

100 YEARS

Volume 11

Issue 3

July 2025

from the heart

Canonisation of Madeleine Sophie Barat

1925-2025

Madeleine Sophie Barat was declared a saint on 24 May 1925 and the centenary has been celebrated across the world. To honour this event, we held a whole school Centenary Mass on 23 May 2025 followed by a garden party with 200 people on 8 July.

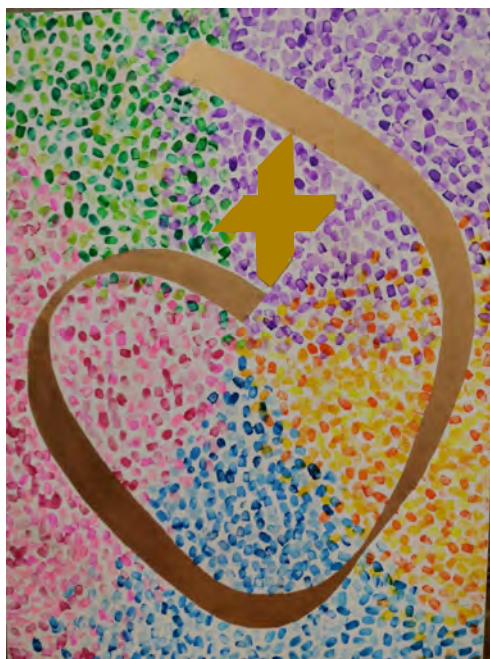
All students and staff at the school, and Sr Cath Lloyd, Provincial of the Society's England and Wales province, all marked their presence as part of our community, by placing their thumbprint within and around our Sacred Heart logo on a large canvas that was presented at the Centenary Mass.

Sr Cath Lloyd spoke to all the students about Madeleine Sophie's life and legacy and the school prepared an exhibition about Sophie's life for both the Mass and the garden party. Some extracts from this exhibition are included on page 3.

We also separately held our annual Feast Day Mass on 27 June, outside on the lawn. This is always a very special occasion. The sisters all came to renew their vows and our new head girl team reviewed the year.

Our Feast Day this year also marked a transition for the Society internationally, as its Provincial borders were changed. We used to be part of the England and Wales Province but from the Feast Day onwards we became part of the larger 'Central Europe and the Islands' Province.

The Provincial Superior for this expanded province is Sr Margaret Wilson. We welcome Sr Margaret but also extend our heartfelt thanks to all the support we have received over the years from Sr Cath Lloyd who has been our Provincial and Chair of the Academy Trust since 2019.





Commission Hymns *Patris Anglicanae* - choir
*Unless a grain of wheat shall fall upon the ground and die,
 it remains but a single grain with no life.*
 If we have died with him then we shall live with him;
 if we hold firm, we shall reign with him.
 Whosoever serves me then they must follow me;
 Whosoever is my servants will be. (St. Francis)
 Your home in me as I make mine in you;
 Who remain in me bear much fruit.
 Remain in me and my word lives in you,
 I will be my disciples.
 To love me are loved by my Father;
 To with them and dwell in them,
 To live with you, my peace I give to you;
 In the world cannot give is my gift.

Head Girl Team
 Jointed team, please come forward.

Inspired by St. Madeleine Sophie Barat (led by Head Girl team)
 of Jesus,
 art that is one with your own;
 art that knows and loves its nothingness;
 art that holds and calms its own anxiety;
 art that has compassion for the suffering of others;
 art that recoils even at the appearance of evil;
 art that longs for nothing other than the goodness of heaven;
 detached from self-love and embraced by the love of God,
 vision focused on God,
 wisdom its only treasure in time and in eternity.

Stitcher - Final word (Mrs O Donovan)
 Recessional Hymn

1. Amazing grace how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me
 I once was I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
 How precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed!
3. The Lord hath promised good to me, His word my hope secures;
 He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

+

MASS TO COMMEMORATE THE
 CENTENARY OF THE CANONISATION OF
ST MADELEINE SOPHIE BARAT
 On May 24, 1925, Pope Pius XI declared Madeleine Sophie
 Barat a saint of the Roman Catholic Church.



Friday 23 May 2025

Sacred Heart High School

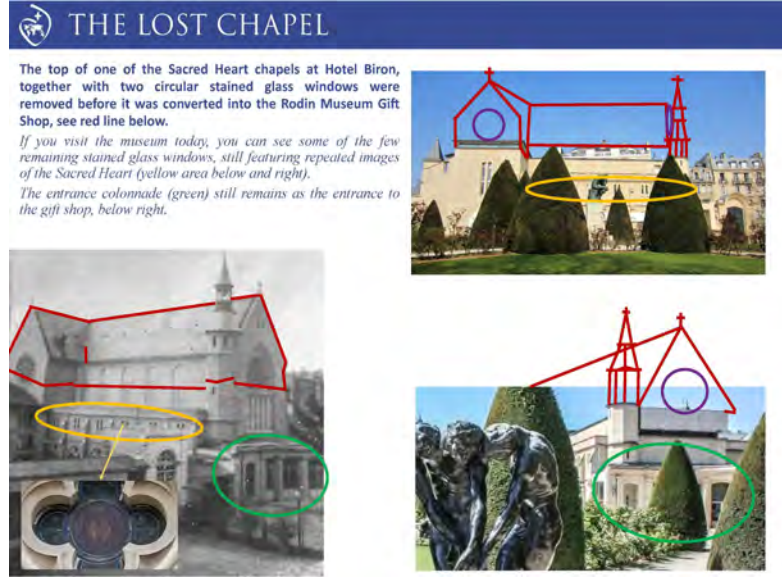
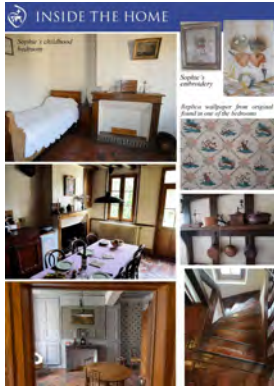
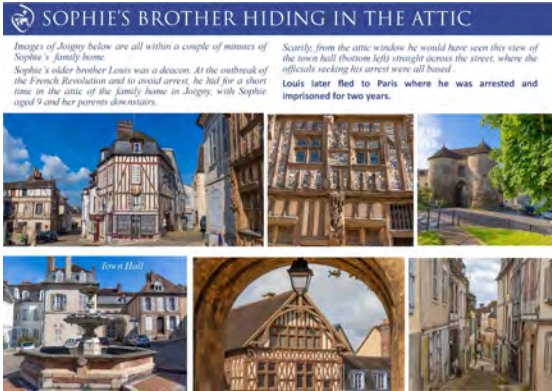
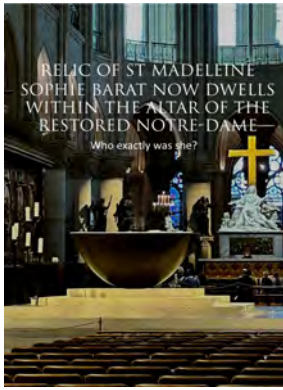
Centenary Mass, 23 May 2025



The St Madeleine Sophie Barat Centenary Exhibition

This is just a few extracts and will be too small to read. You can see the full exhibition more clearly as a gallery on Connect.

