

Reflections on women's homelessness

Homelessness is a deeply gendered issue. Inequity exists in current rough sleeping definitions, homelessness data collection and strategies. Consequently, women are disadvantaged at every step.

— Anna, Migrant Services and Advocacy Manager

Her local authority advised that they could not provide her with any accommodation until her child had been born. This left her with nowhere to turn except our night shelter.

— Alice: Senior Caseworker, Multiple Disadvantage

Women's Month at GLASSDOOR

from the heart

OPEN

We are open to all, without prejudice

GLASSDOOR
A route out of homelessness

Lenten Fundraising Total £3,320!

Our Lenten fundraising project this year extended support to a local homeless charity - Glass Door. Glass Door's caseworkers provide expert advice to those in need. They work tirelessly to support and help individuals access healthcare, secure identification, find employment, escape modern slavery and most importantly, access a permanent pathway out of homelessness.

Glass Door relies solely on donations from individuals, corporations, schools, community groups, churches, etc. The money we have raised will not only support people experiencing homelessness, but also ensures that Glass Door can sustain and provide homeless people in London, with stability and support.

We held a whole school fayre on the afternoon of Tuesday 25 March.

The students were also keen to have a strong focus on the impact that 'fast fashion' has on the environment and came up with the idea of having an upcycled fashion show, where every form and many staff participated by cat-walking one or two outfits that they had revived. Another idea they were keen to implement was a swap shop, which operated from the Reception Room.

While the purpose of the day was a serious one, the community spirit from the school shone in all its wonder as both students and staff worked together with laughter and joy. Year 8 have written about this day on the next two pages.

Pope Francis invites us to reflect on our pilgrim journey through the 'pastoral cycle' of 'see, judge, act'. This methodology ties in with our SH goals of Social Awareness that Impels to Action and Building Community. Throughout this Lenten season, we can make a start by trying to understand issues of injustice and take action to bring about change in the light of our Christian values.

The Goal of Social Awareness *that Impels to Action*

This plays a key part in our school life. This year we chose to focus on homelessness which has reached extraordinary levels in London. Between April 2023 and March 2024, there has been an increase of approximately 58%, in individuals experiencing homelessness.

The reality of homelessness in London goes far beyond those sleeping on the streets. Hundreds of thousands of people across the city are facing housing insecurity, many sleeping in temporary accommodation, shelters, or on night buses, while others sofa-surf. More and more people at risk of losing their homes are turning to charities like Glass Door for support, highlighting the growing crisis.

It's easy to judge those experiencing homelessness, but the reality is that it can happen to anyone – loss of job or a sudden change in circumstances can quickly lead to housing instability.

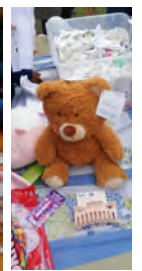
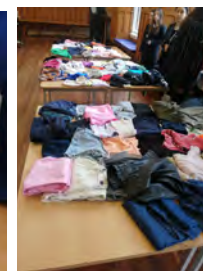
Our school's Lenten fundraiser helped raise funds for Glass Door, with the upcycled fashion show serving as the highlight of the event. Students collected unwanted clothing and transformed them into stylish, one-of-a-kind outfits, promoting sustainability while raising awareness about the environmental damage caused by fast fashion. *"Fast fashion is one of the world's biggest polluters and we need to do something about it. Upcycling clothes and repurposing them can help our planet reduce the amount of waste that we produce!"*

The afternoon event was a reminder to all of us that social awareness and compassion can make a big impact on the lives of others. We all play a major part in fighting homelessness and helping those who need it most. The funds raised will directly support Glass Door in their mission to provide shelter, meals, and stability to individuals facing homelessness across London.

Social awareness is very important, as having a mutual understanding of everyone's views can show maturity and respect for one another. We focus on social awareness in our lessons by listening to others when they are speaking, valuing one another's points of view and trying to understand other peoples' opinions.

Social awareness is important at Sacred Heart, and we are encouraged to speak up for social injustice – as our young voices can seriously make a difference.

by Year 8 Team



The Goal of Building Community

Recently, our school community collaborated together with various internal focus groups (Eco, Kairos, Heart Fest and Goals ambassadors) to discuss our Lenten fundraising project - Glass Door, a charity that works to eliminate homelessness.

The fundraising initiative was a collective effort that brought many of us together. We discussed common issues that we felt strongly about and decided that we wanted to focus on homelessness in our community and also highlight the impact that increasing fast fashion companies were having on our world.

Our school has always tried to emphasise the importance of giving back, and this project was no exception. The goal was clear: raise money for Glass Door to help provide vital services for the homeless community, while also raising awareness of preserving our planet. But what made this fundraising project even more special was the way students from all year groups, and all of our staff too, worked hand-in-hand to achieve it.

From bake sales, world food buffets, hot chocolate, pancakes, hot dogs, strawberry delights and fruit kebabs to spa rooms, football, karaoke, just-dance, skipping - the list is endless! The clothes swap and the up-cycled fashion show were extremely successful.

The laughter and joy were infectious as students watched both staff and students strut their stuff on the cat-walk.

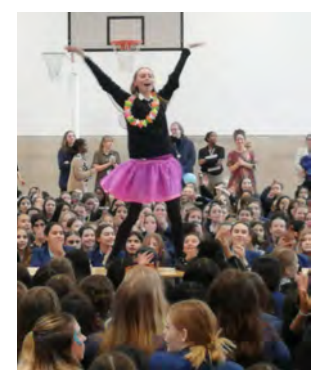
The day wasn't just about raising money; it was about creating lasting memories and building deeper bonds within our school community. The sense of fun and positivity that surrounded the entire afternoon made all the planning and hard work feel worthwhile.

What made the day even more special was that this event took place on Founder's Day - our school site was purchased by Mother Digby for just £37,000 on 25th March 1893.

Thanks to the efforts of everyone involved, we raised over £3,250 for Glass Door. This money will go directly to supporting homeless individuals and families, providing them with food, shelter, and support as they work towards rebuilding their lives.

We are also very proud that we all, through hard work and collaboration, have not only achieved our goal but also experienced the true power of community.

by Year 8 Team





One of the happiest schools in the country!

The Sunday Times and The Times have ranked Sacred Heart High School as one of the happiest schools in the country!

Thank you to all our fantastic students and staff and families for making our school such a positive and supportive community.

Let's keep spreading the joy!!



Sacred Heart High School receives TWO awards

1. Top 10% of schools nationally for student progress

2. Top 10% of non-selective schools nationally for student attainment

Sacred Heart High School are delighted that their excellent outcomes have been recognised by SSAT (The Schools, Students and Teachers Network) in this year's Educational Outcomes Awards. The award recognises that Sacred Heart High School is among the highest performing secondary schools in the country, based on 2024 performance data and information from Ofsted.

Sacred Heart High School was recognised in two categories, receiving awards for being for being in the top 10% of schools nationally for student progress and in the top 10% of non-selective schools for student attainment in the 2024 end of KS4 exams.

The SSAT Educational Outcomes database compares all state-funded schools in England. To be recognised with an Educational Outcomes Award is a significant achievement and a testament to the work of the whole school community.

Sue Williamson, Chief Executive of SSAT said:

"Congratulations to Sacred Heart High School on winning two SSAT Educational Outcomes Awards. This success is down to the superb learning and teaching, outstanding support and inspirational leadership of staff. You have made a huge difference to the lives of the young people in your school. Thank you."



JPIC (Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation)



JPIC (justice, peace and integrity of creation) is an information and learning centre that supports the family of the Sacred Heart community by 'being artisans of hope in our blessed and broken world'. As part of the JPIC, we are encouraged to use our voices for good, to raise true opinions on contemporary issues on what might be worrying us.

As representing only a part of the voice of the youth in Sacred Heart High School, we intend to carve a hopeful pathway for the future, implementing the ethos of justice, peace and integrity of creation in our daily lives. We implement justice by encouraging others to defend for what is right and speak for others around the globe if they don't have a voice. Having a voice and being able to express ourselves is a gift that we often take for granted, not knowing the horrible situations that are happening around the world.

We implement peace through our actions and words, acknowledging that violence is not the right decision and making decisions peacefully lets us live in a better world, a world where everyone has more opportunities and where so many people who could not thrive before, can now. We implement the ethos of the integrity of creation by remembering to respect the earth and reflect on what is given to us and the beauty of mother nature juxtaposing this chaotic modern world.

We were delighted by the visit of Sister Rachel Guillien in March 2025, when the representatives of JPIC at SHHS were able to discuss our opinions with her, regarding topics that interest us and how we are trying to strive for a better world. For example, I (Emanuela C), discussed the Israel-Palestine conflict and how it is our duty to learn about Gaza and how we must learn about the suffering and its history before having any true opinions on the conflict.

I am a firm believer of peace and how it lets us live in a better world. Sister Rachel and I discussed my article, 'We have a duty to learn about Gaza', and how in our modern day, there are a lot of biased media outlets who don't give the full story. I believe that by educating ourselves on complex conflicts like the Israel - Palestine conflict, we can make more precise and informed opinions, enabling us to raise awareness and give victims the voice they don't have. Turn by turn, we have been listening to each other's ideas and what we stand for.

Micol Fusar- Poli (a rep. of the JPIC in SHHS) discussed how climate change and wars interlink with each other. An increase in the temperature of the earth can lead to a competition of survival of using natural resources which can lead to armed conflicts. This vicious cycle contributes massively to greenhouse emissions.

What I found inspirational from Sister Rachel was how she said to keep the fire of speaking out within us and to always stand for what we believe and to persevere. We hope to see her in the near future.

Emanuela C, Year 10

Jubilee 2025 - Pilgrims of Hope



The 2025 Jubilee began in Advent 2024 and will run until the Feast of the Epiphany in 2026.

Although this is a global celebration, Pope Francis invites Catholic churches throughout the world to mark the Jubilee in their own unique way and we look forward to sharing a whole range of different activities, events, and resources with you during the Jubilee year here in school.

We have planned events to celebrate the Jubilee Year and to journey through this time together in joy and hope.

What is a Jubilee Year?

Jubilee years are a time of newness. They have been celebrated throughout the history of the Church, but their roots go back to the Old Testament, when the Israelites were commanded to celebrate a jubilee every 50 years. Beginning with the blowing of a ram's horn—the yobel, from which the word jubilee comes—on the Day of Atonement, it was meant to be a kind of 'reset' or 'refresh' for their relationship with God and with each other. Debts would be forgiven, misappropriated land returned, slaves freed, and the land given rest. It was a reminder for the ancient Israelites that nothing was absolutely theirs—not even the Promised Land.

