since turned our attention to the central statue of Jesus. This hollow metal statue bears the Sacred Heart motif on its chest. The metal is rusting and some cracks needed attention. The restorers will gently soda blast the statue and attend to areas that need repair. We hope to have it returned to us during the summer holidays.

Madeleine Sophie Mass

On 22 May, Year 7s and Year 12s celebrated Mass on the Madeleine Sophie Feast Day. On this special occasion pupils came together, inspired by Sophie's commitment to a life of prayer and reflection. We find great joy in witnessing our students' journeys in deepening their faith.



Head Girl team being blessed and commissioned

Joigny 2024



Staff from Sacred Heart schools across the world meet regularly with the Society of the Sacred Heart at the childhood home of our founder St Madeleine Sophie Barat, in Joigny - a small rural town, just outside Paris.

This year Ms Conran, Ms Curtis and Mrs Dijkhuis met with others from England, Poland, Austria, Italy, Malta, Egypt, France and Ireland, to learn more about how we can work as mission partners across our schools to foster the Sacred Heart ethos into the future.

Ms Lorenzato, who used to be our chaplain, was there as the Society's Network Coordinator and we were also joined by Sr Cath Lloyd, the Provincial Superior for England and Wales, who led the workshop sessions.

We visited the vineyard where Madeleine Sophie spent time gathering the harvest. We slept in her home where her brother hid in the attic for two years looking across the road to the Marie, where those who sought to arrest him were based, so close by.

We also visited the first Sacred Heart School in Paris, now the Musee Rodin, which links to an exciting new story overleaf!

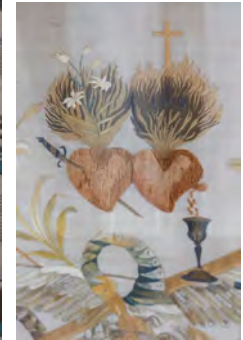
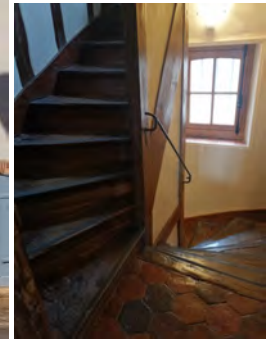
Our meeting in Joigny was a wonderful opportunity for prayer and reflection; for discussion and the sharing of ideas from across the European network.



Four days of workshops



Madeleine Sophie's childhood home in Joigny.



Original wallpaper from the house & Madeleine Sophie's own embroidery, above right.



The vineyard on the hillside above the town, where Madeleine Sophie helped to gather in the harvest. She often made references to the resilience of the vine, its ability to grow back stronger each year.



Ms Curtis, Mrs Dijkhuis, Ms Conran and Sr Cath Lloyd at the vineyard



Exciting new development in the story of our organ!

'A career defining moment'

Dr McVicker , 9 July 2024

In mid June we had a visit from Dr William McVicker, organ curator at the Royal Festival Hall and visiting Professor of Music at the Royal Academy of Music, whom we had commissioned to carry out a condition survey on the organ, with a view to potentially having it repaired.

Dr McVicker nearly fell backwards over the gallery ledge when he opened up the organ. He said that he believed it to be one of the rarest organs he's ever seen in his career and that if it is what he thinks it is (a Loret organ) then we should be able to access grant money for its repair, which all sounded like good news!

Hippolyte Loret was an organ maker from Belgium who worked mainly in France. He was the father of organ composer Clement Loret.

This exciting possibility was mentioned in our recent Historical Evening talk, but Dr McVicker then set us a task to try to find out where it had come from. Was it the organ that was originally installed here when the chapel was built in 1893 or was it perhaps a later addition from the Society, from France - which would make it more likely to be a *Loret*.

The Society of the Sacred Heart archivist in Rome explained that she has been in touch recently with a historian of musical instruments (and Parisian organist) Eric Humbertclaude, regarding two Loret organs he has identified in possession of the houses of the Sacred Heart.

Eric Humbertclaude, explained that the organ in Hammersmith was one of these two Loret organs and that it came from 'the *demi-pensionnat* [half board school] in Paris, *Rue de Varenne*'.

We are familiar with the *Rue de Varenne* address which is now the Musee Rodin!! The Society of the Sacred Heart took out a loan from the King to purchase what at the time was called the 'Le Hotel Biron' for a school. At that time the term 'Hotel' simply identified it as a stately home, of the Biron family - not a hotel in the modern sense. Madeleine Sophie worked and later died there and this.

The Society stripped back the property. The landscaped gardens were used for the grazing of cattle and they ran three schools there. Income from the boarding school and half-board schools were used to fund a poor school on the same site. They also built a chapel which is now the museum gift shop, you can still see its Sacred Heart windows.

As France became secular, this land was all reclaimed by the state, hence its current use as museum.

Staff from Sacred Heart visited this site in April 2024 with other schools from our European Network, completely unaware that it was the original home of our organ!

[Story continues overleaf]



Back of the Hotel de Biron, now the Musee Rodin, Rue de Varenne, Paris - once the first Sacred Heart School in Paris



Front of the Musee Rodin, photo from our trip there in April after the workshops in Joigny, when we were oblivious to its connection to our organ.



The Musee Rodin gift shop, originally built by the Society as a chapel. It still has their symbol in its windows, but this is not the chapel that our organ is believed to have originated from, see more overleaf.



Courtesy of Eric Humbertclaude, the following is a translation from *Chantal Paisant, De l'exil aux tranchées: 1901/1914-1918. Le témoignage des sœurs* together with information from the Society of the Sacred Heart ledgers for this site held in Rome:

The migration of the organs

The shipment of the organs, dismantled, sometimes shipped to the end of the world, re-assembled on the spot by an organ builder, alone trace the planisphere of the Sacre-Coeur's establishments. The organ of the mother house left by Victoria to San Remo; that of the boarding school in the Rue de Varenne, took the train to Budapest; that of the half-board school went to England, to Hammersmith; that of Conflans, to Argentina; that of Lille to Ixelles....

Another separate reference for the organ that came to Hammersmith, said that it came from a different address: **31 Boulevard des Invalides**, but this is simply a separate entrance to the same Hotel de Biron/Musee Rodin site. **Boulevard des Invalides** runs along the side of the site and this address was the entrance used for the boarding and half-board schools, the latter of which is referenced (in the book, right) as having its own separate 'Chapelle des Saint Agnes', designed in a similar layout to the one along Rue de Varenne. This chapel is very close to the room where Madeleine Sophie lived and died and this is the chapel where our organ is thought to have originated. A proof report is expected later in August, so 'to be confirmed'!

We now have the condition report from Dr McVicker, and further evidence is arriving daily from Eric Humbertclaude, including an image from an unpublished handwritten letter from Loret himself dated 1861, describing the special features of the organ that he made for des Boulevard des Invalides and how it cost more to build than the other Loret organ owned by the Society because of its special features. We have an image of this letter but will leave that to Eric Humbertclaude to publish!

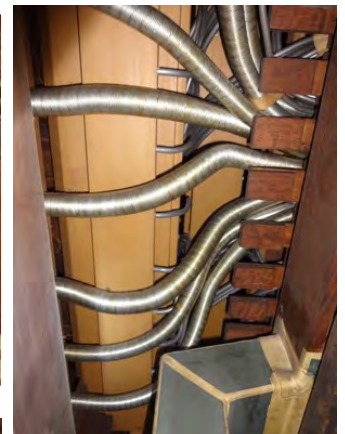
Once this is all collated we will then set about exploring grant funding. Let's hope we can bring that music back in here at full blast!