St Madeleine Sophie Barat | Gallery | Sacred Heart High School Hammersmith



RELIQ OF ST MADELEINE SOPHIE BARAT NOW DWELLS WITHIN THE ALTAR OF THE RESTORED NOTRE-DAME
Who exactly was she?

JOIGNY, NEAR PARIS
The small town where Madeleine Sophie was born and grew up. Sophie's father was a cooper and vine grower. She helped gather in the harvest from the vineyard.

A FIRE BROKE OUT
In the evening of 22 October 1776 a fire broke out in medieval Joigny. It quickly spread down central streets, threatening several houses from both sides. It happened there because when Madame Barot was returning her third child...
Although she was only 7 months pregnant, Barot and her mother fled for their lives - for some hours made safe and child, although for the 10th family almost at that that night Madeleine Sophie Barot was born two months prematurely.
She was considered to be a child that with the following morning she was baptised in the parish church of St. Nicholas, at the corner from Rue Jean de France.

SOPHIE'S BROTHER HIDING IN THE ATTIC
Images of Joigny below are all within a couple of minutes of Sophie's family home. Sophie's older brother Louis was a deacon. At the outbreak of the French Revolution and to avoid arrest, he hid for a short time in the attic of the family home in Joigny, with Sophie aged 9 and her parents downstairs.
Scarcely from the attic window he would have seen this view of the town hall (shown left) straight across the street, where she officially seeking his arrest were all based. Louis later fled to Paris where he was arrested and imprisoned for two years.

INSIDE THE HOME
Sophie's childhood bedroom. Sophie's mother Jeanne was employed as a seamstress in one of the workshops.

BACK GARDEN OF THE BARAT FAMILY HOME

REJECTING JANSENISM
Sophie's mother and brother were deeply affected by Jansenism which presented God as severe, distant and judgemental, and the human being as profoundly sinful and unworthy. It was her brother Louis who educated her under a very strict regime. In 1793 at the age of 16, with the French Revolution still ongoing, she travelled with her brother to Paris, into the heart of the unrest.
Here her education became even more intense and all aspects of her life were controlled by her brother including when she slept and worked.
Her friendships were heavily curtailed. Under the control of her brother she experienced emotional confusion, indecision and understandably, a lack of confidence in herself.
Ultimately it was Sophie's education that helped her to think critically about her own value system.
Madeleine Sophie completely rejected Jansenism and wholeheartedly embraced the polar opposite interpretation of the Gospel, as enshrined by devotion to the Sacred Heart - rooted in acknowledgement of the love and kindness of Jesus.

CONSOLIDATION - THE PURCHASE OF HOTEL BIRON
by Madeleine Sophie for the headquarters of the Society of the Sacred Heart in Paris.
By 1820 the Society had twelve houses in France including two in Paris and they had also expanded to America. There was a need to consolidate, to find a property large enough to house their HQ, novitiate and a school, with room for expansion.
With encouragement from the Society's General Council, Sophie purchased an old stately home in the centre of Paris that had been empty for the past nine years. On 10 October 1820 the Paris community and school moved in to their new HQ at Hotel Biron.
Madeleine Sophie's plan was to use the grandeur of Hotel Biron to attract wealthy families to a smart boarding school and to use the profits from this to run a day school and a poor school on the same site - which they indeed did very successfully.
The central location of the site did much to raise their profile but the extravagance of the purchase, and the boarding school fees were seen by some in the Society to reflect poorly on their mission and Madeleine Sophie once again suffered criticism and self doubt.

CUTTING DOWN SOPHIE'S TREE AT HOTEL
By 19 June 1907 the convents of Maracilly, Beaumont and Angoulême were dissolved. Those at Champs Elysees, Lyon and Clermont would be in a few months time and it was certain that the long legacy of the motherhouse at Hotel Biron in Paris must end.
In July 1907 the police issued a formal summons for them to leave.
On 15 July the great cedar planted by Mother Barat, and under which she had loved to gather her little ones round her, was cut down on Mabel Digby's order. Her eighty two year old assistant gave one long deep sigh as she heard the crash of its fall.

THE LOST CHAPEL
The top of one of the Sacred Heart chapels at Hotel Biron, together with two circular stained glass windows were removed before it was converted into the Rodin Museum Gift Shop, see red line below.
If you visit the museum today, you can see some of the few remaining stained glass windows, still featuring repeated images of the Sacred Heart (yellow area below and right).
The entrance colonnade (green) still remains as the entrance to the gift shop, below right.

THE WARNING SIGN
Early on 10th August 1907 the last Mass was said at Sophie's Hotel Biron in Paris. Nuns drove off at successive hours. The date of departure had been withheld from outsiders - there were no witnesses.
At 5pm Mabel Digby and her assistants met in the hallway, every one else was gone; the house was empty and desolate.
On the wall opposite the hall door a sheet of paper measuring six feet each way had been posted up for some time. The Superior General now pulled off this covering; an inscription was revealed, pointed in large black letters, and strikingly legible to whoever should next open the door.
Mother Digby and her companions locked the doors and threw the keys into the bushes. They watched the facade of the deserted house till their vehicle had carried them out of sight in the direction of Conflans.

Original wording of the notice
"The Superior General of the Religious of the Sacred Heart, expelled by force from the houses of which she is the legitimate proprietor, and despoiled of the goods which belong to the Congregation, protests with all the power of her soul against this sacrilegious violation of her rights.
She reminds whosoever it may be that shall take possession of this property, that, by the mere fact, he falls under the sentence of major excommunication which cuts him off from the body of the Church, and that absolution from this penalty can be granted to him only by the Pope, after restitution of the goods usurped, and reparation of the harm effected."