In the Catholic Church, a Jubilee Year is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation. A Jubilee Year is celebrated by the Church every 25 years.

Pope Francis has invited Catholics to renew our hope and discover a vision that can "restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone". We are also invited to rediscover a spirituality of God's creation in which we understand ourselves as "pilgrims on the earth" rather than masters of the world.

In the Bible, the Jubilee Year occurred every 50 years and involved the cancelling of debts, a period of rest for people and the earth, and land being restored to the landless. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus makes clear his own mission is to bring Jubilee. In the synagogue at Nazareth he reads from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah, proclaiming the year of the Lord's favour.

Characteristics of the Jubilee

PILGRIMAGE - We are called as pilgrims to set out on a journey and to cross boundaries. This journey does not only change places physically, but also brings transformation and spiritual growth.

THE HOLY DOOR - By crossing the threshold of the Holy Door, echoes of the words from St John's gospel: "I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved." Choosing to pass through the Holy Door shows that we are ready to follow and be guided by Jesus.

PRAYER - There are many reasons and ways to pray, but at the root of prayer is the willingness to open ourselves to God's presence and His unconditional love. Jesus taught us the importance of prayer and how to pray.

LITURGY - The liturgy is the public prayer of the Church, with Mass at the centre. In the Eucharistic celebration, the Body and Blood of Christ are truly received uniting us with Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH - The profession of faith is the identity of the baptised person. It expresses the main truths that Christians accept on the day of their baptism and share with their Christian community for the rest of their life.

RECONCILIATION - The Jubilee year signifies reconciliation, urging us to place God at the centre of our lives. We are called to prioritise Him in every decision and action we make.

INDULGENCES - The Jubilee Indulgences are a manifestation of God's mercy, offering a way to free our hearts from the burden of sin.

How can you as individuals, families, and communities of faith, celebrate the 2025 Jubilee?

Organise a special parish Mass to welcome Jubilee 2025.

Organise a parish family-friendly picnic or lunch (with special invitations going out to those who normally can't make such events, such as the elderly in your community or a family member who doesn't usually attend).

Organise opportunities for prayer groups at home or in your parish. Praying the official Jubilee 2025 prayer as a community is another way to enter into the spirit of the year.

Sacred Heart Celebrations throughout Jubilee Year

We launched the Jubilee on **24 January** - a time in assembly together to reflect, pray and commit ourselves to follow God's guidance. (The Holy Door and Profession of Faith)

March 2025

Our Lenten Fundraising project on Ash Wednesday, 5 March 2025.

School fundraising event for students, 25 March 2025

Sacrament of Reconciliation for students - during Lent

Flame Youth Conference, Saturday 15 March 2025 (Pilgrimage). *Sacred Heart UK schools joined 10,000 young people in the OVO Arena, Wembley for the return of the CYMFed Flame Congress - the largest Catholic youth event in England & Wales! Flame 2025 had a very special mission to raise us up as unstoppable pilgrims of hope along with the whole Church in this great global pilgrimage to the Father's Kingdom! Featuring epic testimonies, inspiring young talent, music, and so much more.*

May 2025

Laudato Si Day - Hope Bags - reaching out to those in need within our community. *We as a school community, will get involved in creating and distributing these gift bags to people in need, which can be filled with inspirational items such as Scripture verses, prayer cards, other small tokens of faith. They can be distributed to the housebound or sick in the community or within our local parishes.*

Year 7 & Year 12 Mass, 23 May 2025 to celebrate the dedication of Madeline Sophie Barat.

June 2025

Feast Day Fri 27 June, Mass of Celebration 11.00am with a focus on God's forgiveness and freedom from sin. This takes place on the front lawn, weather permitting. Parents welcome to join us.

September 2025

Review of our Sacred Heart Goals and Mission Statement

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity
and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.
Amen

Madeleine Sophie Relic Returns home

Such a wonderful visit during half term from Barbara Livingstone (nee Hobley) and her school friend Anne Fean (nee Stewart) who were both students at Sacred Heart, Hammersmith in the 1960's. Barbara also taught science here.

Barbara's grandmother was housekeeper to Fr Ryan from St Osmond's. When she started at Sacred Heart Fr Ryan gave Barbara a relic from Madeleine Sophie Barat and Barbara came to see us because she wanted the relic to have a good home.

On behalf of Sister Cath, Provincial Superior, Alex Dijkhuis accepted the relic which will be available for our community to see at the Garden Party in July, which in part celebrates 100 years since the canonisation of Madeleine Sophie.

It will also form part of our whole school Mass at 1.45pm on Friday 23 May which celebrates the centenary of Madeleine Sophie's canonization.

We are forever grateful to Barbara for her gift.



Book your tickets for these three events!

1. PTFA Auction



Pre-register now! Start browsing our incredible items:
<https://app.galabid.com/shhs-auction2025/info/e0fd2db9-14c8-4377-854f-ed26ba17127>

Auction opens Wed 30 April
Live Auction – Friday 9 May

Tickets (for adults) available in Connect and using this link:

[SHHS Fundraising Auction! | Events | Sacred Heart High School Hammersmith](#)

Join us in person for an **electric atmosphere** as a professional auctioneer from Olympia Auction takes the stage. Expect exclusive items, thrilling biddings, delicious food, a Fever-Tree Cocktail Bar (with signature drinks made by Y10 Thermomix Adviser, Dorota Trawinska) along with a fully stocked bar, and the chance to connect with (old and new) friends, parents, and teachers.

[SHHS Fundraising Auction! | Events | Sacred Heart High School Hammersmith](#)

LFA London Festival of Architecture

2. London Festival of Architecture comes to Sacred Heart, 10 + 14 June 2025!

The London Festival of Architecture (LFA) this year has the theme **Voices** and is keen to tell the stories of those who have occupied significant sites in London. They approached us to ask if our 'Nunnery at Hammersmith' talk could be included as an official festival event open to the public and we agreed.

The LFA have renamed the talk for the festival (**7pm here on 10th June**) as:

LOST WOMEN'S VOICES - and a true story you will never forget.

but it's the same Nunnery at Hammersmith story. If you haven't attended yet, feel free to come in June, tickets £12.

The festival's website and promotion all start on 6 May and tickets will be available there and through Connect from Monday 5 May 2025.

We will also be open to the public for history tours on Saturday 14 June. It won't be possible to tell the whole story for the tours, but tickets are free.

This talk reveals details about a series of rather extraordinary and forthright women who occupied our site from 1669 right through to the start of the 20th century.

This properly jaw dropping tale includes queens operating illegally; a large clandestine convent (likely to be the only one operating in England at the time); nuns in disguise; lots of arrests and imprisonment and lying in court. There are several raids and people trying to attack the convent but somehow it survives all of it.

The story extends into the twentieth century with detail of how the Society of the Sacred Heart were expelled from France and showcases items we have here in school that they managed to smuggle out of France to prevent them being seized by the French government.



3. Summer Garden Party



Do also book your (adult) tickets for our Summer Garden Party on Tuesday 8 July 2025.

This will include an exhibition about Madeleine Sophie Barat and a display showcasing progress on all our restoration projects.

Canape buffet included in ticket price. A paid bar including the fabulous Sacred Heart cocktail.

[Summer Garden Party | Events | Sacred Heart High School Hammersmith](#)

A short film about our organ: 'The Lost Loret' and tenders issued for restoration



Portrait of Hippolyte Loret (1810-1881) who made our organ and his workshop letterhead

A third-year journalism student at the University of Northampton has just completed her final year project, by creating a 10 minute film about the discovery of the provenance of our very rare organ made by Hippolyte Loret! You can watch this here. A few final corrections are still be added before we post it online but we felt you'd like to see this draft:

[The Lost Loret - Documentary](#)

A number of organ builders and restorers have been contacted to submit detailed cost proposals to repair our organ. The cost is likely to be significant and we will be making funding applications to a number of trusts once the cost has been properly ascertained from the tender responses.

Cloister Paintings Restoration



Our Phase 2 target is **£17,700** for the restoration of the two double height crucifixion panels at the bottom of the Blue Stairs. We have now raised more than £10,000 through repeats of the Nunnery at Hammersmith talk, its book sales and alumnae donations. We are extremely grateful and excited to be getting closer to the target.

We will then add to this from ticket sales to the London Festival of Architecture history talk on 10 June and from the Garden Party on 8 July—see page 8 for information about both these events

Wouldn't it be wonderful to see these panels restored and looked after. Direct donations to the cloister paintings fund can be made here:

[Cloister Paintings Restoration Fund | SHHS Hammersmith](#)

Approval from the Historic Churches Committee for new lights and audio visual systems in the chapel



We cannot make any changes in our Grade II* chapel without first obtaining consent from the Historic Churches Committee. Lighting is currently very poor in the chapel, especially on dark evenings and we need to improve this both for the benefit of our own activities in there with students but also as a step towards our goal of using the chapel for weddings – creating a useful income stream for the school.

Our scheme for new lights includes pendant lights, (copying a design by the chapel's original architect John Francis Bentley) but also including within the brackets some unobtrusive but effective spotlights.

We are now going out to tender and may also need to make some funding applications to help with the overall cost, but this project is progressing well.

Some images from the concept design are shown left and below.



A new screen, almost always completely hidden from view, rolled up behind the arch. This could be lowered on small wires and unfolded, all at the touch of a button, and then retracted back behind the arch. The current TV screens below, to be used elsewhere in the school.



Performing Arts Centre update



After a very long delay post Covid, the borough have been back in touch and they requested some very minor revisions to our scheme which are being submitted. They appeared optimistic for approval over the summer but we will keep you updated.

Blue Gates and stonework on Hammersmith Road

We have submitted an application to the borough for consent to proceed with repairs and await their consent.

Sacred Heart's Teacher Training Alliance



Sacred Heart leads the West London Teacher Training Alliance, actively recruiting potential teachers for over 50 schools across west London. We work in partnership with the Catholic university, St Mary's Twickenham and with the University of Roehampton with whom the Society of the Sacred Heart has strong links.

Our staff attended a Department for Education teacher training recruitment fair in March at the London Hilton Metropole hotel in Paddington.

Training teachers in school is important for many reasons. Firstly, with our staff acting as teacher trainers, it means that they get taught the very latest thinking on pedagogy. We keep at the forefront of pedagogical expertise and pass this on to other teachers at Sacred Heart through regular CPD (continuing professional development) sessions.

Our involvement in teacher training also gives us access to a pool of newly qualified teachers which can help our own teacher recruitment at this level. Our approach to trainee recruitment has always focussed on establishing a good fit between trainee applicants and the school. We seek trainees whose values align with those of the school.