Madeleine Sophie's bedroom at 29 Boulevard Des Invalides.



Book mentioning our organ



The keyboard of our organ and some of the collapsed pipe work inside

Crucifix taken away for restoration



Hidden somewhat behind a tree near The Calder Building, was a crucifix donated to the school by the old girl's 'Hammersmith Association' about 100 years ago.

The school is keen to re-site this to a more visible location. Both the metal crucified Jesus and INRI plate at the top have been removed for restoration and the wooden cross itself has been taken down to be repaired. We hope to have them all returned by the end of the summer holidays.

Unlike the statue of Jesus in the cloister garden, this crucifix was originally coloured as you can see below. The restorers will test and match the original paint flakes and it will come back looking brighter and more colourful than we might be used to, albeit true to the original. It will then weather naturally



International Network Links

Sixth Form Visit from Sacred Heart Academy in New Orleans

On the 4 June 2024, we hosted eight students from New Orleans. Prior to their arrival, our students made contact by email and we were excited to finally meet them on the day.

After a tour around the school and lesson visits, we enjoyed a pizza lunch in Bute Hall, followed by a presentation from them to the whole of our Year 12 cohort. It was wonderful to make links with fellow Sacred Heart students and to hear about some of their traditions and culture.

We learned that in New Orleans they love to celebrate and have many festival days. They also shared with us the Sacred Heart song 'Coeur de Jesus' which we have impressed upon Miss Neckles to teach us!

Our students were envious of their gold Sacred Heart rings to mark their seniority in school and admired the beautiful grounds of their school campus.

We hope to continue to strengthen bonds with Sacred Heart schools across the globe.



**KINCOPPAL-
ROSE BAY**

SCHOOL OF THE SACRED HEART

Visit from Careers Advisor from a Sacred Heart School in Sydney, Australia

We had a visit in late June 2024 from Leanne Valencia, the Careers Advisor from Kincoppal-Rose Bay School in Sydney, which is one of three Sacred Heart schools in Australia.

Kincoppal-Rose Bay is situated on the spectacular Sydney Harbour and educates day and boarding students on their beautiful campus. Leanne was in London for the UCAS International Advisors conference and a range of university visits and popped in for a visit and tour.

These links help us to learn from one another and share experiences.



Cultural Celebration



The inspiration behind Cultural Celebration Week (see more photos overleaf) was the principle of Light - just as we need all colours of the light spectrum to see, so we need the collective wisdom of all cultures to understand our humanity and our identity as children of God.

We reflected on the words of Jesus to the Samaritan Woman at the well that God's spirit is not bound in one place and one people, "Believe me, woman, the time will come when people will not worship the Father either on this mountain or in Jerusalem... by the power of God's Spirit people will worship the Father as he really is, offering him the true worship that he wants. God is Spirit, and only by the power of his Spirit can people worship him as he really is." (John 4: 21-24)



In our assembly, we learnt about different cultural traditions from countries as diverse as Tibet, Nigeria, Eritrea and Spain and reflected on how our shared humanity and identity as children of God connects us. Ava and Freda Kelly sang a beautiful rendition of *True Colors*, as a reminder that we should all be proud and celebrate our colourful cultural heritage.

In tutor time, we learnt about wisdom from different cultures like *ititu* – which is a strategy to deal with stress from Yoruba culture or wisdom from the Chinese Philosopher Lao Tzu on how to live a good life.

In our PSHE Lesson, we reflected on the learning question, "What is culture?" We considered how our cultural heritage has influenced main-stream culture and been mis-represented and mis-appropriated.

Friday 19 April, the school was awash with colour as students wore clothing associated with their cultural heritage. We gathered in the evening to celebrate our diverse cultural heritage through dance, music, poetry and storytelling. It was a truly joyous and uplifting evening which was made even more special by the delicious home-cooked food we all enjoyed after the event.



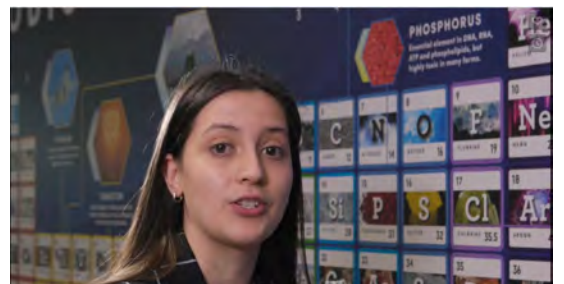




Making of the Sixth Form Film

Sixth formers put together their own comments about life in Sacred Heart Sixth Form as part of a new film produced by the school, for use at admissions Open Days. You can watch the film here:

[Sacred Heart High School Hammersmith - Sixth Form Video \(7mins\)](#)



Student Wellbeing

Student wellbeing continues to be a priority, especially during the exam season. Both Y11 and Y13 had assemblies before their exams about dealing with exam stress, delivered by representatives from the MIND charity.

MIND also continues to deliver low-level support and interventions to students from across the school on Fridays, as a support to our in-house school counselling service.

During Mental Health Awareness Week in May, a group of our Y10 Wellbeing Ambassadors delivered a set of very creative assemblies to all year groups about the importance of looking after your own mental health and offered some key strategies to use when feeling anxious or overwhelmed.

During Mental Health Awareness week, students at the school also celebrated Wear it Green Day and many took part in a Wear it Green Bake-Off, demonstrating a wide range of gifts and talents.

May also saw the conclusion of the Active in Mind project, with Team GB athlete Lesley Owusu guiding a group of Y9 and Y12 students through a programme where they learned about leadership and the connections between physical and mental health.





NPL



National Physical Laboratory Water Rocket Challenge

On Wednesday 26 June, three Year 7 Science Club students attended the NPL Water Rocket Challenge organised by the National Physical Laboratory. The students had been working on constructing water rockets and launchers during their afterschool science club this term.

They have successfully launched their rockets in the designated landing zone at the event. This was a great opportunity to reaffirm their interest and enjoyment in learning science.

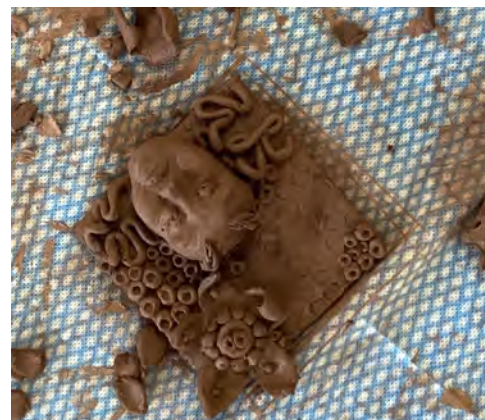


THE MAD HATTER TEA PARTY

Celebrating students' 100% attendance for the whole school year!

A group of 58 students were singled out to attend a Mad Hatter's Tea Party with the Headteacher on 12 July. They had each attended every single day of the school year and were presented with certificates and then enjoyed a scrumptious tea and even got to try some balloon modelling with Ms O'Callaghan!





Arts Week 2024

After a very successful 2023 debut, Arts Week has returned in 2024.

This week students have been able to choose to join one of nine strands: Literature and Stories; Classics; Musical theatre, Technical Theatre, Dance, Art, Architecture, Film and Rock and Pop.

A range of different events have been planned with everyone keen to explore new ideas and experiences in the arts and learn the value of creativity.