Feast Day Mass, 27 June 2025

As is tradition at Sacred Heart our community gathered together on the front lawn for the Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Father Martin looked dapper in his sun hat! Sisters from the Society sat at the front ready to renew their vows and we were delighted to welcome many parents.

Our choir sang confidently and the musicians played well, to the backdrop of bird song and the bustle of London traffic occasionally audible. Our new Head Girl team reviewed the school year and others were involved in readings, prayers and the offertory procession. Deacon Tito commissioned our new Year 12 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

This is always a magical day, with an ice cream van on site in the afternoon and other treats.





Free Festival in Twickenham this weekend in memory of a west London Teacher *and the mother of one of our pupils*

Aine Magee AKA Aine Foley died in November 2024 after a long battle with cancer. Aine lived her entire life, worked and died in west London. She was a teacher and spent 24 years teaching at the Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School (CVMS). Alongside her family, friends and her work, Aine loved her music.

In Aine's memory her family are running Foley Fest on the 19th July 2025 for up to 1,000 people. CVMS have donated their playing fields in Twickenham and Dublin based Rattle & Hum have agreed to headline.

Due to two very generous donations they have been able to make a small number of Foley Fest tickets free. Log onto the link and book your free tickets. There is an option to make a donation should you wish. Marie Curie will also be accepting donations on the day for the West London Rapid Response Service.

You are welcome to bring a picnic but there will be food stalls there. You are not able to bring any alcohol or soft drinks other than water but there will be a bar serving alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks.

Get your Free tickets before they sell out:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/foley-fest-tickets-1208708753419?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=ebdsshcopyurl>



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IN AID OF

**Marie
Curie**

Shaking off the habit

Chris Middleton ventures into the changing world of a cloistered community



Young musicians talk over a complicated piece of records.



Modern-day parable of the loaves and fishes. Lunch at the Sacred Heart.



Evening meal with the sisters. WLO reporter Chris Middleton attacks the cauliflower.

The walls of the Sacred Heart Convent manage to keep out most things. They keep out the chip wrappers, the bus queues and the drunks that ring remorselessly on the bell. They keep out the prying eyes from the top of No.33 buses and they have even kept out the occasional 16th century mob intent on pillage. But where the dusty draughts of Broadway have failed to waft their waste paper over the wall, other stronger winds have long since crept quietly in and down the convent corridors.

They are the winds of change. For the past 10 years now, they have been blowing gently through the classrooms and the cloisters, far slower than in the outside world, perhaps, but creating transformations no less sweeping. In 1967, the Hammersmith convent was a virtually closed society, the school a highly selective girls' grammar. Today, the nuns no longer even wear habits and the school is just another ILEA comprehensive, albeit of only a few weeks' standing. Changes for the better? Sister Russell, the headmistress, believes so. Like so many heads who have presided over the changeover from grammar to comprehensive, she has grown used to the worried queries about the school's future.

It was to her credit, therefore, that, when asked whether the school would have to lower its standards to deal with the new intake, her answer was guarded but honest.

"It would be pointless to pretend that we will not have to lower our horizons, though I would not agree that it is the same as lowering our standards. In the past, obviously, we have catered only for children intending to take 'A' Levels and probably go on to university. Now, of course, that will change. And with it, inevitably, the quality of the education we offer here will change too. But it will not, I feel sure, be lowered."

The message was soft and clear. Whether or not it came from deep down inside Sister Russell's heart was for the listener to decide; certainly she gave no outward sign of regret.

All the same, though, throughout everything she and the rest of her staff said, you could somehow faintly, so faintly, sense that mortality, at least, the school's honour board had been taken down and tidily stored away for ever.

Not that any of the sisters would admit it, perhaps not even to themselves. It was just something in the way that Sister Beane talked both proudly and sadly about the size of her 'A' Level biology class and how it would probably never be as big again.

And it was just something in the way the others talked at dinner about the "right" girls of the past. For the sisters are used to change and even more used to adapting to it, especially over the past 10 years. They certainly looked the same that had gone through a lot of changes as they sat beneath strips

lighting in shades, cardigan and twin-sets and tucked into lunch cloths and school patches. What price now 'The Sound of Music or The Devils, you wonders?' The score was more reminiscent of a works canteen than a convent refectory.

The sisters talked lightly about what Sister-so-and-so is doing now or where "that Jenkins girl" has gone to university. Sister Margaret, who has just come back from Uganda, wants to know about punk rock, while another sister chats off on a long and involved story only to be stopped by a chorus of protest from the others.

The atmosphere is convivial and jolly, there could almost be wine instead of water in the glasses. But however convivial everyone is, there still remains

Pictures by Keith Price and Doug Dohg



Sacred Heart headmistress Sister Russell: taking the convent through a time of change



Lunch queues past and present



The Sacred Heart from above.



Not a furtive card school but the sixth form Liberal Studies bridge class with deputy headmistress Mrs. Allen.

the fact that they are all nuns. Jolly, yes, but equally there is no question of everyone moving on to the pub after dinner. "Simple, austere and welcoming" reads their creed, and that is exactly what they are. Of course, things are not nearly as austere as they used to be. Ten years ago it would have been unheard of for any nun to spend a night outside the convent; one of the sisters said she was not even allowed to visit her father on his deathbed. Strict religious dress was obligatory as recently as 1972, conversation between the sisters an exception rather than a rule. Their lives were mapped out for them right down to the maximum number of plates they were allowed to cry at any one time.

Now, however, it is they who are doing the mapping — though, as they will readily admit, hitherto uncharted waters. Some institutions still remain — evening prayer, for example — but these are through choice rather than edict and consequently of greater spiritual value to the sisters. Even in the school, classes get on average only three religious education lessons a week. The shadow of the Cross does not, it would appear, hang quite so heavily as one might imagine over the girls. Indeed, so far have the sisters moved away from their traditional image that they do not even have a Mother Superior.

As to whether they wanted one or not, the answer was a shrug. "Not really" seemed to be the unspoken consensus. "At the moment, you see," explained Sister Russell, "we are a horizontal community." "You mean you lie down a lot?" The sisters smiled. "No, no," they said, "horizontal" means we don't have a Superior. And that set them off again, chuckling over "superior" and "horizontal". They were happy and optimistic women, obviously enjoying life for what it had to offer to each of them but at the same time confident that the tall white figure standing in the courtyard would be watching over the convent, the school and the trials that face them both in the daily future.