UK MT Intermediate Maths Challenge

On 29 January, 130 Year 9 and 10 students sat the annual UK Intermediate Maths Challenge. Congratulations to all those students and especially those who earned a certificate for their high scores. We are very proud of all our mathematicians!



United Kingdom
Mathematics Trust

Bronze Certificates

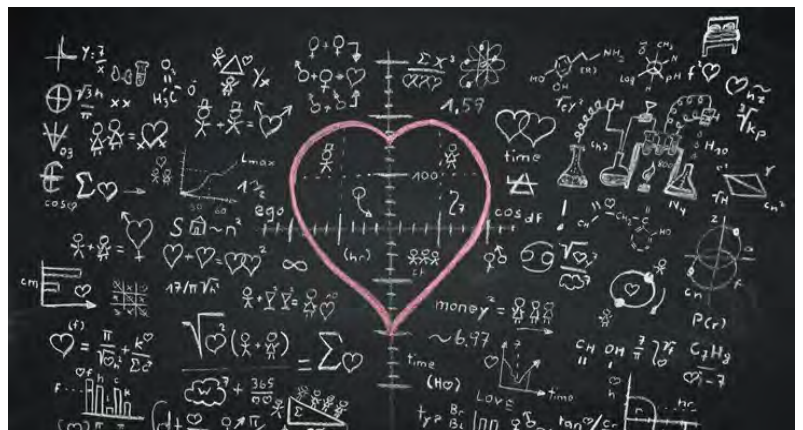
Thashni A	Lucinda C
Rose C	Emanuela C
Maria DFBR	Myra F
Angela D	Clementine H
Violet F	Tessa H
Diana G	Megan H
Alice G	Maame Ekua L
Maya H	Gabi MDA
Ellen H	Aimée M
Alexa Sian M	Maya N
Molly O	Natalia O
Amelia B	Clara R
Grace Q	Rebecca S
Hiyab S	Noel SR
Marina S	Anushka S
Stephanie A-K	Tania V
Christabel B	

Silver Certificates

Katherine S
 Maria MMCF
 Alex T
 Aoife D

Gold Certificates

Bethel K



The Library

see also overleaf

The Lent term has been particularly busy for the Library as we continued running our existing initiatives and introduced numerous new events, collaborations, clubs and competitions.

Significantly, the Library and school community celebrated World Book Day on 6 March. Our celebrations included many talks, workshops, events, and visits throughout the week of 3-7 March. On World Book Day itself, we hosted an author visit by children's/young adult's author Marianne Levy. Marianne held a workshop for Year 7 and 9 students about the practice of crafting a novel, inspiring many to read her books and start drafting their own.

On the morning of World Book Day, Year 12 LRC Ambassadors shared their book recommendations with the rest of the school, and students dressed up as literary characters in celebration of the day. It was fantastic to see so many creative ideas and investment in their characters of choice. The winners of our secret costume competition were: Teresa L, Gadea F, Khrystyna P as the Three Little Pigs (KS3), Elsie T-O and Delilah B as Oompa-Loompas (KS4), and Remi O, Katie-May Q, and Olivia S as Richard, Richmond, and the Horse from *Richard III* (KS5).

During World Book Week, we collaborated with Hammersmith Library and exchanged visits. A group of Reading Ambassadors visited Hammersmith Library at the beginning of the week, and shortly afterwards, the manager of Hammersmith Library, Ann, and her colleague Nina visited the school and introduced Hammersmith Library to all Year 8 students. During both visits, students got the opportunity to learn about the plentiful resources and activities offered at Hammersmith Library.

In addition, many different initiatives were offered by the school library during the week, such as themed after school clubs and activities during lunch times. Amongst others, the Library offered a 'Writing the first few pages of your novel' workshop, a book quiz, an origami book-making workshop, a book token design competition, and two events which enjoyed the most popularity: a 'What makes a novel a classic' talk for KS4 and KS5, and a 'Book to Film' debate during lunch time! It was fantastic to see our school community engaging in the celebration of books and reading.

Beyond World Book Day, the Library celebrated many other key dates. One of the most significant was Holocaust Memorial Day, during which students could browse a selection of non-fiction and fiction books based on the Holocaust. In order to pay our respects to all those who had suffered and died during the Holocaust, pupils made memorial flames out of paper and hung them on display in the Library. Pupils also read Holocaust survivor stories from a separate Library display.

The Library marked Letter Writing Week with a letter writing workshop, during which pupils had the opportunity to write a letter to their friends and loved ones. They practiced the art of curating a letter, including writing addresses and using appropriate register. Letters were sent both to the UK and abroad! Valentine's Day was also a particularly exciting event, as a corner of the Library was transformed into a heart-decorating station, and students were encouraged to write the title of book they love in a pink or orange heart and place it on our Valentine's Day display. To support a community of learning, they further had the opportunity to attend a lecture-style talk at the Library titled 'Depictions of Love in



Author, Marianne Levy



World book day costumes, more on page 14



Reading Ambassadors visit Hammersmith library



Shakespeare's sonnets', which explored how love was written about by Shakespeare and what his sonnets reveal it to be.

Most recently, the Library celebrated International Women's Day and Mothering Sunday. For International Women's Day, students read about inspirational women through various Library posters and took out books from our display of titles written by well-known female authors. Our new Reading and Crafting Club made flowers using different coloured tissue paper to celebrate the occasion. Reading and Crafting Club also made Mother's Day cards to celebrate Mothering Sunday.

Throughout the term, pupils engaged in many different competitions. In addition to the World Book Day token competition, students participated in a Creative Writing competition titled Fight or Flight. This competition gave students the opportunity to write a thrilling short story about a 'fight or flight' situation for a chance to be published in a Young Writers Anthology. Excitingly, 19 students have been selected to be published! We also started taking part in the Foyle Young Poets' Competition, one of the most prestigious poetry competitions in the UK. Pupils have already been sending their submissions ahead of the competition deadline in July!

Significantly, this term the Library held a school-wide Poetry Showcase as part of the Poetry by Heart poetry competition. Poetry by Heart is a spoken poetry competition whereby students are encouraged to learn a poem or two off by heart and perform it during a school showcase. The winners of the school showcase are entered into the national Poetry by Heart competition for a chance to perform their poems on stage at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in July. All performances at our showcase were executed beautifully, with students modelling a clear understanding and enthusiasm towards their poems. Our showcase winners were: Mirabella (Y7) performing 'In Flanders' Fields' by John McCrae, Olivia B (Y7) performing 'My Shadow' by Robert Louis Stevenson, and Manmeet (Y12) performing an original poem titled 'Embers of Ambition'. A big well done to these pupils, we hope to see you at Shakespeare's Globe in the summer!

A competition which we concluded this term was the Year 10 Six Book Challenge. Congratulations to all the students who had managed to complete the challenge and taken out various books from the Library. Together you managed to read a grand total of 154 books! The three winners of our raffle draw were: Sophia C, Sofia P, and Elena S. We hope you enjoyed your prizes!

This term Story-writing Club and Magazine Club have continued to flourish. Magazine Club released their fantastic Spring magazine issue, and Story-writing club covered many sophisticated aspects of writing a story, such as how to engage in the concept of 'meta' writing - learning about and practising the art of writing about writing itself. In addition to these clubs, the Library has reanimated two library clubs: Y10-13 Book Club and All years Journaling Club, and started a new club titled Reading and Crafting Club for students from Years 7-8.

Students in Year 10-13 book Club are currently reading their fifth book of the term: Frankenstein. Journaling Club is extremely popular as we journal about a range of topics including personal reflections and activities which make us happy. Reading and Crafting Club, which is built on the premise of engaging in literature while doing a craft-related activity, has recently engaged in guessing which literary quote belongs in which book and made cards for Mothering Sunday.



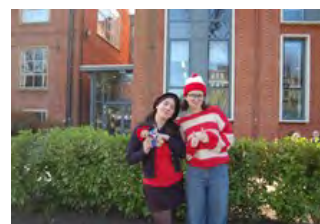
Reading and Crafting club celebrating International Women's Day with hand-made flowers



Library volunteers across all year groups have continued to play a significant and treasured role in the life of the Library. Their presence, commitment, and enthusiasm ceaselessly make a positive difference to how the library is encountered by our community. Year 12 LRC Ambassadors have also played an on-going and active role in supporting the Library's extra-curricular activities and maintaining its upkeep and organisation. In addition to volunteering at Paired Reading on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, they have contributed to Reading and Crafting Club and are in a continual process of creating a display for the Library titled 'LRC Ambassadors share their Classics recommendations' for younger students. We are grateful to have such wonderful role models.

As we approach the end of term, we are pleased to look back at how the Library has advanced its position in the wider literary community of Hammersmith & Fulham and the UK. Through our mutual visits with Hammersmith Library during World Book Week, as well as our engagement in various writing competitions, pupils had the opportunity to see themselves as part of a wider literary community and partake in projects and initiatives which bind different schools together. We are delighted and proud of the participation of our students and cannot wait to continue building these relationships over the course of the summer term.

More World Book Day costumes



World Book Day Costume competition winners



KS3



KS4



KS5

Year 12 Trip to Stratford

see also overleaf



We had a workshop on 12 March with the RSC - which involved a lecture by a Shakespeare historian and academic about Shakespeare's theatre, then a practical actor's rehearsal with an associate director of the RSC who got everyone to recite 'To be or not to be...' and work on staging and movement.

Finally we went back to the RSC stage, to meet some of the actors talking about this particular production of Hamlet and the decisions which led to it being staged on a liner in 1911 which sinks (Titanic!). Rupert Goold is the director.

In the evening we watched the production of Hamlet. We stayed at the Youth Hostel just outside Stratford, and the next day we visited Shakespeare's birthplace and Anne Hathaway's Cottage.



Year 12 Trip to Stratford



Personally, I really enjoyed the Stratford upon Avon trip!

I thought it was a great experience seeing Shakespeare's house and Anne Hathaway's cottage, it was really interesting to be able to see how the two of them lived- finding out that the Hathaways owned the cottage for hundreds of years is my favourite fact that I learned there. The absolute best part of the trip for me was seeing Hamlet live. The actors were phenomenal and the use of a moving set really impressed me, being able to talk to the directors was also very enjoyable.

Lois



We started off our day with a workshop showing us not only how to read between the lines whilst studying but how to feel the emotions in the words. We then watched the play Hamlet which was very intriguing to see how they set the play and how each actor embodied their character. To end our trip we got to see Shakespeare and Anne Hathaway's house which was very interesting. I think my peers would agree with me in saying this trip was very fun.