Those in the Literature and Stories strand have the opportunity to visit a range of locations including Keats House, the Cartoon museum, Tate Britain and the British Library, with lunch along the way.

The Classics group have visited the British Museum and the Technical Theatre group have visited Questors Theatre in Ealing. All students in the Art Group have visited the Design Museum in Kensington and have workshops in school about design and making, finishing and exhibition prep.

The Architecture group have visited Kew Gardens and the Design Museum as well as workshops in school. The Rock and Pop Group have been taking photos for Album Art and learning songs from different genres and decade.

It will all culminate in a grand artistic finale on Friday. What a great way to finish the year.



Who dreams of taking part in the Olympic Games?



Georgia Bell, Sacred Heart Class of 2014, took the 1500m gold medal at the UK Athletics Championships at the end of June and secured her place at the Paris Olympics 2024.

She was a promising junior athlete at school and went on to gain a sports scholarship to the University of California, Berkeley.

See below an extract from an interview with her in *Runner's World*.

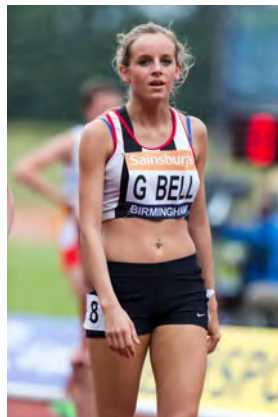
'I wanted to experience the NCCA (National Collegiate Athletics Association) which is an amazing league and makes you feel like you're a pro athlete while living in California and training with your friends. But the trade-off is that they expect you to race all the time because you're a business deal. In the UK, you might say, "My shins are a bit sore, I'll give this one a miss this weekend". Over there, it's a case of, "No, you're here for two years, we're paying a lot of money for you, you will race all the time". They wanted me to peak for and race every season. So cross-country, indoor and outdoor. And I did well in cross-country, but then I was injured for the bit that I actually wanted – the indoor and outdoor. I was just forever coming back from injury. The times when it was going well, it was great, but I never ran faster than I did in the UK. So, from a running perspective, obviously not an improvement.

I learned from that experience that high mileage isn't everything. It was a very high-mileage philosophy out there. It was just crack on, do as much running as you can and sink or swim. And I sank. A lot of really good British runners don't go down the US college path because it's got that reputation that you'll get injured – that you'll have to race a lot. So, if you're going for Olympic level, I think it's best to stay in the UK and have a more personalised programme.'

She gave up running entirely after an injury and returned to the UK where she embraced the fun of life away from athletics, embarking on a successful career and enjoying cycling but she never imagined competing again. Then came the pandemic, parkrun and, five years after she last set foot on a track, a 5k on a whim in borrowed spikes.

Since then, a meteoric rise has seen her become the British indoor 1500m champion this February, then go on to finish fourth in the World Indoor 1500m final in March. Then at the beginning of June, she took the 1500m silver at the European Indoor Championships in Rome; then gold in Manchester in the 1500m at the end of June to secure her spot in her debut Olympics.

Georgia we'll all be here, cheering you on!!



Other Sacred Heart Hammersmith Olympians

We remember also two past Sacred Heart Olympians.

Anne Smith (a PE teacher at here) was a sprinter and middle distance runner, who specialised in the 1500 metres and mile events.

She represented Great Britain and Northern Ireland at the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games. Women at that time were not allowed to run the 1500m (it was considered too long!) but she reached the final of the 800 metres, having set a British record of 2:04.8 in the semi-final.

She set a British women's mile record of 4:44.2 in 1966. In 1967, Smith broke two world records in one race, running 4:17.3 for the 1500 metres and 4:37.0 for the mile. These were the first 1500 m and mile world records to be ratified by the International Amateur Athletics federation (IAAF).

Garry Power, a geography teacher from Sacred Heart was an Irish bobsledder. He competed in the four man event at the 1998 Winter Olympics! Mr Power is on the left in the back row.



Year 10 Visit



Imperial College London



On 9 July students in Year 10 attended a 'Chemistry taster day', at Imperial College London. The trip was an excellent opportunity for the students to participate in a lecture, a tour around the South Kensington Campus and to complete a practical, exploring the facilities. The students say:

'As we approached the main doors of the Sir Alexander Fleming building, we all felt a sense of honour and pride to be chosen for this great opportunity. The 'Taster Lecture' we sat through was very informative as it gave us a new perspective on the importance of Chemistry and the facilities the university has to offer. The lecturer demonstrated an experiment which helped us to further understand the topic of 'carbon dioxide and its acid derivative'. They then gave us a tour of the campus and informed us of the different courses the university has to offer.

After lunch in the 'Chemistry café', we put our lab coats, safety goggles and gloves on before proceeding to complete the experiment on aspirin and its concentration in a tablet. We also looked at alternative methods to identify different chemicals by comparing their frequency.

Overall we really enjoyed the experience and it is one we definitely will not forget!'

Alice Kelly E. C., Isidora U.F., Marian T. and Tamina A.





Richard III at The Globe Theatre - Year 12

Although we have not studied Richard III yet, the plot captivated us, thanks to the genius of Shakespeare and the production's playwrights. The unique 'thrust staging' and theatre's architecture were enough to keep us entertained even without the production itself.

The exhilarating live music had me trying to Shazam it until I realized it was live music playing. The actors were charming and interactive, engaging with the audience by walking through the crowd and standing on barrels to imitate a rebellion. Their improvisation skills were hilarious, especially when a helicopter disrupted Richard's big speech. The clever use of gender-blind casting, with the entire cast composed of women, highlighted the role of women in the original play as pawns in a game.

The costumes were the standout aspect of this production. Elizabeth's gowns and other medieval-style clothing were breathtaking, bringing the Middle Ages to life. It was fascinating to see how Richard's character became increasingly ridiculous through his costume changes. He started with a grey tunic that gave him wide, sharp shoulders, but by the end, he wore a manly silicone chest and a furry green codpiece, perhaps mocking hegemonic masculinity and its inherent sexuality.

However, as a class, we were not fans of the inconsistency in costume design. Characters like Buckingham and some police officers wore modern suits, which clashed with the medieval costumes of other characters. While this might have been intended to illustrate how gender inequality persists today, it was ineffective for us, as the modern costumes were distracting.

Overall, it was a pleasant experience for the whole class, and we look forward to our next theatre production.

Victorija Z, Y12



Fame musical fever takes over Sacred Heart!





School Election Day



Ahead of the General Election, students from our Debate Club selected (out of a hat) various political parties to represent in our own Sacred Heart election.

Hustings were held in the chapel and balloting then took place the day before the General Election, all over school. After the final count, the school election results were shared with students on General Election Day. The implication of different electoral systems on the outcome was shown:

First Past the Post - A Hung Parliament

Year 7: Green
 Year 8: Liberal Democrats
 Year 9: Liberal Democrats
 Year 10: Green
 Year 12: Labour
 Staff: Labour

Proportional Representation - Green Party Win

Conservatives: 7%
 The Green Party: 36%
 The Labour Party: 28%
 The Liberal Democrats: 25%
 The Women's Equality Party: 4%

Well done to all those who prepared speeches and to everyone who voted!



Debating Summer Term

The academic year has ended in victorious fashion for the Sacred Heart debaters. We have continued with our routine debate clubs every week and attended three competitions, which you can read about below. A huge thank you to Miss Curtis who has supported the intermediate debaters this year and a big well done to all those who have participated at all levels. Keep an eye out for exciting developments in our Debate Squad next academic year!

Junior Debate Shield Final – Sacred Heart Win!