Ros McHugh (alumna 1974-1982) recently visited the home of a former Sacred Heart teacher (Mrs van de Perre, who's now 103). She showed her the attached amazing two-page article from the Thursday 6th October 1977 edition of the West London Observer! It was published at the time the school was becoming a comprehensive.

Ros has noticed various teachers she recognises, for example Sister Russell, Sister Cardew and Mrs Alan, plus a few of my

compatriots. She would have been 14 at the time, in what was then the third year.

We think the journalist seems a little cynical about the school's move from being a grammar school to becoming a comprehensive but Sister Russell supported the change and stands firm that standards will not be lowered.

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Garden Party 2025

This is just a taster! All photos can be accessed in the gallery on Connect

[Summer Garden Party July 2025](#) | [Gallery](#) | [Sacred Heart High School Hammersmith](#)

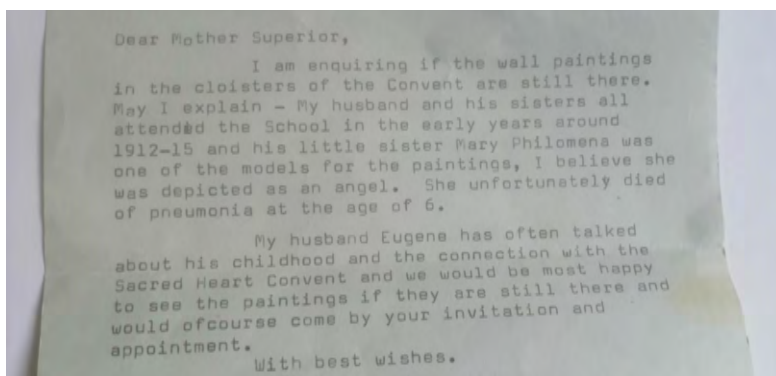


Cloister Paintings

As a result of our fundraising this year with some generous donations from alumnae, parents and the Hammersmith Association; and with proceeds from our popular history talk and the London Festival of Architecture events; the summer garden party and sales of our Nunnery at Hammersmith book, we can now proceed with Stage 2 - the two double height crucifixion paintings at the base of the blue stairs and a small area to the left of the music room door. These areas were selected as being the most vulnerable and in need of very urgent attention.

Painting conservators and restorers have been commissioned to carry out this work over 4 weeks in the summer holidays.

We have very recently discovered a letter written to the school about 35 years ago referring to the paintings. There is an address at the top and we are now attempting to contact the family to arrange a visit if they are still living at the same house.



Restoration of 'one of the rarest organs in Europe'



We will review tender submissions next term and once costs have been finalised, applications will then be made to various trust funds.

A highly regarded production company are pitching a documentary about our organ discovery to the BBC in the next commissioning round in September/October.

This is possibly for Radio 4 or Radio 3, with a celebrity to front the programme.

We should hear the outcome of that in January 2026. Nothing is certain and these things take a long time to plan - but it's a happy thought to think that others are as excited as we are, about the discovery!

General Fundraising

A fundraising report for the academic year September 2024 to August 2025 will be issued next term to all parents, providing details of monies raised and how these are being spent.

Coming in the 2025/2026 school year - a brand new Sacred Heart Enrichment Programme!

At Sacred Heart, we are committed to the formation of the whole child. In the 2025/2026 school year, we are excited to launch a brand-new Enrichment Programme for all students. Next school year, we are offering more workshops, clubs and trips than ever before to foster the personal development of students outside the classroom, which will provide a level of challenge to their learning and engagement inside the classroom! With over 50 activities on offer in the Autumn term, we hope there is something for everyone!

Ms Brown, Associate Assistant Headteacher – Enrichment



Enrichment Brochure

Each student will be issued with a hard copy brochure about the new Enrichment Program at the start of the school year which features everything on offer for the Autumn term. There is also a digital version available.



Sign-Up

Unless otherwise stated, students can sign up to each activity using the Enrichment Google Form located on their form class Google Classroom. The closing date for sign-up is **Friday 18 September 2025**.



Consistent Participation & Attendance

By signing up to participate in an activity, students are making a commitment to attend every session associated with that enrichment activity. Attendance will be monitored by the teachers in charge via EduLink registers.



Rewards

Consistent participation and attendance will be rewarded through a badge system at year level assemblies.

Rewards

Trips

This year to celebrate the fantastic behaviour and attitude of our students we've launched a Rewards Trips initiative. At the beginning of this year, students gave specific feedback that they really wanted rewards trips, and so we have worked very hard to make this possible.

Each term we have age-appropriate trips for each year group. Places are limited and students are selected based on the following criteria:

- 1) number of achievement points
- 2) meeting school expectations of attendance
- 3) number of negative behaviour points.

Each term, the data is reset so that every student has a fresh opportunity to get on the next trip. As they are rewards trips, the school fully funds the trips.

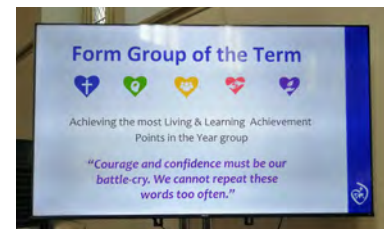
This year, those selected from Years 7 and 8 went to see *Wicked* at the theatre, and had a picnic in Holland Park. Years 9 and 10 had a pizza party and went to Thorpe Park. Year 12 had a pizza party and went to an Escape Room.

Next year, we will have even more trips lined up for our fantastic students!



Rewards Assemblies

We have also celebrated student success through our Rewards Assemblies each term. This term's assemblies all took place last week. Lots of prizes were on offer for form groups and individual students.



Head of Year Nomination Awards *The Goal of Community*

We also had our final Head of Year Nomination Award for the Goal of Community. The winning students were lucky enough to have breakfast with our amazing Headteacher Mrs O'Donovan in our beautiful outside space in the Garth.

The lucky students were: Rose, Divine and Haizea from Year 7, Vesa and Jaya from Year 8 and Victoria and Aoki from Year 10.



Headteacher's Tea Party

75 students maintained 100% Attendance and Punctuality throughout 2025! Mrs O'Donovan congratulated them on this amazing achievement at the Annual Headteacher's Celebration Event.