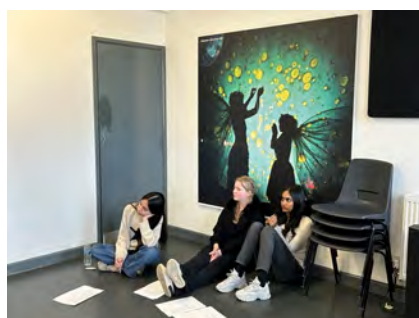
Malia

Such a fun trip. Extremely insightful and helped me to visualise Shakespeare as someone who actually existed.

Esther Chelsea

Visiting Stratford-Upon-Avon was very exciting and I was able to see Anne Hathaway and Shakespeare's extensive cottages. Overall, the trip was excellent, particularly the Hamlet play that we will be studying - It allowed me to have a good clear insight of the dynamic of the play and how it can be interpreted differently in the modern day compared to Shakespeare's time. I enjoyed it very much.

Francoise



Sacred Heart's online shop

There's lots on offer in our online shop. Do check it out. Use the Connect tab on the school website. You don't need to be an online member of Connect and you don't need to login, just go straight to the **shop tab** at the top.

Top tip, paying online won't work until you have selected the item to be delivered or collected from school.

New merchandise added this term



Sophie Bear key ring £6.00



Ceramic Logo Mug explaining the symbolism behind our logo design, £8



Bone China Logo Mug, £14

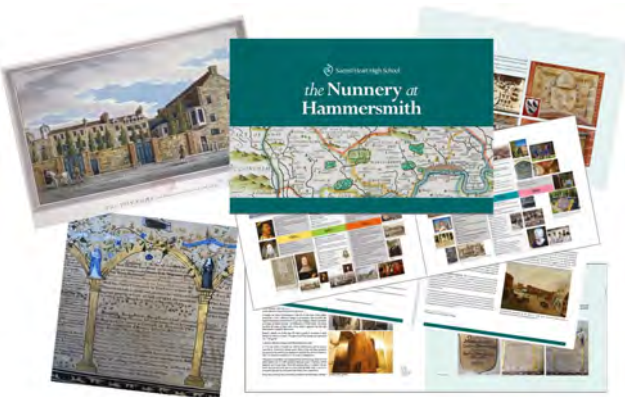


Bone China Stained Glass Window Mug, £14
These are panels from the window in our chapel which feature heart designs

Other particularly popular items include



SHHS Gel Pen, £2



The full colour book about the significant Catholic history of our site, and the incredible women associated with it 'The Nunnery at Hammersmith', £15



Navy tote bag £3



Future Sounds Preliminary Round *at the Rhythm Studio*

A selection of our students had the opportunity to perform at the wonderful Rhythm Studio in Hammersmith for the preliminary rounds of the Tri-borough's Future Sounds competition. Future Sounds is a "Battle of the Bands" style competition that Sacred Heart has a proud history of competing in, and our students represented the school with pride.

We were fortunate enough to bring 6 different entries this year representing Years 9-12 who had all been working incredibly hard over the last month with Mr Kellett, our Guitar/Drums teacher.

At the conclusion of the preliminary rounds, the judges select seven entrants (out of over fifty!) to go through to the Future Sounds final at Bush Hall on 26 March, and two of our bands, **Rise** and **Reverie**, made it through to the final, - see overleaf!

We are incredibly proud of all the Sacred Heart performers in the preliminary round:

Serendipity (Y9): Ava K, Michaela F, Freda K, Katherine S

M.I.A (Y10): Jhennielle A, Carla B, Maxinne M, Chloe D, Mia M S, Rebecca S

Time Out (Y10/11): Vanessa Z, Clara LC, Anushka S, Perpetua P

Feedback (Y9/11): Seraphina P, Sesina D, Perpetua P, Saoirse O'N, Lydia M

Rise (Y11): Olivia Z, Lydia M

Reverie (Y12): Laiza L, Susana G M





Future Sounds Final at Bush Hall

Two of our music groups went on from the preliminary round to compete at the Triborough's Future Sounds competition final at Bush Hall. Future Sounds is a big Battle of the Bands style event run by the Music Hub, featuring some of the top talents from the Tri-borough area.

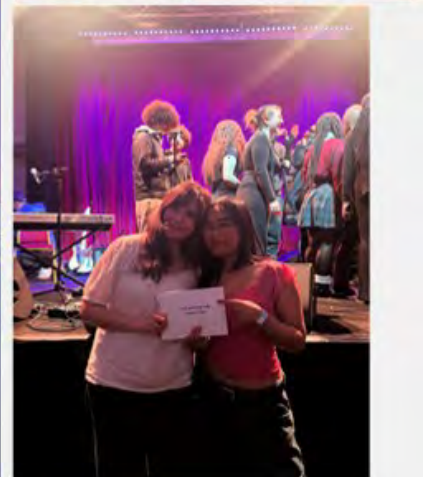
Alongside having an extraordinary performance opportunity, contestants received feedback from some of the most prominent names in the music industry, including Will Champion from the band Coldplay and Sharleen Spiteri of the band Texas.

Rise (Olivia Z and Lydia M) performed Somebody You Loved by Lewis Capaldi and their original song Pieces, and received a rapturous reception from the adjudication panel and the audience alike. The panel even thought their original song could be a great pick as the theme for a new James Bond movie!

Reverie (Laiza L and Susana GM) performed Best Part by Daniel Caesar and their original song Daydream, which the panel thought was a brilliant and well-constructed original work. They were thoroughly commended on how well they complimented each other and how they worked as a team.

Laiza ended up winning the hotly contested award for Best Vocalist, which was an incredible feat that we're all very proud of.

Massive congratulations to Laiza, and a huge well done to Susana, Lydia and Olivia for representing themselves and the school with pride and confidence.



Drama trips this term

The Drama department is committed to taking students to see live theatre across London to help grow their knowledge of what theatre is and can be and inspire their own work in the classroom. The focus of both performances this term was on strong women in British History and Theatre which was very relevant considering March is Women's History Month. One of our students was even lucky enough to get an autograph from the lead actress Anna Chancellor from *Playhouse Creatures*!

This term GCSE and A-Level students have been lucky enough to see:

Playhouse Creatures by April De Angelis at The Orange Tree Theatre Richmond

Mary and the Hyenas at Wilton's Music Hall

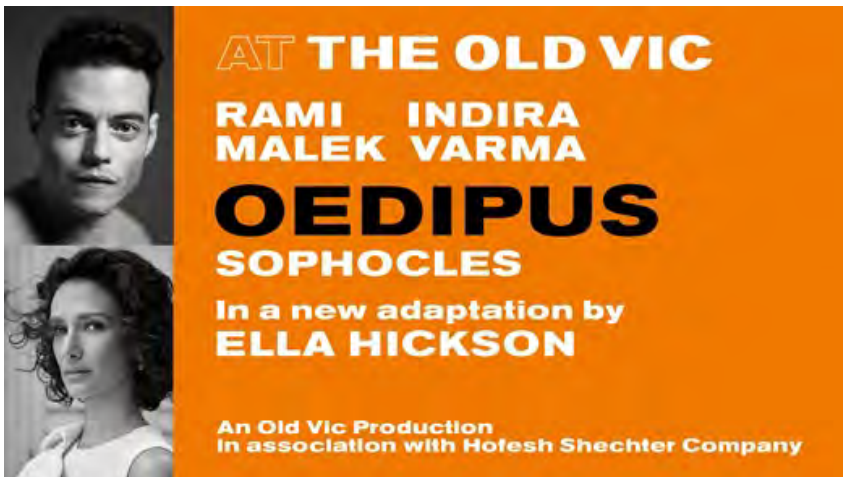
Oedipus at the Old Vic – Sixth Form Classics and Drama trip



Playhouse Creatures



Mary and the Hyenas



Isabella and Niamh with Anna Chancellor's autograph



Year 10 with an actress from Playhouse Creatures

GCSE Drama Scripted Acting Performance



As part of the Year 11 GCSE Drama course, students were required to deliver a scripted performance for a visiting examiner. On Friday, 28 March, the Year 11 cohort showcased their final performance pieces to an AQA examiner. The students presented a diverse range of monologues, duologues, and group performances. Each student demonstrated professionalism and skill, delivering impressive performances. Congratulations to the Year 11 GCSE Drama class on their outstanding achievements.

GCSE Drama Devised Performance



As part of the Drama GCSE course, Year 11 students were tasked with creating an original play from scratch. Using a stimulus based around the theme of "influence", they developed impressive pieces of theatre in the style of Epic Theatre, drawing inspiration from the German practitioner Bertolt Brecht.

Papatango

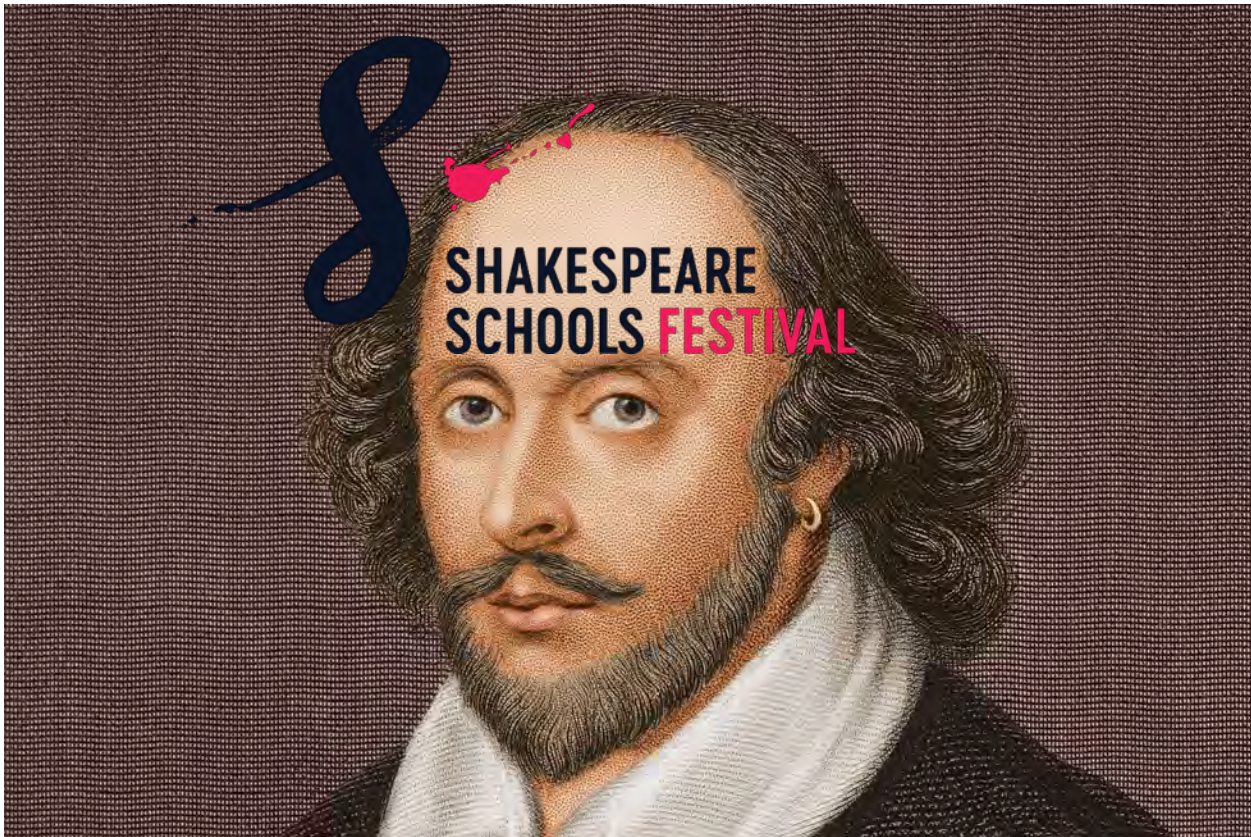


Each year, the Drama department collaborates with the Olivier Award-winning theatre company, Papatango.