Congratulations to Ava K, Bethelle F, Violet F, Marina S and Seraphina P in Year 8, who rounded off a dominant performance this year by bringing home the trophy at the Junior Debate League Final at Ealing Fields. Marina has given an account of the competition:

Overall, debate in general has helped me with several things: it has expanded my vocabulary, improved my clarity when speaking and it has increased my confidence massively. I am part of the junior team and I have been for nearly two years now, therefore, over time, we have been to many competitions which have helped to practise our debating skills.

One of these competitions included this year's Junior Shield. The Junior Shield consisted of multiple debates, both with prepared and unprepared motions. These debates would take place on different days. Each round, a school (either state or private) would have a 'score' to carry them through to the next round. Luckily, my team's passion and love for debating clearly carried us through this experience and, despite the motions becoming harder and harder, we had made it to the final!

We were against a team from Queen's College in the first debate. This was a prepared debate which I was the first speaker for. Eventually the winner was announced - Sacred Heart! The competition was amazing and we have since received a trophy. I have learnt a lot through the Junior Shield with feedback from the judges each round. It has been an absolute honour to represent Sacred Heart in the Junior Shield!

Marina S, Year 8

South Hampstead High School - Mix and Match Debate – Sacred Heart Win!

The Year 8 and Year 10 debaters took part in a new format of competition where they were teamed up with students from different schools, both private and state, from across London. This was an excellent opportunity for our students to experience debating with people who had different approaches to theirs. All of the students did an impressive job of presenting their arguments and cooperating with others – we will definitely return to this competition next year!

They debated motions that ranged from "This House supports the glorification of teachers" to "This House would require parties to outline 'key pledges' in their manifestos, the breaking of which would cause an immediate general election". Particular congratulations should go to Kamina A (Year 10), Violet F (Year 8) and Seraphina P (Year 8) who all won with their composite teams.



The Bingham Cup

This 'state school only' competition took place on Thursday 11 July and saw top three finishes for our three Senior Teams and two Junior Teams.

Wimbledon Ball Girls



We would like to extend a massive round of applause and praise to Clementine H, Anjali S, and Olivia B for their incredible performance as Wimbledon Ball Girls. These exceptional young ladies have brought great honour to our school through their hard work and dedication. The road to becoming a Wimbledon Ball Girl was not an easy one, with over 70 girls applying for the role during the selection trials at Sacred Heart last September.

After facing multiple rounds of cuts and rigorous training sessions, only six talented students were chosen. They then went on to complete both practical and theory tests to be invited to the official selection trials at Wimbledon, with two girls making it through and three recalls.

Despite facing tough competition and further cuts, they not only performed at the prestigious Wimbledon Qualifying event but also had multiple opportunities to showcase their skills during the 2024 Wimbledon Championships.

Olivia took part as a recall - an exceptional achievement. Anjali showcased her incredible speed and impeccable ball-rolling technique while in the 'centre' position on court 4. And finally, Clementine had the honour of performing as a 'base' twice on the show court - a true demonstration of her exceptional abilities as a ball girl.

We are incredibly proud of all our students who participated in this unforgettable experience and can't wait to see what new talent emerges from our next selection trials at Sacred Heart!

Miss Anderson

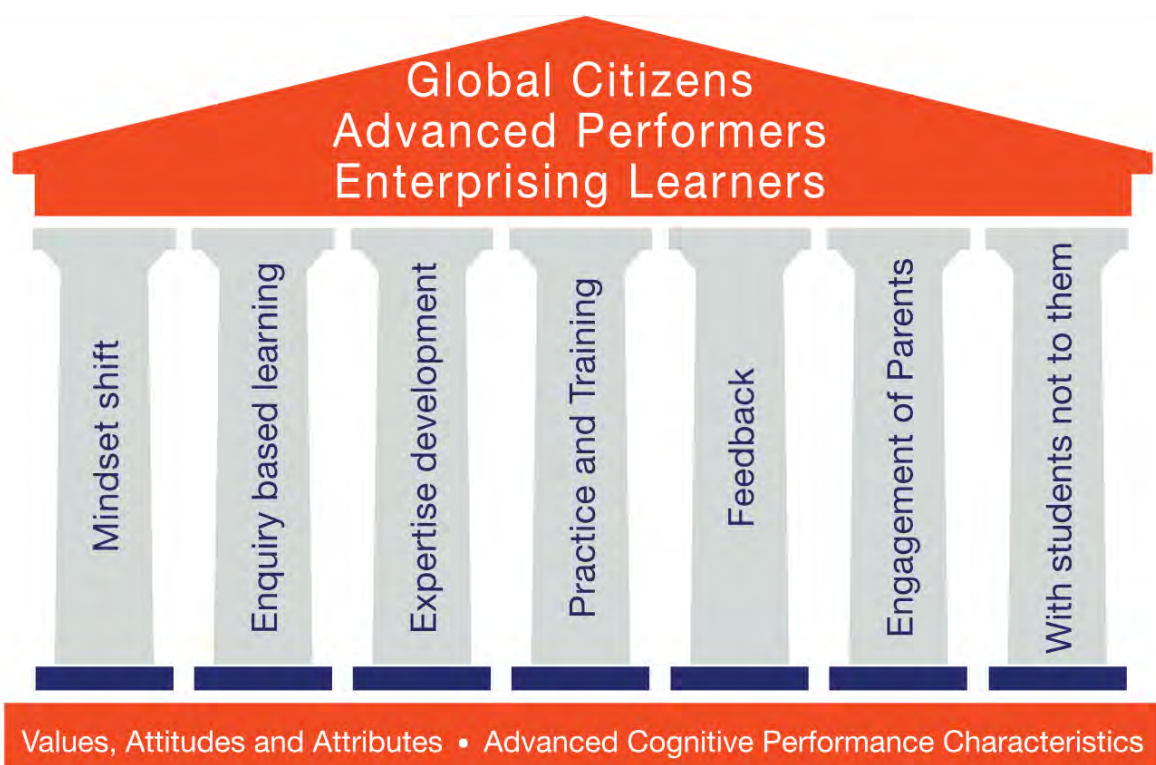
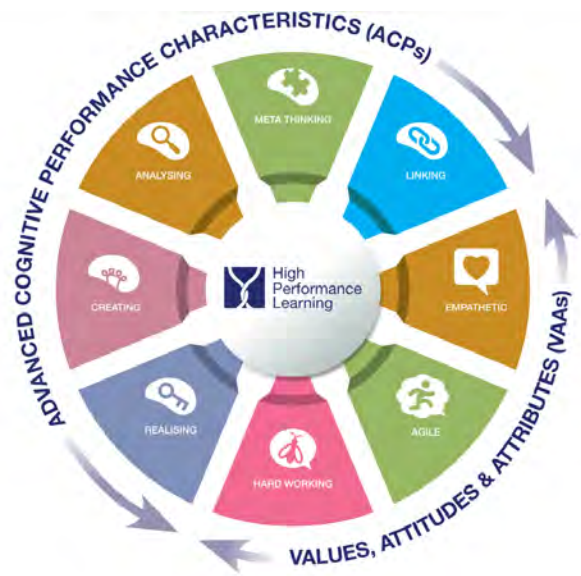


Re-Accreditation as a High Performance Learning World Class School

On 10 June we were successfully re-accredited as a High Performance Learning World Class School for another three years.

Some quotes from the formal feedback and from the award letter are included below.