Sports Day Results

FIRST: Calder House 93 points
 SECOND: Duschene House 82 points
 THIRD: Barat House 75 points
 FOURTH: Digby House 71 points
 FIFTH: Stuart & Russell Houses, both with 45 points

A full gallery of all the photos can be found on Connect:
[Sports Day July 2025 | Gallery | Sacred Heart High School Hammersmith](#)





Irish Cultural Centre Elders Exhibition

All photos can be accessed at [ICC Elders Exhibition at the Irish Cultural Centre by Noel Mullen](#)

The Intergenerational Oral History Project Celebration Evening on Thursday 3 July in collaboration with the Irish Cultural Centre Hammersmith featured 22 of our Year 9 students.



We got a two page spread in the Irish World!

Summer Careers Roundup

BA Y7 Sessions

Engineers from British Airways, including SHHS alumna Isadora Durkin, visited school on 21 May to deliver workshops on aeroplane design to all Y7 students. Students learned about careers in aeronautical engineering as well as what makes the perfect paper aeroplane. It was a great experience - many thanks to Mr Trevelyan for organising the day.



Year 10 Workplace Visits

On 11 June, in collaboration with St Paul's Girls' School and the West London Partnership, students from Year 10 visited a range of different workplaces across London. These included design, engineering and sustainability experts ARUP, architecture and engineering firm Ramboll, auction house Christies, Charing Cross Hospital, IBM, Andipa Gallery and financial services company Ebury. Students heard from a range of professionals discussing their own career journeys with lots of good advice about how to develop essential careers skills.

Y10 student Millie Szczeklik, who visited Charing Cross Hospital commented 'It was a really good experience which involved learning important life-saving skills such as CPR.'

We were shown how to deal with real life situations and heard from doctors in different positions about their careers and different pathways.' Also, Ailise Taylor, who visited Christies auction house said 'They told us all about how paintings are sold and the journey behind all of the paintings. We got to see loads of different works of art and their price ranges. It was a very enjoyable experience as we learned about different career opportunities in the business.'

We are very grateful to all of the organisations for allowing our students to gain such valuable insights into such a wide range of careers.

Women in Engineering Day

On 23 June, Year 9 students interested in careers in engineering were given a talk by Professor Eva Sorensen MBE FEng, Head of Chemical Engineering at University College London. Professor Sorensen shared her amazing life experiences, as well as a host of practical and fascinating insights into the range of careers available in Chemical Engineering. The students definitely came out of the session very well-informed and motivated to find out more about this fascinating subject.



Y10 Enterprise Day

As part of activities week, Y10 were involved in an amazing day of learning business and entrepreneurial skills with an Elizabethan twist! The challenge was to create a fashion company for Elizabethan clothes, with design, marketing, budgeting and all kinds of other roles. Students worked in groups to create their companies with amazing design and company information, including their mission statements, displayed around the cloisters.

It was great to see the students working together so creatively and the designs and ideas were truly impressive – who could resist the Elizabethan fashions of company called 'ChicSpeare'? Massive thanks go to Ms Garewal for all of the preparation that went into this amazing day, see more on page 28.

Y12 Work Experience

For the first time since the sixth form opened, Year 12 students have spent the final week of term on Work Experience placements. This is an amazing opportunity to develop new skills and learn all about the world of work. The majority of students have organised their own placements around London, with workplaces as varied as The Royal Marsden Hospital, Thames Water and Imperial College.

We are particularly grateful to the parents, friends and alumnae who have supported this important project by offering placements to our students. If you are in the position to be able to offer a placement to a student next year, please contact careers@sacredh.lbhf.sch.uk

Y7 Proto-Maker Challenge

In the first week of July, a group of 30 Year 7 students were lucky enough to be chosen to take part in the Proto-Maker Challenge, a design and making programme run by Imperial College. The students travelled to the Maker-Space, a purpose-built education workshop in White City. Sacred Heart alumnae Rebecca Sweeney and Irena Rozycka were part of the team who delivered the workshops. Students were given the opportunity to work with a range of tools and technology such as 3D printers. Small groups competed against each other to design and create products in response to challenging criteria including life underwater (sustainable use of the sea) and how to care for an aging population in a caring and eco-friendly way.

Emenet D, one of the Year 7s involved commented that 'The course was really fun and enjoyable. We got to learn loads about design and making as well as how to work well with others. I loved using the 3D printers.' Thank you to Imperial College for providing us with this opportunity.

SACRED HEART SIXTH FORM



At Sacred Heart High Sixth Form, we are dedicated to helping every student shape a successful future. Our expert **Careers Programme** provides tailored support, offering the guidance and resources you need to achieve your career aspirations—whether you plan to go to university, pursue an apprenticeship, or enter the workforce.

Expert UCAS and Degree Apprenticeship Application Support

Navigating university and degree apprenticeship applications can be daunting, but you won't be alone. Our dedicated team offers tailored **UCAS guidance** and specialised support for **degree apprenticeship applications**, helping you submit strong, competitive applications that truly reflect your potential.

Dedicated Oxbridge Preparation Programme

For students aspiring to study at Oxford or Cambridge, we run a specialist **Oxbridge programme**. Expert staff provide personalised coaching to help you develop compelling applications and prepare confidently for interviews, maximising your chances of success.

Mini-Internships and Work Experience

In partnership with **St Paul's Girls' School**, we offer a highly valued **mini-internships programme** for students in their first year of Sixth Form. Alongside this, our **dedicated work experience programme** connects you with opportunities tailored to your career interests, providing invaluable hands-on experience and insights into professional environments.

Career-Focused Workshops and Personalised Mentoring

Beyond placements, students benefit from a rich programme of career-focused workshops and personalised mentoring sessions. Delivered both internally by our expert staff and externally through collaborations with universities like **University of Bath** and **Imperial College London**, these sessions equip you with the skills and knowledge needed to write competitive applications and make informed decisions.

Access to Independent and External Careers Advisors

We provide access to a one-to-one **independent careers advisor** to support personalised career planning. Our wider networks also connect you with **highly sought-after external experts** and industry professionals from various sectors.

Interview Practice with Top Graduates

Prepare confidently with interview practice sessions led by **Oxbridge graduates** and alumni from across **Russell Group universities**. These sessions simulate real interviews and provide personalised feedback, helping you refine your skills.

Extensive Partnerships and Networks

We work closely with the **Sacred Heart Schools Network**, **West London Schools Partnership**, **St Paul's Girls' School**, universities, our extensive alumnae network, and industry professionals to ensure you have everything you need to make informed and confident choices about your future.



Summer Science Exhibition

On Thursday 3 July, Year 12 A-level science and Btec Applied Science students attended an insightful Royal Society summer exhibition. The exhibition opened with a talk led by Associate Professor in Mechanics of Materials at the University of Surrey, Dr Mohagheghian.