Papatango guides our students in writing their own original monologues, which are then published and professionally printed. These monologues are then performed and recorded by professional actors for students to view.

This year, Papatango worked with a group of talented Year 9 students. The students produced exceptional work, with all pieces demonstrating a high level of professionalism!

Well done Year 9.



On 28 February, 18 talented Year 9 students participated in the annual Shakespeare Schools' Festival. This is the biggest theatre festival for young people in the world. This year Sacred Heart performed King Lear at The Unicorn Theatre at London Bridge.

Below is an appraisal from the festival adjudicator on the evening. Well done everyone!

You all had an extremely mature and nuanced grasp of both tragic and comedic acting; some of your characters were vicious, some proud, some funny, some dignified, and many were a combination of all of these. What stood out most, however, was the unwavering commitment each actor brought to their role. This deep dedication allowed the audience to connect with and empathise with the characters on a profound level. As a result, the finale was incredibly moving. Watching the characters we had come to care for inevitably spiral toward their tragic fates felt both heart-wrenching and unavoidable.



The Paper Birds
Theatre Company

Year 10 participate in Verbatim Theatre workshop with The Paper Birds

Year 10 students are currently devising their Component 2 performance pieces. This year's stylistic focus is on using Verbatim Theatre to tell real stories or real people and events using real words. Both GCSE Drama classes were lucky enough to participate in a workshop with The Paper Birds Theatre Company whose focus is on contemporary storytelling using Verbatim Theatre techniques.



National Careers Week



We marked National Careers Week at Sacred Heart with a series of assemblies for each different year group, all presented by the amazing Y11 Careers ambassadors. There was also a visit to a careers fair at St Paul's Boys' School for a number of Year 10 students, who very much enjoyed learning about a range of careers (and dressing up as firefighters!).

After the careers fair, the students were privileged to hear a brilliant talk from Caitlin Ellis from Investin, who spoke about the importance of skills in a changing and unpredictable work environment. We are looking forward to welcome Caitlin into school after Easter to support other groups of students.



Caitlin Ellis from Investin



Alumnae Speaker



In February, we were delighted to welcome SHHS alumnae, Stephanie Frackowiak to speak to our sixth formers about her career in technology and what it is like to work for a startup.

She gave amazing, inspiring advice to our students, including how to deal with challenges and disappointments and how to make your mark as a woman in a male-dominated work environment.

Thank you very much Stephanie for giving us your insights and inspiration!

Harry Potter Club Outing

Expecto Patronum!

On the 7 March the Harry Potter Club outing took place to see both parts of Harry Potter and the Cursed Child at the Palace Theatre. This amazing theatrical spectacle has been thrilling muggles and non-muggles alike since its premier in June 2016. Written by Jack Thorne (of *Adolescence* fame) from an original story by JK Rowling, the production has garnered countless awards and transferred to theatres across the world.

It is easy to see why. You might think that five and a half hours in the theatre would be something of a marathon, but the time whizzed by in a flurry of theatrical magic, punctuated by moments of humour, excitement fear and emotion. The production itself was a box of tricks combining amazing acting, costumes, sets and jaw-dropping special effects.

No Harry Potter Club member will forget the terror of being attacked by a dementor or having He-who-must-not-be-named march through the theatre, swishing his cape.

As if this was not excitement enough, we also visited the Harry Potter shop just down the road, where some Hogwarts merch was very keenly purchased, as well as a non-Harry Potter visit to McDonalds. It was certainly a night that none of us will ever forget!



UCAS

On Monday, I had the opportunity to attend the UCAS Fair at London which is an event organised to help students explore their university and career options. The event was held at a huge exhibition centre, with the fair crowded with universities, apprenticeship providers, and other establishments, all offering information and guidance - even Specsavers were there. As a person who has been attempting to plan out my future, I was excited as well as nervous. Speaking directly to representatives gave me a much clearer idea of what different universities and courses are like, and I felt much more comfortable with the choices that I will eventually have to make.

The moment I stepped inside I was welcomed by a buzzing atmosphere. There were what seemed like hundreds of students from all over navigating their way around the labyrinth of stalls, picking up prospectuses, asking questions, and grabbing all the free items they could get their hands on. It was mad. Universities from across the country were all lined up, each one with its own stall. I was surprised by how much of a variety there were that I hadn't even considered before, and it was wonderful to find courses that I never knew I would be interested in or even knew existed. There was one booth with an interactive quiz, and then one with a VR experience where they showed me around the campus virtually. It was like having a peek at university life without even stepping foot on campus.

One of the best things about the fair was the chance to speak with university representatives face to face. They gave me so much advice on how to make a strong application and insight into what life at university is actually like. I was nervous at first, but the representatives were extremely welcoming and gave me straight answers. Although they spoke about their positive things they also spoke about the challenges of univer-

sity life, too, like how much work there was and being away from home. Some people that I spoke to were shocked at the range of choices there were and for people who didn't know what they were interested in yet, it helped them limit what they might want to do in the future .

I also had the privilege of speaking to students who are currently studying at these universities and them sharing their experiences was really helpful. They gave me tips on managing study life and managing stress whilst also making the most out of university's social life.

Of course, no UCAS Fair experience would be complete without collecting some free stuff too. I managed to grab loads of tote bags (over 20), pens, lip balms, and even a phone stand. Sadly, I missed some of the hats and coffee mugs, but it was worth it because I got the chance to soak up valuable information and hear people's personal experiences which will help me when deciding what universities to apply for.

Overall, the UCAS Fair was a super worthwhile experience. It helped me get a much clearer idea of my options after school, and honestly, it made the process of choosing a university feel less intimidating. I'm still not 100% sure what path I'll take, but the fair definitely made it feel less overwhelming. For anyone who couldn't make it, there are still tons of ways to research different pathways, like visiting university websites or speaking with careers advisors. No matter what you choose, though, it's clear that there are so many exciting opportunities waiting for you - you just have to be open to exploring them.

Milan W, 12H



CONTEMPORARY SOUNDS



SHHS's annual Contemporary Sounds competition returned on 25 March featuring some of the best bands and musical acts that the school has to offer. We had a staggering 13 bands perform, with a further 4 acts supporting them pre-show and a brilliant performance by the Glee Club. The Old Gym was packed out as each band played a cover song for the audience and a judging panel featuring ex-collegian Sophia Mohan of the band SOMOH.

The standard of performances this year hit a new high, and all performers should be incredibly proud of all they have accomplished. In the end, a winner had to be decided, and it was Year 10 band M.I.A (Jhennielle A, Maxinne M, Carla B, Chloe D, Rebecca S and Mia MS) whose lively performance captivated and rocked the audience. Awards were also given for Best Vocalist (Olivia Z; RISE & Feedback), Best Guitarist (Maxinne M; M.I.A & VELIS), Best Bassist (Sofia M; Collection Point), Best Drummer (Sesina D; Leora, Feedback), and Best Performer (Ava K; Serendipity).

Well done once again to all, and a big thank you to Mr McConnell, Mrs Jones, Mr Kellett and Miss Mallon for all their help coordinating the show.



Remarkable Women

Making a Difference in Education



Sacred Heart has close ties to Roehampton University. Digby Stuart College at Roehampton is part of the global Sacred Heart Network made up of schools, colleges, and universities across the world who were all created by the Society of the Sacred Heart (RSCJs). Headteachers from across the Sacred Heart Network visited this new exhibition at the university (7 March-26 March 2025), entitled **Remarkable Women: Making a Difference in Education**.

The exhibition celebrates International Women's Day and Women's History Month.

It is not possible to describe the extraordinary work of all these highly achieving women, but a few honourable mentions are included below. Most of the text below was included in the exhibition. Some text has been added by Sacred Heart in italics.

Mabel Digby RSCJ Superior at Roehampton 1872-1894. Opened Wandsworth Teacher Training College 1874. Fifth Superior General of the Society of the Sacred Heart.

While the Superior at Roehampton of the English Vicariate of the Society of the Sacred Heart, Mabel Digby laid many foundations for the education of Catholic girls and women in England. It was only during Mabel's early years that Catholic education was re-established in England, following the return of the Catholic hierarchy since its banishment in the Reformation.

In 1874 she accessed government funds and negotiated with Bishops to open one of the first Catholic teacher training colleges in the country - now Digby Stuart College.

Mabel purchased our school site in Hammersmith for the Society and Sacred Heart High School still partners with Digby Stuart College at Roehampton for many of the teacher training course that we offer.

As Superior General, she was forced to relocate 2,500 sisters from France, as the country moved to complete secularisation. *She was also responsible for overseeing the shipment out of France of many of the Society's possessions that would otherwise have been seized. This includes the statue of Jesus in our cloister garden, the altar in our Lady Chapel, and the organ in our chapel.*

[c. Society of the Sacred Heart England and Wales Province archives]

Janet Erskine Stuart RSCJ. Superior of the Province 1894-1911. Relocated teacher training college to St Charles Square in Kensington 1905. Sixth Superior General of the Society 1911-1914.