- *Sacred Heart High School truly is an exceptional school that others can look to for inspiration.*
- *It was a tribute to Sacred Heart High School to hear one student describe the school as 'we are a community, but we are all individuals. Each of us is special.'*
- *Sacred Heart High School is restless, reflective and single-mindedly committed to providing an environment that supports learning for all students.*
- *The students are impressive. In lessons they were keen to study and to learn, and they were able to explain how teachers' feedback gave them the information that they needed to improve moving forward.*
- *I was particularly struck by the wide-spread commitment by staff to the idea that every student can achieve. This was encapsulated by the comment from one teacher that the 'belief in every girl being able to achieve is a moral driver for staff'. The removal of prior attainment groupings has been a 'gamechanger' according to staff and has made students more self-confident across all subjects.*



Year 8 Party Evening

Fundraising event organised by Sixth Formers to help raise money for their volunteering Red Caps Lourdes trip



Sixth form students who have volunteered as 'Red Caps' on a forthcoming trip to Lourdes used their initiative to fund raise for their journey. Over 80 year 8 students and their parents contributed to raise over £1,500 on the evening of 28 June 2024.

Instead of going home at the usual time, students went to homework club for one hour before commencing their 'big party night'. Sixth formers set up three different activities which the students enjoyed on rotation: bench ball, rounders and Just Dance with karaoke.

Supper included pizza delivery, potato wedges and the launch of the pop-up Sacred Heart ice-cream parlour. Students voted for their choice of movie which was shown cinema style on the big screen in the drama studio with juice and popcorn.

Sixth formers led all the activities (under the watchful eye of Head of Sixth Form, Ms McCarthy) with energy, enthusiasm and exuberance - they were all wonderful role models for the younger students.





Our Sacred Heart Year 12 robotics team

Amee M
Ally E
Ewelina A
Abrar E

First Tech Challenge's UK National Championships at Cambridge University 'Robotics Semi-Finals'

We have a joint Robotics Club with St Paul's Girls' School and from this we are part of a joint Y12 Robotics Team.

On the 21 June, we travelled to Cambridge University to compete in the **First Tech Challenge's UK National Championships** after qualifiers back in March.

There were 41 other amazing teams from across the UK and Ireland there, which created such an enjoyable and buzzing atmosphere as we were able to talk with them and learn more about their robots. Additionally, we were able to speak to different robotics mentors and staff from internationally recognised tech companies such as ARM and RTX which allowed us to gain helpful advice for entering the STEM and technology industries.

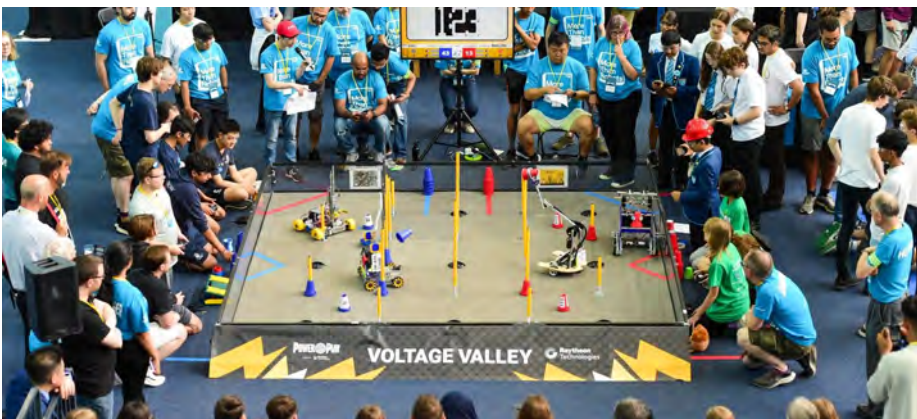
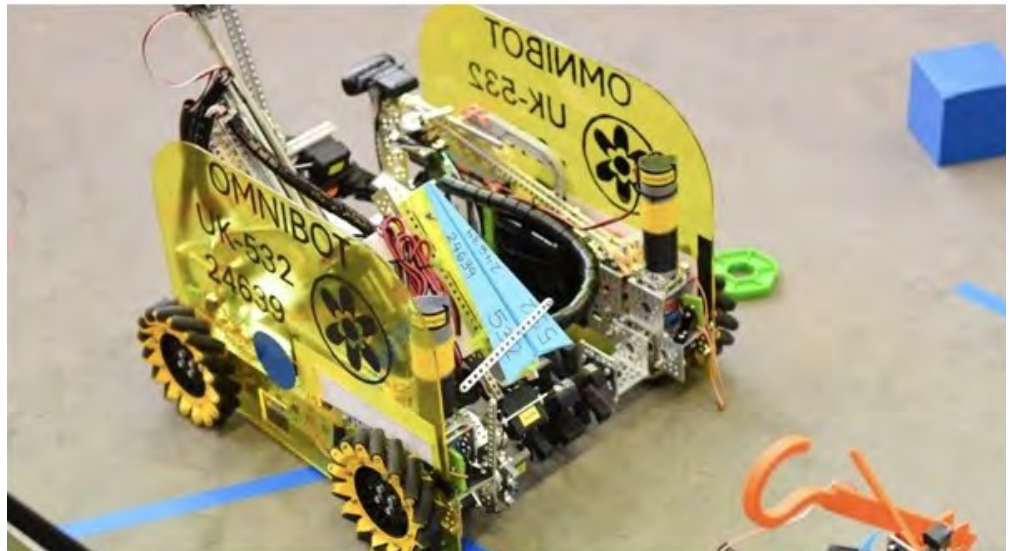
Throughout the day, we were competing to become one of the top 16 teams to be selected for the final rounds, which we succeeded in doing. However, during the last rounds of the competition we were beaten in a very tense match; the final score being a close 139 - 136 points to our opponent.

Overall, this once-in-a-lifetime experience was incredible; having been able to develop our practical skills in a supportive space and being able to demonstrate them in a competitive environment has really strengthened our passion for STEM and robotics which will definitely play a large role in the future.

Amee M & Ally E

"The most rewarding moment has been seeing the passion, enthusiasm and energy from the students. They've engaged in the task, adapted to overcome and really put their heart and soul into the competition. It's been breathtaking."

Rob Leeman, Education Solutions Manager, Arm



A-Level Drama

Final acting performances in the Australian Gothic Genre

This year's A-Level Drama performance saw students perform two iconic Australian plays (complete with Aussie accents!) in the highly physical style of Steven Berkoff's Total Theatre.



Picnic at Hanging Rock

On a hot summer's day in 1900, a group of Australian schoolgirls on a picnic expedition to the remote Hanging Rock, deep in the Australian bush, abscond from their group. They are last seen heading towards the beckoning Rock...

Starring: Daniella G, Isabella McK, Gabriela M, Julia O and Jessica R.



The Bleeding Tree

In a small town with a big sky, a shot rings out and nobody hears.
In a small town with a big sky, a shot rings out and everyone knows why.
In a small town with a big sky, a shot rings out and a man gets his comeuppance.

Starring: Aimee B, Olivia G, Anna L and Niamh McC.



A-level devised performance

Hell Hath No Fury Like a Teenage Girl

This year's Year 12 Drama class created a 30-minute devised performance that asked the question just where did the stereotype of the teenage 'mean girl' derive from?

The performance questioned whether it goes as far back as the Salem witch trials or is there a scientific explanation? Or, could it be the result of the popularity and Americanisation of the stereotype that teens play in to?

This was a hilarious, clever and thoughtful performance by the class.

Congratulations!