Professor Sir Martyn Poliakoff, was also present and provided interesting conversation.

As A-level chemistry students, the Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition provided not only a conference and insight about the future of plastics; it was a science fair that provided a live, interactive chemistry environment. This offered memorable learning; real-world relevance; and motivational insights that further A-level study through showing implementation in the real world.

Some exhibitions you could visit included: Fighting Superbugs with Tiny Warriors; The Future of Inclusive Spaceflight; and Pollution Detectives Daphnia at Work.

With the large range of professors and variety of stations to visit, everyone was able to find something intriguing. The talks all offered helpful advice and opportunity for developing personal statements for Year 12 students, especially those considering STEM careers.

There were also several stalls run by students presenting their research which was really inspirational to see and really helped motivate lots of our pupils to find interesting work experience in labs and answer any research inquiries with further reading.

Monet and Mar, Year 12



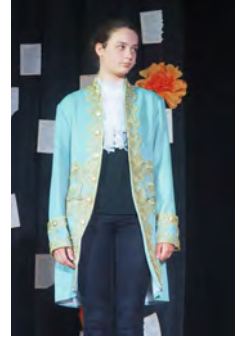
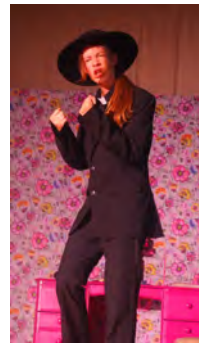
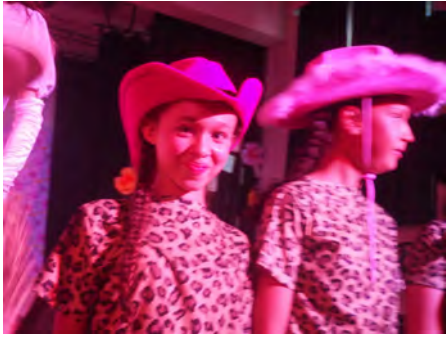
Pride & Prejudice

This year is the 250th birthday of Jane Austen, so what better way to celebrate than having *Pride and Prejudice* as our school play! This production was a rather hilarious and kooky adaptation of Austen's original novel with a strong contemporary twist.

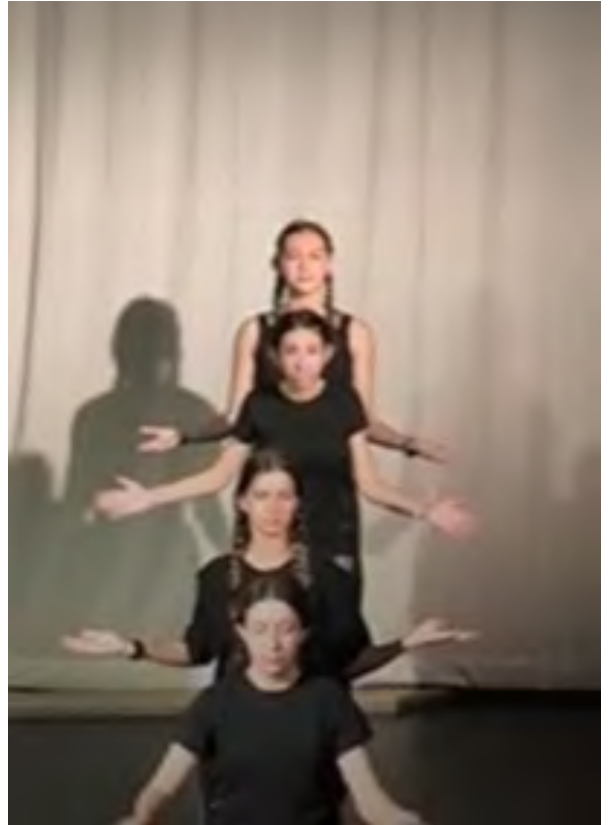
Sold out two nights in a row, audiences enjoyed the heightened characterisation and comedy alongside the singing and dancing! Congratulations to the 87 students involved in the show from acting, singing, dancing and playing in the band to, of course, the very reliable tech crew!



Pride & Prejudice



GCSE Drama



In early June, 42 Year 10 Drama students performed their Component 2 Devised Theatre performances. These 20 minute group performances are completely made from scratch. After responding to a stimulus presented to them, students work collaboratively to create narrative and characters to communicate a specific dramatic meaning to the audience. This year's performances were based on the theme of 'Love and Hate' and produced plays on a range of topics including relationships, protest, tough love, climate change, politics, Bloody Mary and refugees.

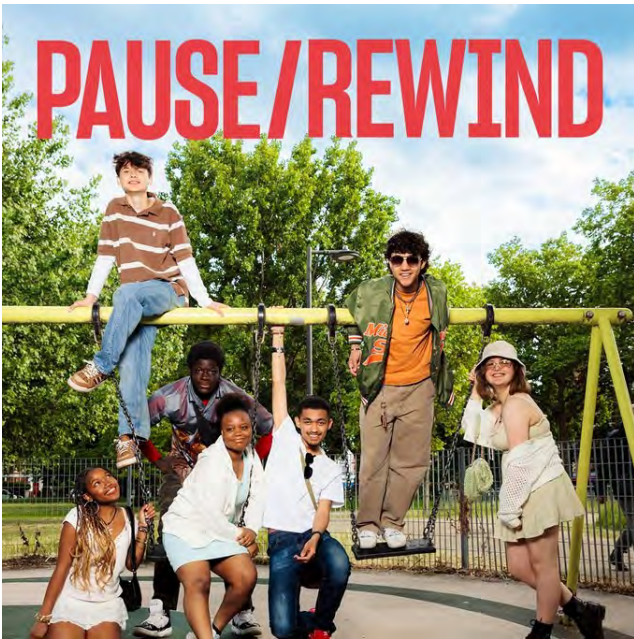
Congratulations to all students for producing an incredibly high standard of performance work that was polished and professional. You truly wowed your audiences!

A-Level Drama

The final A-Level Drama performance was performed to a visiting AQA examiner in April. The A-Level students performed an excerpt from *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde and adapted by Kip Williams.

The performance was executed in the highly physical, ensemble style of Steven Berkoff that challenges students to push themselves to their performance limits and take risks on stage. Congratulations girls and best of luck for your results!