Janet oversaw the growing educational needs of the Society, including a huge amount of growth in the teacher training college and in response to this she



acquired for the college, a new larger property in St Charles Square, Kensington. Janet was known for her intellect and being a prolific writer. From sending encouraging letters to those teaching in Sacred Heart schools, to the authorship of several books including 'Education of Catholic girls' which is still in print, she is regarded as having much to say to education today.

'Aim at the very highest and the best but understand that to get this is a life's work, not the work of a day, so never let failure cast down or disappoint you. But always begin again with great courage and confidence' Janet Erskine Stuart RSCJ

[c. Society of the Sacred Heart England and Wales Province archives]

Dr Beryl Gilroy, Headteacher and Writer 1950s -1970s

Beryl Gilroy was one of Britain's first Black headteachers. Overcoming the racial discrimination experienced by the Windrush generation, she secured a teaching position in 1953 and later led Beckford Primary School, championing multicultural education. Studying for a Froebel Teaching Diploma and later earning a Ph.D., she became an ethno-psychotherapist, focusing on the mental health of Black women and children.

Her memoir *Black teacher* (1976) candidly recounts her experiences in post-war London and her children's books including the *Nippers* series were among the first to depict Black British life.

Professor Marilyn Holness, OBE, Deputy Principal Southlands College, Roehampton 2002-2006

Appointed Deputy Principal of Southland's College, Marilyn blended her academic and pastoral passions into delivering empathetic student support to enhance the student experience - meeting the needs of the whole person. In 2009 Marilyn received an OBE for services to teacher education, one of only 10 ever awarded for teacher education. Her portrait was taken for the *Phenomenal Women's* exhibition at the London Southbank in 2020 that featured all 40 UK Black women professors. At the time of the exhibition there were 22,000 UK professors and fewer than 1% were black. Currently she is the university's first Dean of Students, a Professor of Education, Engagement and Practice and has recently been appointed as Head of Digby Stuart College.

Bernadette Porter RSCJ CBE, Principal of Digby Stuart College 1989-1999, Rector and Chief Executive of Roehampton 1999-2004, Vice-Chancellor of Roehampton University 2004

Sr Dr Bernadette Porter RSCJ (Bernie) has the unique honour of having held the title of Roehampton Student and Vice-Chancellor. After completing a PhD at King's College she returned to join the teaching staff of the newly formed Roehampton Institute of Higher Education.

Bernie was appointed Principal of Digby Stuart College and Pro-Rector of the Roehampton Institute before becoming Rector and Chief executive of Roehampton. She was appointed as the university's first Vice-Chancellor in 2004 – at the time one of very few female Vice-Chancellors in the UK.

On leaving the university, she was appointed as Treasurer General of the Society of the Sacred Heart in Rome. She was made CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2005 and awarded Fellow of the University in 2006.



Irish Cultural Centre (ICC) Project

Twenty-four of our Year 9 students have been involved in an intergenerational project in collaboration with the Irish Cultural Centre in Hammersmith, working with some elderly Irish people who emigrated to London. This week they are completing the first stage of meeting these people and beginning to find out their life stories; their experiences growing up in Ireland and their life when they moved to London while comparing this to their modern day experience.

The students have been receiving skills and training in interviewing, photography, cinematography, editing and sound. Next week they are putting this into practice for the finished product where they will be solely on their own as they complete the final part of the interviews. This project will include a short film, photographs and objects that are symbolic of the persons life. It will be showcased as part of the ICCs anniversary and indeed our schools cultural celebrations later in the year.



On 12 March, two Year 9 students, Ava W and Violet F were interviewed on Portobello Radio at the ICC, Hammersmith about the intergenerational project they have been working on there. This was alongside their community officer, Siobhan Reynolds, who we have been closely working with on the project.

They both spoke very eloquently and confidently. If you would like to listen, the link is below. Their interview starts around 17 minutes 30 seconds in and ends at around 28 minutes.

https://www.mixcloud.com/Portobello_Radio/bright-side-of-the-road-live-from-myclondon-s5-ep07-st-patricks-day-special/



See below a link to the Irish Times article featuring three of our Year 9 students talking about their experiences of Irish culture and heritage in London. The article features a whole host of other families and people. The students and specifically the Irish Cultural Centre/school project mentions, are near the end but there is a lovely photo of the students at the top of the article!

[Irish Times Article about Irish Identity](#)



Madeleine Sophie Music Competition



On 25 March we were treated to performances from our finalists in the Madeleine Sophie Music Competition. Judges Adonis Alvanis and Avril Moore were incredibly impressed with all of the musicians; their professionalism and sense of performance really shone through. The judges shared that it felt like more of a concert than a competition!

Huge congratulations to all who took part, you were all winners and the judges found it very hard to choose between you!

First and second place winners from each category are shown right, below with **Ting Ting W (Y13) as the overall winner.**

Intermediate Category

1st place, Zoe L (Y7) who sang Somewhere from West Side Story

2nd place, Zoe M (Y7) who sang Never Enough from the Greatest Showman

Advanced Category

1st place, Ting Ting W (Y13) who played Etude No.1 (S. Arriagada) on the flute

2nd place, Stefania O (Y13) who played Praeludium and Allegro (Frtiz Kreisler) on the violin.



Junior Choir at the Tri-Borough Music Hub Showcase



Thirty-three students, Y7 and Y8 attended and represented SHHS beautifully.

They performed When I Grow Up and Colours of the Wind to the rest of the schools participating and took part in the vocal workshop lead by Evie Asio.

A great morning was had by all and huge thanks to Katie Lynn for rehearsing the students.

Debating Lent Term

The debaters have had yet another exciting term, filled with lively discussions on a variety of thought-provoking topics, ranging from current global issues to philosophical dilemmas. There have been trips to inter-school competitions across London, with students performing exceptionally well across the board. This term's outstanding achievements culminated in a weekend trip to Durham University, where Sacred Heart girls took on the top debaters from all across the country.

January

The Advanced debating team competed in the Oxford regional competition, hosted by St Paul's Girls' School.

Our Intermediate debating team went to St Marylebone School to compete in the second round of the Junior Debate League.

February

City of London School for Girls hosted a competition for our Year 7 and 8 debaters and our Year 8 team came away with a very impressive win.

The Middle School Debate Shield was hosted by Ealing Field's school. Our Year 10 and 11 debaters competed and came away with consecutive 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th place positions. We were the second most successful school after St Paul's Boys' and against a very strong field.

March

The third round of the Junior Debate shield was hosted at SHHS. Special mention goes to our Year 8 team who qualified for the regional final (Vesa B, Martha L, Clara C, Anna R, Sofia R, Rosa B, Francesca S). with our Year 8 team qualifying for the regional final.

The SHHS Junior Debate League also saw our Year 7 beginner debaters taking first place!



Year 7 and 8 students debated four day school week and banning combat sports. Huge congratulations must go to Martha, Vesa, Clara, Anna, Sofia and Rosa in Year 8 who won!



Durham Schools Debate Competition 28 - 30 March 2025

Our school's debating team recently had the incredible opportunity to travel to Durham for a highly anticipated debating competition. The event was held at Durham University, and we had the opportunity to visit the world renowned cathedral and castle and to walk along the idyllic medieval streets. All of these things provided a beautiful backdrop for the competition.

We participated in five rounds over the course of two days, the motions discussing a wide range of thought provoking topics. From Ai use to successful athletes, and various philosophies, to our country's legal system and so much more. Our debaters needed to be able to think quickly, critically, speak confidently, and collaborate effectively as a team, as bp debating (the type we do), is all about partnerships. The competition was fast-paced and challenging, with teams from all over the country offering tough competition. But this just made the debates all the more interesting as all participants had incredibly original ideas and fascinating expertise.

Not only did the competition offer a platform for our students to demonstrate their debating skills, but it also allowed us to meet other debaters from all across the country, people that we would never usually have the opportunity to encounter, exchange ideas, and make new friends. And one of other things which felt more important than the actual notion of winning, was our bonding as a team. While we did not walk away with the top prize, we gained valuable experience and insights that will definitely strengthen our skills for future debates. As someone who had never gone before, I would enthusiastically recommend and say it was an incredible experience, one I would happily repeat.



Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge Finals



After the training day with the public speaking professional, we were excited to implement all the new skills and techniques we had learnt into our new speeches. We had to prepare a 2-3 minute speech about a topic we felt strongly about to deliver to an audience and panel of judges.

Before the competition, we were given a session with a public speaking professional and got to know the rest of the competitors which was really helpful as it got rid of some of the nerves and was really confidence boosting.

The process of writing my own speech and having to present it was a great experience because it allowed me to share something I am truly passionate about with others, and gave me an opportunity to make my voice heard and hopefully spark change!

We listened to the other competitors' speeches which were lovely and it was really insightful to hear about what other young people our age care about. At the end of the evening the winners were announced and Leora took second place! A huge congratulations to her and many thanks to our wonderful teacher Miss Linden who coached us beforehand and took us to the event!

I had a wonderful time taking part in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge.

Taina Year 10

Hi! My name is Leora Olajuwon and I participated in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Hammersmith and Fulham Borough Final where I achieved the honoured position of Runner-up.

My experience was very enlightening as it got me to step out of my comfort zone. This was seen through the exercises that all the candidates had to partake in, we did activities that ensured all the contestants got to know each other. These activities were very fun and interactive, it wasn't the regular 'Stand in the front and introduce yourself' which was very refreshing and made me feel more relaxed. The atmosphere was very welcoming and you could feel the excitement in the room! Everybody was very supportive, nobody was pretending as though they weren't nervous, this reminded me that we were all in this for the same reason- making sure that our intellect was cherished and valued.

The workshop also offered more guidance and improved my public speaking skills. For example, one of the exercises we had to do was that we all had to form two lines: one line had to have their backs turned and the other line had to recite their speech to the person opposite them.

The person who had their backs turned had to turn around when they gained interest in the speech. This was very productive as it taught us how to make our speeches more captivating.

When it was time for the competition, as you can imagine, I was extremely nervous. But everybody was so comforting which helped ease the tension.

I am very thankful for this opportunity, and I would advise any young person reading this to consider taking part in this challenge because you never know how far you'll go. I give thanks to Jesus Christ for giving me beautiful intellect.

Leora Year 10

Speaking Up and being heard!

We are so proud of Daisy K from Year 8 who used her initiative to write to the Mayor of London.