West London Partnership Drama Performance



Lucy O'Shea 12E

I participated in a partnership play production, directed by resident director Ella McKeown at St. Paul's Girls' School. The programme was for Year 12 students from several West London schools, with the goal of developing our designing and narrative abilities.

Exercises and workshops provided by professionals started the twelve-week course. Director Tristan Fynn-Aidenu led a storytelling workshop, while The Paper Birds group shared their approach to devising.

We began constructing our project as a group by researching topics and areas of interest for our stimuli. Mary Queen of Scots combined with The Shining was our choice. To produce our own play, we conducted research, wrote the script, and did improvisation.

It was a great chance to be a part of the project as I've learnt various skills and met some amazing people. I played the role of Queen Elizabeth I.

Lucy O'S

Our congratulations to Lucy O'S thoroughly enjoyed the weekly workshops at St. Paul's led by a professional director and visiting artists.



A NOTTINGHAM PLAYHOUSE, BIRMINGHAM REP AND LYRIC HAMMERSMITH THEATRE CO-PRODUCTION
IN ASSOCIATION WITH SIMON FRIEND ENTERTAINMENT

MINORITY REPORT

A FUTURISTIC THRILLER

BY DAVID HAIG
BASED ON THE SHORT STORY BY PHILIP K. DICK



Year 12 English Literature students

Year 12 English Literature students thoroughly enjoyed attending the matinee performance of 'Minority Report' at the Lyric Hammersmith.

It was a really innovative and interesting adaptation of the classic dystopian short story, and so informative for those studying the Dystopia element of OCR A Level English Literature.

Induction Day

For the Year 6 primary school students who will be joining us as Year 7 in September 2024

On Wednesday 3 July, Sacred Heart High School welcomed approximately 200 future Year 7 students. Our new family members (!) participated in various activities, including a guided tour of the school conducted by our dedicated Year 10 and Year 12 students, engaging in sporting events, and a series of team-building exercises.

Additionally, a Q&A session was held, led by some of our confident Year 7 students. The day was a great success, and we look forward to welcoming them all in September.





THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Silver Award



After a successful expedition in April, students have been eagerly signing of the various components of their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. This includes skills, volunteering and physical.

Many students from the 2022-23 award have now completed their Award and have now received their certificate. This is a remarkable accomplishment, reflecting the hard work, dedication, and perseverance that students have shown over the last two years.

We are incredibly proud of these achievements and look forward to seeing students continuing to excel in their future endeavours.



Bronze Expedition



60 Year 9 girls successfully completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition in Chesham on 8th-10th May. The girls learnt so much about navigation and teamwork, pushing many outside their comfort zone and learning so much about themselves in the meantime. The girls also learnt valuable camping skills such as learning how to cook outside. The campsite also provided an opportunity for them to share stories from the day and reflect on how to improve for the next day. All the girls passed wonderfully - well done!



Trailfinders

Arnold Hill Girls' Tag Rugby Tournament

On the 12 June, our Year 7 rugby girls got to show off their amazing rugby skills at the first ever Arnold Hill Tournament.

We are delighted to say they came home with the Plate prize. Winning this prize was no easy feat, the Year 7 girls were the youngest by far, up against students from both Year 8 and 9 from five other schools, including the team who had just won the London Youth Games.

This did not hold them back, they played with great speed and skill, and went into each game with confidence and determination.

Overall Sacred Heart won five games, drew one and lost two. Most of the girls train in local rugby clubs and they took great delight in being able to represent their school.

Player of the Match was hard to select, but ultimately awarded to Cameron I-S, thanks to her speed and determination to keep scoring tries.

A massive well done to all involved and we look forward to repeated success at this event next year.





Y10 Visit to the Charles Dickens Museum

Visiting the Charles Dickens Museum was a remarkable experience for all of us studying a piece of his work, 'A Christmas Carol'. As we stepped into the Georgian townhouse, I felt transported back in time. A museum that was once a home to an incredible writer was filled with items dear to him: manuscripts, letters, paintings; all offering a glimpse into the life of this author. As we toured around the preserved rooms, I could only imagine Dickens creating his famous works in the study, the creativity that was stored in every page of his work and the sketches he produced for his characters.

The museum's rich collection of history and its importance provided a powerful connection to the historical context coming from Dickens' story. One of my favourite parts was the writing desk where Dickens crafted multiple stories and characters for his art. The quill and ink stand, that were used for his original manuscripts, made the world of the writer's mind come alive for a split second. Furthermore, the museum's detail and precision throughout the building (that was called home in the past) displayed a deeper understanding of the author's life and his emotions expressed throughout his work.

This trip deepened my understanding of Dickens' political and social influences that encouraged him to write these novels not only to inform people but to inspire others. Engaging with all these elements of his manuscripts and home gave us a different perspective on how Dickens' past and personal experiences shaped his novels and work. As we said goodbye to this museum filled with knowledge and inspiration, I could only be more eager to study more about Dickens and his contribution to literature.

Marian T, Y10



Virginia Tarleton 1941-2022

Remembered by Bonita Targett, alumna from 1952-1959



Bonita kindly emailed to highlight one of our alumna, Virginia Tarleton who was in a parallel form to Bonita and who was the child lead in the original London production of *The King and I*.

Mother Hammond gave permission for her to miss every Wednesday afternoon for the matinee performance.

Bonita mentions that at the time, Virginia was the only 'non-white' girl in the whole school. In the 1950's the Windrush immigration was just getting underway and she remembers the time when *'I never saw one black person in Hammersmith or going home on the tube.'*

Virginia played Princess Ying Yaowlak, with Herbert Lom as the King of Siam and Valarie Hobson as Anna.

A contemporary review of the production:

At night, on stage, they act their parts enthusiastically and conscientiously; by day, at rehearsal, they also have fun-when the stage manager isn't looking. For the snow (paper) has been intriguing the children - eighteen in all - who appear in the play "The King and I" in London. Blowing vigorously at the "flakes" here are Derek Rozario (left) and Virginia Tarleton, who play the part of Siamese children. October 13, 1953.

Bonita confirms that Virginia was born in Rangoon, Burma on 6 January 1941. *The family fled to the UK when Burma was invaded by the Japanese. Her family owned a very successful rubber and teak business. Apparently she often spoke of the elephants and the naughty monkeys who would steal food from their veranda. Jason, her son, says that they went from wealth to poverty 'in a heartbeat'. What a different life the family had to adjust to in London.*

*She was spotted on a train by a talent scout when travelling with her father. From this there followed masses of auditions before she was selected as part of the cast. Following *The King and I*, Virginia had a minor part in *West Side Story*.*





Garden Party 2025

We are planning to hold a summer garden party in July 2025 for the whole Sacred Heart community including alumnae, and potentially also for local residents. This will be a ticketed event to raise money for restoration of our cloister paintings. Everyone will be notified of the arrangements for this once they are resolved.

Alumnae Reunions 2023-24

We have held two alumnae reunions this year and more are planned for next year, with dates and booking forms in the Alumnae tab on the school website.

Its so wonderful to see our past students re-turning with fond memories and close friendship attachments.

- *We wanted to say thank you for organising the Network Reunions. We really enjoyed it yesterday and it was so great to see the school - we hadn't been back in about ten years, and yet, somehow walking into the Cloisters, it felt like we had never left!*
- *It was also fabulous to see the sixth form and all the new work taking place, all fantastic!*



L to R: Bethany Gethings, Liffey O'Brien, Holly O'Brien and Iweta Kalinowska (2006-2011)



Alumnae Network Reunions 2024-25

In the meantime we have some scheduled (free) reunions ahead of July and details of these have been included in our separate Alumnae Network Newsletter.