Bush Theatre Youth Programme

Sacred Heart students continue to take West London stages by storm through their engagement with professional theatre companies and enrichment opportunities.

Congratulations to Year 10 students Mia Deagle, Elisa Masa and Rebecca Taylor who were selected to participate in the Bush Theatre Youth Programme this year.

Rebecca Taylor will take the stage in the final performance of the year in August entitled *Pause/Rewind*.

St Paul's Girls' School Saturday Drama School



This year fifteen Year 7 and 8 Sacred Heart girls participated in the West London Partnership Saturday drama school. Students worked with director Ella McKeown to create the original performance *Song of the River* about the history of the Thames spanning several centuries.

The students did Sacred Heart proud in the execution of a moving performance featuring singing, physical theatre and acting. Special congratulations to Charlotte Doherty and Victoria Vovk (Year 7) who have been awarded scholarships to attend the Saturday school next year.

Sacred Heart Rowers Make Waves on the Water

It has been an outstanding year for our students from Year 9 through to Year 13 who have dedicated themselves to rowing at Fulham Reach Boat Club. Through early mornings, some in freezing temperatures, tough training sessions, and unwavering commitment, our rowers have shown incredible perseverance, teamwork, and passion for the sport.

Throughout the school year, students trained regularly at Fulham Reach BC, developing not only their technical rowing skills but also their resilience, discipline, and confidence. Their efforts culminated in some truly impressive achievements over the year that reflect both their talent and the support of the fantastic dedicated coaches at the club.

Many highlights from this year are the Ball Cup, Hammersmith Regatta, the Schools Head and our participation in the Youth Boat Race—thrilling transformative events where young rowers demonstrate their skills. Our students represented Sacred Heart with pride and determination, and their performance earned admiration from spectators and organisers alike.

Another proud moment came when one of our students, Mar Y12, had the opportunity to compete at Henley Women's Regatta – she writes about this experience in her own article overleaf.

Competing at such a renowned event was not only a testament to her hard work but also an unforgettable experience that many young athletes dream of.

We are incredibly proud of all the students who committed to the rowing programme this year. The schools rowing programme has had a transformative impact on students' confidence, focus, and wellbeing. Their progress and achievements on the water are a true credit to themselves, the school, and Fulham Reach Boat Club.

As we look ahead to next year, we hope to see even more students taking up the oars and continuing this legacy of excellence.

Congratulations to all involved!



Ball Cup



Hammersmith Regatta



Youth Boat Race





Henley Women's Regatta

Two clips of Mar from Year 12 in action!!

<https://youtu.be/KD-08wpkYTg> <https://youtu.be/lsAEVBUBn50>

Henley Women's Regatta on Saturday 21 June has been a wonderful experience for me. The atmosphere around the whole race was spectacular, there were so many female athletes competing and the whole event was run by women. There were female umpires, female marshalls, and only women competing. Overall it was quite inspiring to see so much progress in female sport.

Although I was quite nervous, the race was really fun and when I was out rowing on the water, there were no waves or washes, so it was a really flat and calming atmosphere to row in.

My coach, Nick, prepared me really well for the piece, so I was able to maintain a steady wind through the whole time; I think all the training really paid off in the end because I got a much better result than I expected.

Rowing has really helped me in many ways: it has allowed me to build relationships with people I may never have met otherwise, it helps to keep me motivated and fit to keep working towards a goal, and especially helps me keep a positive and relaxed mindset towards my schoolwork. I found that especially during exams, rowing helped me turn my mind off from revision for a few hours, then helped me be more productive when I got back to work. I strongly believe sport is one of the best ways to stay happy and healthy.

Mar, Year 12



Year 11 depart to prepare for their exams

Year 11 attended a celebration Liturgy and reflected on their five years at Sacred Heart so far. Before departing to prepare for their summer exams, they let off steam in the garden and cloisters with a chocolate fountain, popcorn, cupcakes and a photo booth!

We are so proud of them all and wish them every success in their exams.