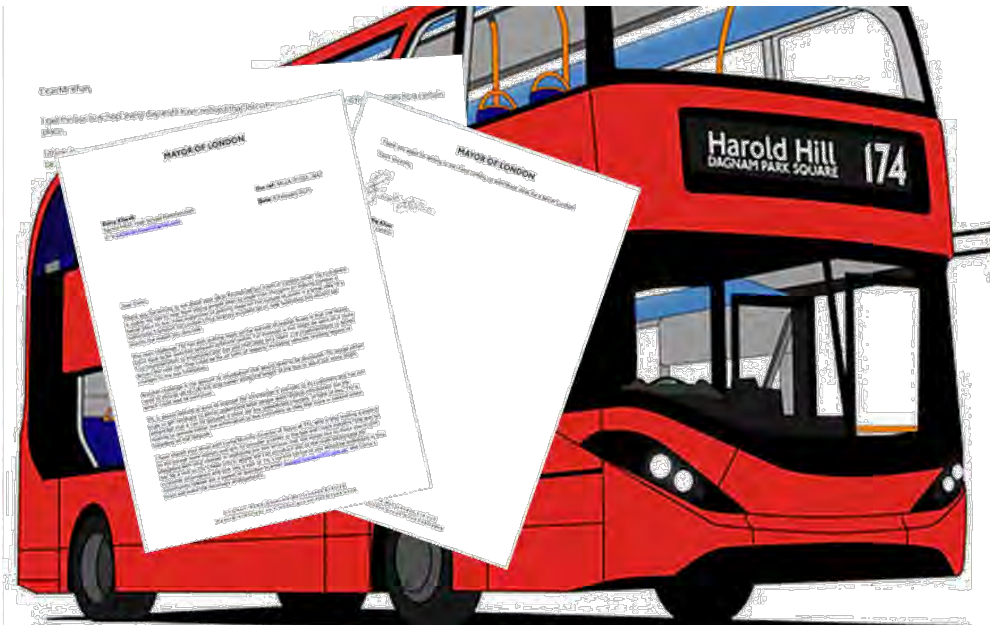
Dear Mr Khan,

I get the bus to school every day and I have noticed that lots of people get on asking if the bus goes to a certain place . I think it would be a good idea if there were journey maps for the bus like there are on the tube trains. They could be on the outside of the buses so people don't have to get on and they could be in the inside to help people out!
😊

From Daisy K, Sacred Heart High School Hammersmith, Yr 8

Daisy then received a personal reply from Sir Sadiq Khan, who explained some difficulties they have because the same buses are used on different routes but that they have been trialing some digital information systems.

He said that he had shared her email with Lorna Murphy (Director of Buses at TfL, who is leading a project to encourage more women and girls to consider a career in the bus and coach industry) and that she would like to invite Daisy to visit TfL's head office, where she can be introduced to the team responsible for customer information and she can have a tour of TfL's control centre.



Safer Internet Day



Images: NSPCC Keeping Children Safe Online

In February our Head of Computer Studies, Mr Ogwiji and Ms Conran Deputy Head led Keeping Safe Online assemblies for all year groups. Students reflected on the positive and negative impact of the online world, learning more about how to stay safe and understanding what to do if they have worries or concerns.

All KS3 & KS4 students secure their phones in Yondr pouches during the school day which ensures their focus on teaching and learning and our community.

All online access is supervised in class.

PSHE Day

Year 7

The theme for Year 7 was a focus on relationships with others.

The students took part in two workshops facilitated by the organisations 'Tender' and 'Let Me Know'. These organisations specialise in supporting young people in developing a healthy mindset regarding positive friendships.

In the afternoon they watched a live production of a thought provoking play called Hope, by Take Away Productions. 'Hope' is the story of a beautiful and successful pop star returning to the town where she grew up for the first time in years. A chance encounter between her and an old school acquaintance brings back painful memories of her childhood and the systematic abuse and bullying she suffered at the hands of a classmate. It is a story of courage, self-empowerment and redemption.



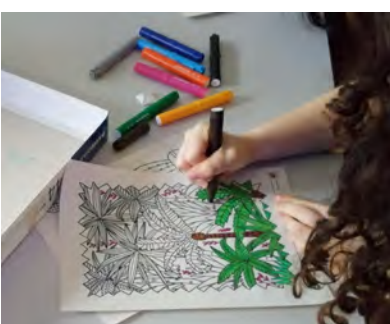
Year 8

The theme for Year 8 was Relationships with the Wider World, with a particular focus on goal setting and the career pathways that will shape their future. Students had a goal setting workshop delivered to them by a company called **Positively You**, with a focus on helping students to raise their aspirations, identify goals and plan their journey to achieving their ambitions - creating a positive mindset. Alongside the workshop, pupils completed a number of other activities related to careers and exploring the world of work.



Year 9

The theme for Year 9 was 'Drugs, Alcohol and Staying Safe Whilst Socialising'. We had a range of interactive and engaging including classroom-based lessons, a talk from a serving **Police Officer** about peer pressure, drugs and keeping safe, a self-defence class from **Shin Bushido** and mindfulness sessions.



PSHE Day, Year 10 First Give

The theme for Year 10 was 'Living in the Wider World: Citizenship'; with activities all focussing on 'Charities and Charitable Giving'. The girls worked in groups beforehand to create their own charity and they presented their ideas to their form group at the end of the day.

For several weeks Year 10 form groups had been supporting an individual local charity of their choice as part of our First Give programme.

In the afternoon of PSHE Day, the whole of Year 10 gathered together for the First Give final where each form motivated for the importance of their chosen charity. Our Y10 band performed while judges deliberated.

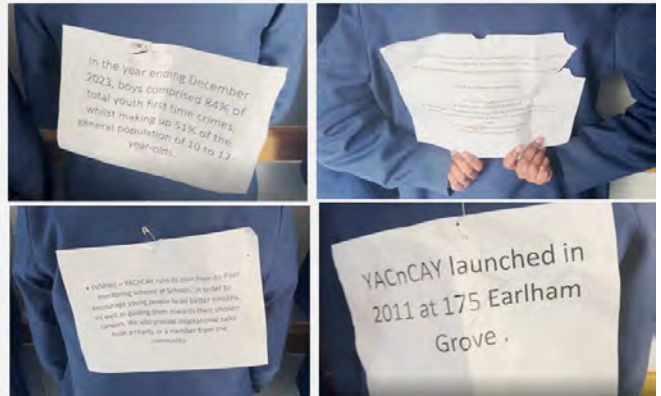
A panel including Cllr Adam Lang and Maddie George and Emma Yentis from First Give selected Talia, Ireland, Amy and Chloe as the winning group and they were presented with a cheque for £1,000 from First Give for their chosen charity: **Youth Against Crime not Crime Against Youth**. An award for the best single performance was given to **Rebecca**.

As part of their First Give Initiative to raise awareness of Youth Crime in London, 10R wore factsheets on their blazers/bags/jumpers around the school for the day. Their campaign is all about preventing youth crime called WHERE IS THE LOVE?

These facts included statistics about Youth Crime rates from March 2023-2024 as well as facts about their chosen charity, **Youth Against Crime not Crime Against Youth (YACnCAY)**. YACnCAY are a South London based charity whose work is centred around Christian gospel values which they use to prevent Youth Crime. They are a preventative charity that also promotes the education of young people by making them understand that staying in education and staying away from crime can allow them to achieve their future hopes and aspirations.

More information can be found on their website <https://www.yacncay.com> and their social media pages.

Well done 10R.



PSHE Day, Teachers vs Students Charity Football Match, First Give

Form 10S organised a social action event to raise money and awareness for **Solace**, a domestic violence charity. The chosen social action was a **teacher vs students football match**. They chose this because during football matches, the cases of domestic violence rise especially when fans face a defeat, even more so during international matches such as the World Cup.

Solace helps women specifically who have survived domestic violence feel heard and understood, they also help survivors and their families by providing temporary accommodation, therapy and legal advice.

The 10S charity event was a big success with many students attending to raise money and help out. Teachers even took part in the football match (Miss Vitija, Dr Leach, Mr T, Mr Croft, Mr Murphy, Mr Coughlan, Mr McConnal). The students' Y10 team was made up of Rachael, Lauren, Madalena, Maya, Megan, Alex, Mary, Gabrielle and Monika.

The final result ended in a draw at 6-6.



PSHE Day Year 11

The theme and activities for Year 11 were designed to develop academic and emotional wellbeing, with two external speakers and classroom-based revisions skills in the morning, followed by a carousel of mindfulness workshops in the afternoon.

Jas Schembri-Stothart, the **CEO of Luna**, the health and wellbeing app for teens, spoke to Y11 to provide advice about the best ways for young women to navigate our digital world. Jessica Hawley, the **CEO of the RAP Foundation** spoke about how to prevent harm and promote positive relationships.

The Year 11's had a wonderful afternoon of mindfulness workshops ranging from PT boxing, art zentangels and spiritual reflection in the prayer room, to connecting with Nature and more. This was aimed at helping students to discover what helps them reconnect with themselves and the sensations they experience.

Effective mindfulness can help us enjoy life more and understand ourselves better. The Year 11's were exceptionally receptive to this, enjoyed the afternoon and feedback was extremely positive. We hope they are now equipped with their way to feel more grounded and connected to the moment they are at, and this will support them through the next few months ahead. Well done Year 11's.



Year 12

Year 12 took part in first aid training from **First Aid STS**



Year 13

Year 13 attended self defence classes from **Unleash** and sessions on preparation for life at university including **'My Personal Finance Skills'**.



New Rewards System

Our new rewards system was launched this year, with two main themes:

Star of the Lesson

Awarded to a student in each lesson across each Key Stage. The award is based on a Sacred Heart goal for that week. The Star of the Lesson tickets are put into a raffle draw, and students win age-appropriate prizes in their weekly assemblies.

A rewards event

Each term 20 students from each year group have a celebratory rewards event. This Lent term Year 7 and Year 8 are going to see *Wicked* at the West End; and Years 9, 10 and 12 are having a pizza party on site - photos from both these reward events are 'hot of the press' on the last page of this newsletter before the calendar.

To qualify, students must have the most achievement points in their year, they must meet the 96% attendance expectation, and they must have very few negative behavior points.

(Note that achievement points are awarded in lessons by teachers for students carrying out the Sacred Heart Goals).