Any queries, please contact Alex Dijkhuis on comms@sacredh.lbhf.sch.uk or by phone 0208 748 7600 x219.

100 years of the Sacred Heart Hammersmith Old Girls' Association

This is a very special year for the Sacred Heart Hammersmith Old Girl's Association, which is celebrating 100 years since its foundation in 1924. They are hosting a reunion in school, with a mass on Saturday 21st September 2024 for their members.

Any queries please to: SHAssociation@outlook.com

PTFA Fundraising

The Auction on 3 May 2024 was a huge success, generating approx. £14,000. A meeting will be held next term to allocate this money for range of projects including the subsidising of school trips, department resources and equipment needs for students; as well as some spend related to the school environment.



Historical Evening

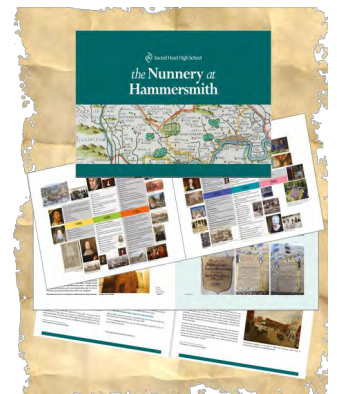
We offered tickets for a talk about the history of our site here in Hammersmith from 1669 to the present day - with proceeds from the sale of tickets going into our Cloister Painting Restoration Fund.

We invited not just parents and alumnae but also the borough, the Diocese, local resident and interest groups.

The talk was very well received and we have been asked to repeat the talk again here next year and also elsewhere for the wider community, through the borough.

After the talk, our entire stock of the book, *The Nunnery at Hammersmith* sold out within a short time and a second edition is now being reprinted and will be available from next term. As a result of the talk we also received additional donations towards the painting restoration including a very generous donation of £1,000 from an alumna.

Parents will be notified of repeat dates for this talk, once they have been set.

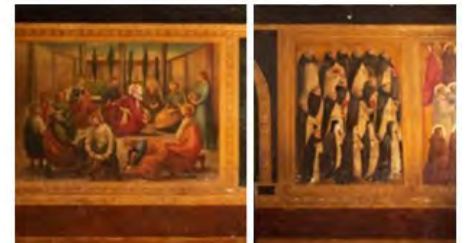


Cloister Paintings Restoration Fund

You can read all about the current stage of this project on the school website page linked below:

[Sacred Heart High School Hammersmith - Cloister Paintings Restoration Fund](#)

Don't forget to also click on the tab 'Later Stages' to see titled images of all the other paintings and full details of how to make a donation are also included.



Re-think, Re-mode and Re-power London's Transport

The Eco Seminar was an opportunity for our TfL Pioneer Ambassador students to be introduced to other school's projects; Industry Consultants from TfL, Siemens, Thales and Mott MacDonald; and to put forward their ideas to Re-think, Re-mode and Re-power London's transport in the future.

The event took place in the Transport Museum in Covent Garden where the students also were exploring London's rich transport history with vehicles, iconic posters, maps and other artefacts throughout the museum galleries!



U16 Girls Basketball 0-10 Basketball League



Huge congratulations to our U16 Basketball Team on winning the 0-10 local basketball league. There were 5 teams in total in the league, and the final was played on Thursday, 20 July against Godolphin & Latymer School.

The girls won 49:29. They are an extremely talent team, and have shown great dedication towards their training with Coach Cheryl. This has shown through in the high standards they set for themselves and the team, their utter love of the game and the support and unity of the team on court.

It has been a pleasure to watch the basketball girls throughout the year, and we are delighted to see them win a well deserved trophy.

Librarian's Report



Trinity Term has seen a lot of activity in the library, as usual! We continue to be an important base for Year 12 during supervised study periods throughout the school day, and have enjoyed welcoming KS3 reading lessons back to the space since the Year 13s departed for Exam Leave. The Year 7 and Year 12 Paired Reading Scheme has continued on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and we have had some new Year 12 volunteers joining the sessions to help out, which is lovely – thank you very much to all those students involved, whether they have been working with the Year 7s all year or have just started this term.

Many thanks to all of the wonderful Library volunteers who have, as always, been a huge help in keeping the shelves tidy and well-organised. Mr Jones' Story Writing Club continues to meet on Wednesdays, and they have produced some really lovely pieces of writing, while having a fantastic time!

A key project this term has been to think up ways to make the Library more user-friendly, and one of our ideas was to label all of our fiction texts by genre, to help students identify at a glance which kind of book they might like to read next. I would like to extend special thanks to Abigail A, Isabella CS, Clara LC and Perpetua P in particular, who have been a friendly, good-humoured and fantastic support when helping me with the enormous quest to categorise and label every one of the nearly three and a half thousand general fiction books!

Another way in which we are trying to support students in finding books that they will love is by bringing in a 'Recommended Reads' shelf, with a selection of curated fiction and non-fiction books paired with mini reviews provided by students and staff. Please do send in your own recommendations!

Once again, we have had fantastic success in the Young Writers competition, and many congratulations are due to the following students who have all been selected for publication in the anthology *Mission Catastrophe: A Journey Through Ink*: Rosa B, Eira-Geen C, Sofia C-H, Nia F-A, Gabriela H, Tessa H, Daisy I, Nicole K, Bethel K, Teresa L, Lola P, Anna R, Jaya S, Hannah S-M and Carmen Z-C,

Huge congratulations are equally due to the fifteen students who entered this term's poetry competition,

Through Their Eyes: Poems of the Night, who have all been selected for publication: Uso A, Natalia B, Sofia C-H, Eira-Geen C, Alessandra C, Jessabelle E, Nia FA, Gabriela H, Nicole K, Clara LC, Bianco LA, Florence M, Perpetua P, Anna R and Margaret W.

Leonor B's piece from last term has now been selected for *The Glitch Anthology* after she edited it down to the word limit, which is excellent news.

We have continued to acquire new books for the Library catalogue, this time with a focus on the National Teen Book Club reads and a selection of new non-fiction texts, as well as a number of student requests. A generous donation to the Book Fund from St Mary's University will enable us to replace some of our more well-worn (loved!) copies so that students will be able to keep enjoying these titles for years to come: we really appreciate this gift. We have also received a kind donation of nine titles from St Paul's Girls' School, which are a very welcome addition to the Library shelves.

Bute Hall



Sixth form students have been using their wonderful new private study space on the upper floor of Bute Hall this term.

Year 11 depart for study leave

The Year 11 students enjoyed their final day before commencing their study leave. The day involved the Leavers' Liturgy in the chapel showcasing the many talents of the year group and the sharing of their reflections.

The students celebrated in the cloister garden afterwards with many enjoyable sweet treats, shirt signing and photo taking. We wish them well with their GCSE results. We look forward to seeing again the many students who will be continuing their seven year journey with us at Sacred Heart.

Wishing all of the Year 11 students and parents/carers a restful summer break. It has been a privilege being the Head of Year 11 for the past year.

Mr Shetcliffe, Head of Year 11



Farewell to Year 13

On 2 May our Year 13 students were presented with various awards in recognition of their achievements and contributions in their respective subject areas, and to our school and wider community throughout their many years here.

During the liturgy, many Year 13s shared meaningful readings and celebrated their years together with music and song. They also received a symbolic anointing from Mrs O'Donovan and were presented with a blessed miraculous medal.

The liturgy was followed by cupcakes and shirt signing in the cloister garden alongside handing them gifts to remember us by.

We hope to see all the girls return in person to collect their exam results in August but we will also keep in touch with them all through our Sacred Heart Alumnae Network.

We wish them all well for their amazing futures.



Farewell



I am very sad to be leaving Sacred Heart after 5 very happy years. I am going to miss our wonderful, funny and intelligent pupils and all the amazing staff who work here and make Sacred Heart such a special place to work. My partner has been relocated out of London with work and I have got a new teaching job in Somerset as part of this relocation process.

Ms Dancer

We bid farewell to a number of staff who are leaving us for pastures new. Ms Joseph-Bristol, Mr Rahman-Rhaime, Ms Dancer, Ms Blanke, Ms McGugan, Ms Ketley, Mrs Lawlor, Mr Candy, Ms Aris, Ms North, Mr Swaminathan, Ms Lisivkova and Ms Newman, who leaves us after more than 10 years with us.

We wish them all well in their exciting new endeavours.

I have loved the past four years here and Sacred Heart and have learnt so much. I will miss all of our fabulous pupils and amazing staff a lot. I am relocating out of London and taking on a new role as Head of Languages at another school.

Ms Ketley

Unfortunately I will be leaving Sacred Heart due to having to move at the end of the academic year. I have enjoyed my time here and will miss all the music students who have always brighten the day of those around them. Keep practicing hard and don't forget your pencils!

Ms McGugan

Sadly I am moving on from my Sacred Heart Era (and England) for the sunny prospects of Australia. I have really enjoyed my time at Sacred Heart and will miss the fabulous students and staff.

Mrs Lawlor

It's going to be really hard to say goodbye after four years at Sacred Heart! I'm moving to teach physics at a school a little closer to where I live in East London. It's been a pleasure teaching here and I wish everyone all the best in the future!

Ms Blanke

Welcome to new staff!

We also welcome our new staff:

Ms Hazell, Deputy Special Educational Needs Coordinator;

Mr Cregan, second in charge of Religious Education; Mr Croft, teacher of Religious Education;

Mrs Pethiyagoda, Head of Psychology and Sociology; Ms Nicholas, teacher of Psychology;

Mr Chiyangwa, Teacher of Physics;

Ms Pola, teacher of Computer Science;

Mr Faraj, teacher of Mathematics; Ms Ocolan, teacher of Mathematics

Ms Karamemetoglu, teacher of Art; Ms Taylee Eames, teacher of PE;

Ms Ives, Mr Tunnicliffe and Ms Glenn as teachers of Biology; and Ms Quesada, Science technician

Ms Pavon, teacher of Modern Foreign Languages;

Mr Monro-Davies, teacher of history;

Mr Goldberg, Ms Afton, Ms da Rosa and Ms Shi as Learning Support Assistants;

Ms Kulwicz, teacher of English; Ms Wilkes as Teaching Assistant English and Mrs Porter who returns to us after her 1 year sabbatical, as a teacher of English

Ms Carvalho as Assistant Administrator

Achievements outside school

Leonor B (9E)

Leonor resubmitted her short story for 'The Glitch' competition (as it was 34 words over the limit last time) and the Young Writers loved it. Her story has been published in their book which came out on 9 June 2024. You can read the story below. Well done Leonor, you're a star!

ILLUSIONARY REALITY

I headed to sleep, but woke up feeling uneasy, finding a supernatural drawing that I hadn't created. Within weeks, I repeatedly drew the creature nearing, without comprehending how or when. I experienced a disconcerting connection between dreams and reality. I might be stuck in a dream, or perhaps not. I'm unsure whether it's real and I'm dissociating from reality, but it's approaching and the air's getting heavy. I don't know how much of this nightmare I can handle. This diary is how I'm constraining my sanity. As my ink runs dry, I fear I'll be trapped in this dimension forever...

Leonor B

Sacred Heart High School, Hammersmith



Amelia S, 7H

Amelia represented England with her dance team in Prague at the end of June at the Dance World Cup. They placed third in the World for Commercial Dance and all received bronze medals. What a fantastic achievement!



Amelia J (7H)

Amelia was invited to attend St George's Park to represent her grassroots football team, Ruislip Rangers, at an event for Girls in Sport run by Nike. She played some amazing football, her team came runners up in the tournament and she assisted six goals. She was vice captain for the day because of her positive attitude and encouragement for her team mates.

On 6 May she attended the Ruislip Rangers Tournament and played against teams an age group above her own. She scored the winning penalty and herself and her teammates won the cup.

During the tournament she showed resilience, leadership and was a real team player, again encouraging her teammates all the time.

Amelia, we are incredibly proud of you!



A Final Word

This summer edition of the newsletter captures brilliantly the vibrancy of school life and the many and varied talents of our students and staff. As always I am hugely impressed with the rich extra curricular offer for students, made possible though the hard work of staff and support of parents.

I wish all students and parents a relaxing and restful break and look forward to what the new academic year will bring.

Headteacher

Michaelmas Term Calendar





MICHAELMAS TERM

SEPTEMBER 2024

Monday	02	Professional Training Day for staff (school closed to students)
Tuesday	03	Professional Training Day for staff (school closed to students) Y7 Parents' Information Evening 5pm
Wednesday	04	Y7 & Y12 only attend school Y8 & Y10 Parents' Information Evening, 5pm
Thursday	05	All students return. Y7 transition activities Y9 & Y11 Parents' Information Evening, 5pm
Friday	06	OPENING MASS, 2pm
Monday	09	Y12 & Y13 Parents Information Evening, 5pm
Tuesday	10	Y12 Sixth Form Transition Workshop
Wednesday	11	D of E Silver Expedition
Thursday	12	Secondary Transfer Open Morning 9:30-11am and Evening 4-6pm D of E Silver Expedition
Friday	13	D of E Silver Expedition
Wednesday	18	Secondary Transfer Open Morning 9:30-11am Secondary Transfer Open Evening 4-6pm
Friday	20	Y7 Photos Y7 Parent & Student Welcome Mass 2pm
Tuesday	24	Y12 Army Day
Wednesday	25	Y10 Speak Out

OCTOBER 2024

Black History Month

Wednesday	16	Sixth form Open Evening 4-6pm
Wednesday	23	Y10 English attend <i>An Inspector Calls</i>
Thurs-Mon	24-28	Choir Trip to Paris
Friday	25	School ends at normal time

HALF TERM Monday 28 Oct - Friday 1 Nov inclusive - but note students return on 5 Nov

NOVEMBER 2024

Monday	04	Professional Training Day for staff (school closed to students)
Tuesday	05	All students return to school & Careers Week
Mon-Fri	11-15	Anti-Bullying Week: Choose Respect
Tuesday	12	Odd Socks Day
Thursday	14	Y13 Parent Teacher Meeting 4pm – 6pm
Thursday	28	Year 10 Parent Teacher Meeting 4pm – 7pm

DECEMBER 2024

Wednesday	04	Y11 English & Maths Mock Exams
Thursday	05	Y11 English & Maths Mock Exams Y11 Parent Teacher Meeting 4-7pm
Thursday	12	Y12 & Y13 Govt & Politics students to Parliament Y7 & Y12 Transition Parent Meetings 5-7pm
Thursday	19	Advent Service 6pm-7.15pm, parents welcome
Friday	20	Term ends 1pm

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

JANUARY 2025

Monday	06	All students return
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