A reward ceremony in assembly

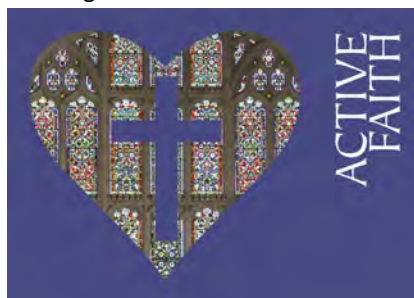
Points Breakdown by goal

Highlights

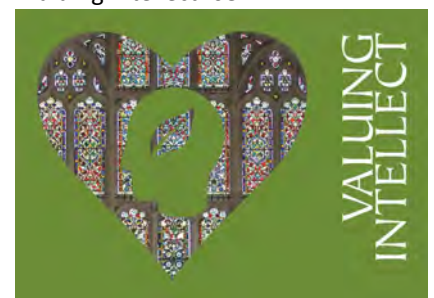
In the period 6 January to 28 February 2025 (7 weeks)

10,919 achievement points were given in total

Valuing an Active Faith: 558



Valuing Intellect: 6827



Social Awareness that Impels to Action: 334



Personal Growth: 2407



Building Community: 793



Holocaust Memorial Day

Year 9 represent the school at the Polish Centre



As part of the school's commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day and in parallel with their current study of the Holocaust in the RE curriculum, a group of Year 9 pupils represented the school at the Polish Centre in Hammersmith.

Alongside poignant addresses from Lord Alf Dubs, Francis Morton (from the Holocaust memorial charity generation2generation), and Smajo Bešo (from the Bosnian Genocide Educational Trust), the girls delivered their own presentation on the tragedy of lives lost over the course of the Holocaust. The girls spoke movingly and were a credit to both themselves and the school.

Holocaust Remembrance

Some Y9 Religious Education students did a wonderful job at creating a piece of work about Holocaust survivors in January as part of Holocaust Remembrance.

In shadows deep, where silence weeps,
Memories linger, where sorrow keeps.
A whispered name, a haunting song,
In the hearts of many, where they belong.

The flicker of flames, the echo of cries,
Beneath the weight of a thousand lies.
Each face a story, each life a spark,
In the decades of time, forever marked.

We walk on paths where pain was sown,
Through fields of ash, where hope was blown.
Yet in the darkness, a light persists,
The strength of those who still exist.

With every tear, a lesson learned,
A promise made, a justice earned.
For in remembrance, we find our place,
To honor the lost, to seek their grace.

So, hold their stories, let the world see,
The power of truth, the need to be free.
Through remembrance, we stand as one,
In the light of peace, with the warmth of the sun.

A POEM FOR LILY EBERT

Strong she lays brave and proud

A woman with courage stands on her ground

There she faced the harsh realities of a systematic genocide

Looking fine on the outside but inside she cries

Discrimination, prejudice, injustice and lies is what she faced

Now she rises and speaks out against this disgrace

Bravely she shares her sorrowful past




An inspirational figure whose stories will last


Lily Ebert how wonderful you are

A woman who beams as brightly as a star

Who courageously reached the ripe age of one hundred

A life well lived, her legacy splendid



International Day of Women and Girls in Science

Imperial College London



In early February, we were invited to Imperial College to learn about successful women in STEM. We also got to take part in a practical workshop where we teamed up with students from other schools in order to solve tasks using the materials we were given.

The trip to Imperial College became even more engaging as we were granted the opportunity to delve deep into learning about inspiring women in STEM and met with individuals involved in Imperial's Women in STEM group. Afterwards, we were divided into groups and tasked with the construction of prosthetic arms, an activity based on the fascinating realm of biochemical engineering. Using a variety of materials, such as straws, paper cups and cardboard, we had to creatively design functional prosthetic arms. Furthermore, the challenge pushed us to balance practicality with factors like aesthetics and durability, as our final creations were assessed on these criteria. This led every group to think about their product using strategic consideration, making it a fun and enjoyable activity, whilst being thought-provoking! The experience left us with a great appreciation for engineering and the collaboration it involves.

Overall, we had a great time. It was lots of fun working together with other students to make the prosthetic arms and it helped expand our creativity and improve our problem solving skills! It also helped us to learn more about inspirational women who were widely successful in the field of STEM.

Ada Ziand Bethel K



Year 10 Bioengineering Taster Day



Imperial College London



Ten students in Year 10 were selected by their science teachers to attend a science trip to Imperial College in White City on Thursday 23 January, and I am so grateful to be one of the lucky students that got to go!

The day was organised by members of the department of Bioengineering at Imperial, and we were given the amazing opportunity to listen to lectures about different areas of development in bioengineering and learn about fascinating topics such as microbial interactions in soil, spinal injuries, microfluidic technologies, and more.

We did many workshops such as learning about how and why ventilators work and are made, and how the spine is structured, and did practical activities like putting together pieces to recreate the spine, and using a balloon and pump to demonstrate how our lungs work.

Amazingly we were given access to see some of the projects current students are working on, like robots designed to help people in the future, and even got to test out controlling some of them!

Throughout the day we were given the opportunity to speak to students at all stages in their studies, and got a real insight into being a student at Imperial; we learnt so much about the wonderful and versatile degree of bioengineering, and where it can take you.

"The Imperial trip was really inspiring. I especially liked how we interacted with teachers and students studying at the college who weren't too much older than us. It made it easier to see myself studying there or working in bioengineering in future." - Shakina O.

"I loved the day at Imperial College, I learnt a lot of new and interesting things. I especially loved learning about the spine, how it works and how bioengineering plays into it. It was an amazing experience and it definitely made me consider following bioengineering in the future." - Maria F.

It was a brilliant opportunity to attend this trip, and I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it. All of the girls that went had a fantastic day and are so appreciative of being able to take part. Everyone there was supportive, and willing to answer all our questions and I learnt so much about bioengineering, advice for future options, and how you can fuse multiple subjects that you enjoy into one degree.

I am so grateful for the team at Imperial for organising the day, and would love to attend a similar one again!

Taina M 10S



Selected as Wimbledon Ball Girls!



Huge congratulations to three of our Y10 pupils, Clem, Bea and Olivia who have been successful in the Wimbledon Ball Girls programme. They are now attending weekly training sessions ahead of the championships in July. We cannot wait to see them on court!



Volleyball

We are delighted to introduce Volleyball to our Spring sports clubs. It has been extremely popular and it is wonderful to see so many enjoying such a great game



Netball



On Wed 15 January our Y10 Netball teams played a fixture against Thomas' Putney Vale. Our A team put up a very strong fight throughout but narrowly lost 13,11. Maya M was awarded Player of the Match.

Our B team (pictured) played brilliantly to win 16-5 with Poppy G being awarded Player of the Match.

On 21 January the Y7 A&B Netball teams travelled to Fulham Cross Girls' School for a fixture. Both teams played exceptionally well, the A team winning 10-1 and the B team 8-2.



Year 9 Sacred Heart Chelsea Football Club Supporters



Q&A with Sophie Ingles of the Chelsea women's team and the Welsh national team.

Sacred Heart U14 Rugby Team



On Wednesday 12 March our U14 Rugby team competed in the London Youth Games Touch Rugby competition, representing Hammersmith and Fulham. It was a fantastic day and the team displayed some excellent rugby skills. They placed 3rd overall, a huge achievement for the school!

Queens Club Foundation



Thank you to the Queens Club Foundation for delivering an introduction to tennis leaders to our Y10 pupils.

Reward events at end of this term

On Wednesday 2 April we had our Lent Term Rewards Events for a selection of students who embodied and realised our Sacred Heart goals throughout the term.

40 students from Year 9 and 10 had a Pizza Party in our Reception Room and 12 Year 12 students had their party in the Garth.

40 students from Year 7 and 8 were fortunate enough to go to see Wicked at the Apollo Theatre at Victoria. The students were all brilliant and had a great time.



Lent Liturgy



Our Lent Liturgy focused on our journeying together as Pilgrims of Hope.

The students sang a variety of choral pieces including Dubois and Rutter, with readings and reflections and accompanying instrumental performances. A very special evening. Well done to all involved.



A Final Word

I wish each family a very happy and holy Easter. During this time of hope and new life please remember all those who are suffering through the lack of peace and justice in our world today.

Please keep in your prayers Years 11 and 13 who will spend most of the holiday studying for their forthcoming exams.

With God's blessing



TRINITY TERM

APRIL 2025		
Monday	21	Bank Holiday
Wednesday	23	All students and staff return
Thursday	24	A-Level Drama Performance 4.30pm
Monday	28	PSHE, Book Fair all day
Tues –Wed	29-30	Year 9 Retreat
MAY 2025		
Thursday	01	Year 13 Final Day, Year 13 Leavers' Ball; Year 8 Parent Teacher Meeting 4-7pm
Friday	02	Year 11 Liturgy
Monday	05	Bank Holiday, school closed.
Tuesday	06	Hyacinth Day, Janet Erskine Stuart.
Tues-Thurs	06-08	Charles Dickens Museum Trips
Thursday	08	HPV vaccination Y8
Friday	09	Year 11 Final Day Year 10 History trip to Hampton Court (<i>Mr Murphy and Mr Coughlan's classes</i>)
Monday	12	PSHE, Year 12 Bath University UCAS workshops
Wednesday	14	Year 10 History trip to Hampton Court (<i>Mr Shetcliffe and Ms Miller's classes</i>)
Monday	19	PSHE
Friday	23	Madeleine Sophie Whole School Mass, celebrating the centenary of her canonisation. School day ends at normal time
HALF TERM Monday 26 May – Friday 30 May inclusive		
JUNE 2025		
Monday	02	All students return to school
Tuesday	03	Y9 DTP/Men vaccinations
Tuesday	12	Year 7 Parent Teacher Meeting
Mon - Fri	16-20	Exam Week 1 for all students
Mon-Wed	23-25	Exam Week 2 for Years 10 & 12 <i>KS3 on normal timetable but with GL Assessments</i>
Friday	27	Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Mass at 11am <i>Outside, weather permitting. All parents welcome to join us for this unique event.</i>
JULY 2025		
Tues –Wed	1-2	Head Girls' Conference at Woldingham
Wed –Fri	2-4	D of E Silver
Mon-Wed	07-09	Year 12 PGL trip to Osmington Bay, Jurassic Coast near Weymouth, Dorset
Tuesday	8	Summer Garden Party 6.00-8.30pm (parents, alumnae & local community)
Wed & Thurs	9&10	School Play 7pm, <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> a Love-ly adaptation after Jane Austen Tickets available from Monday 23 June 2025
Thurs	10	Year 9 trip to the Globe Theatre
Friday	11	Sports Day
Mon-Wed	14-16	Activities Week, D of E Bronze
Mon-Fri	14-18	Year 12 Work Experience
Thursday	17	Picnic and Concert
Friday	18	Term Ends 1pm
SUMMER HOLIDAYS		
SEPTEMBER 2025		
Mon-Tues	01-02	Professional Training Days for Staff (school closed to students)
Wednesday	03	Year 7 and Year 12 only
Thursday	04	All students return