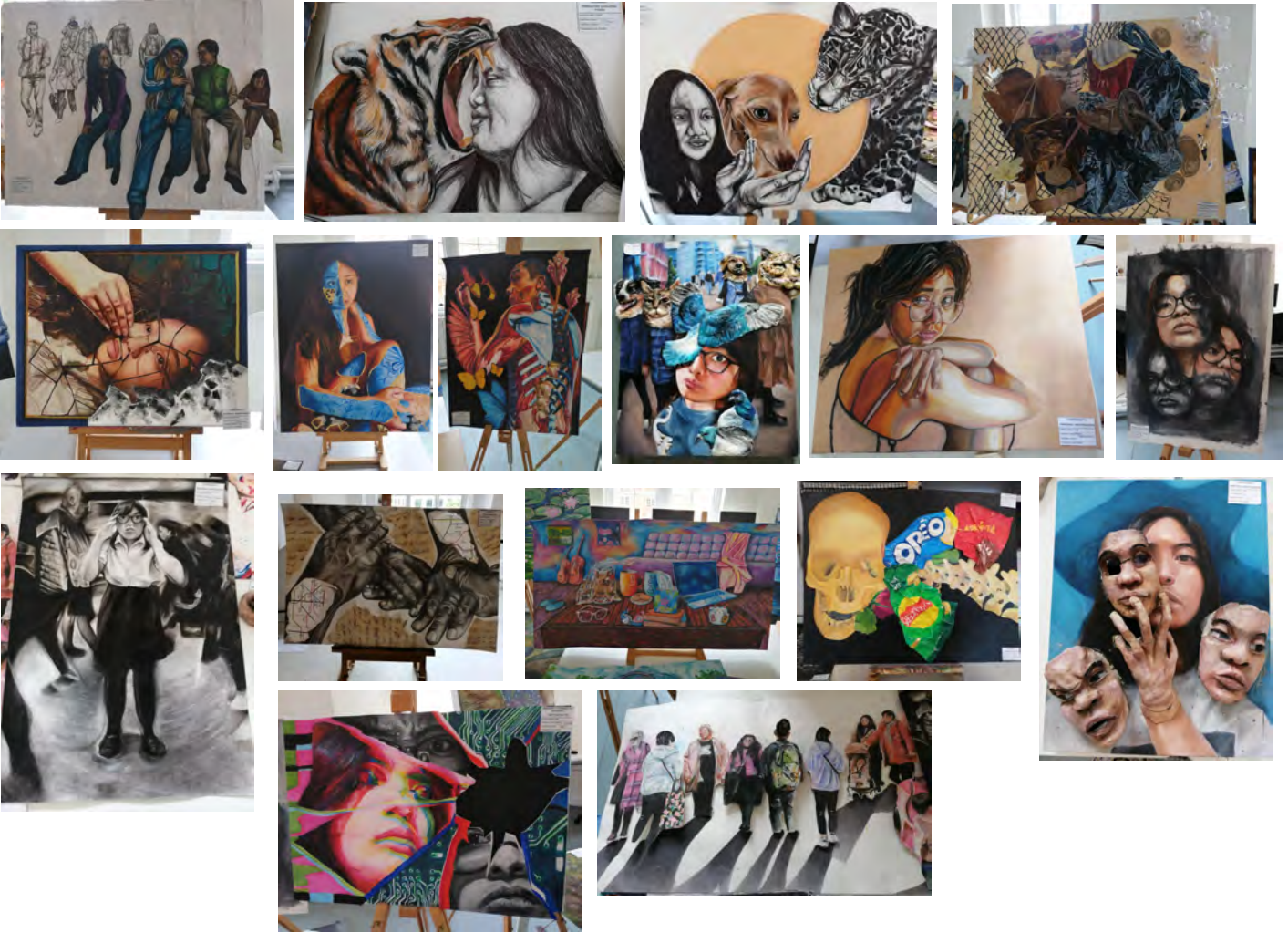


Gold Award and best in Year at the UKMT 2025 Junior Maths Challenge



Tallulah Z is a very capable mathematician who achieved a Gold Award and Best in Year in the UKMT 2025 Junior Maths Challenge. The School is very proud of such an achievement, and this prompted us to enter Tallulah in follow-up Junior Kangaroo Challenge, as the only Year 7 entrant from our school.

A-Level Art Exhibition



GCSE Art Exhibition



ACTIVITIES WEEK

The summer term has truly ended on a high note with a fantastic range of fun activities involving all of the students in the school.

Year 7 have taken part in fun sport and dance activities, watched a hilarious French play (featuring unplanned guest appearances by a number of SHHS staff members - oo la la) and finished off with a fun-packed trip to Chessington.

Year 8 have enjoyed a range of different tasks including making stained glass windows in DT, creating working electric guitars using the latest technology in Computer Science, learning how to save the environment in Geography, discovering the secrets of forensics in Science and enjoying a lovely day at Kew Gardens.

Year 9s spent their time either at PGL on an activities holiday or carrying out their Duke of Edinburgh award

expedition. Those remaining in school completed creative craft activities and sampled the artistic delights of the Serpentine Gallery in Hyde Park.

Year 10 activities had a distinctly historical flavour. A trip to the Globe Theatre on Monday was followed by a brilliant Elizabethan entrepreneurial challenge on Tuesday and on Wednesday, students experienced the historical side of our great city, either following in the footsteps of the Romans by visiting important Roman sites in London or, for GCSE History students, venturing into Victorian Whitechapel to learn about the grizzly story of Jack the Ripper.

A massive thank you must go to the staff members who have gone above and beyond to organise such an excellent range of experiences for our students.

Shakespeare in Love and Tour of the Globe Theatre



Year 10 began Activities Week with a Shakespeare-themed day looking ahead to their study of Macbeth in Y11.

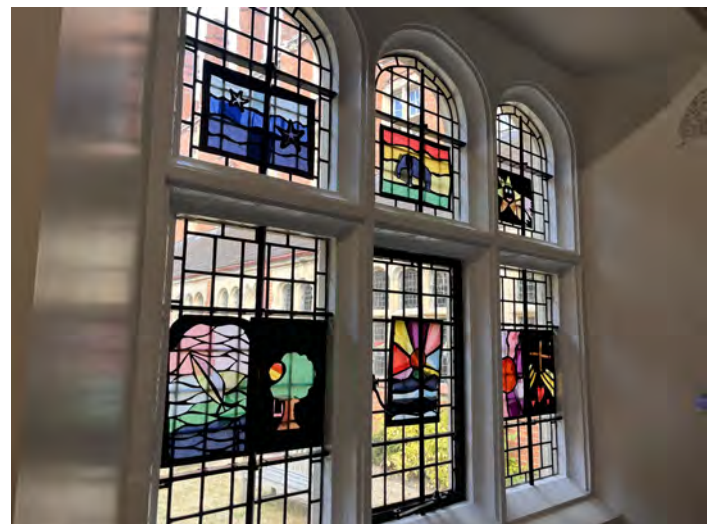
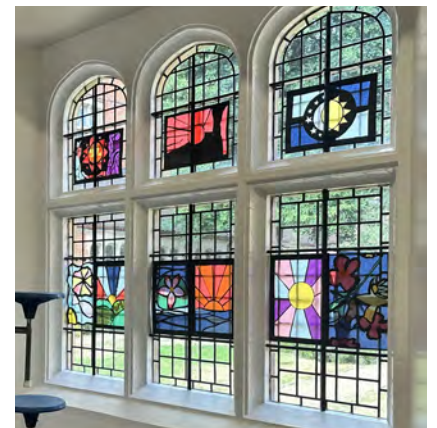
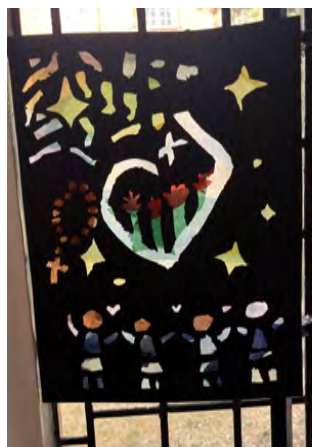
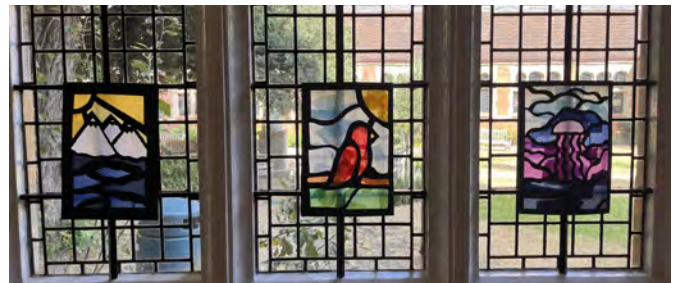
Students watched the film 'Shakespeare in Love', went on a tour of the Globe Theatre on the South Bank, and enjoyed picnics in a number of central London parks.



Year 8 Exploring the Word through Glass Window Workshop

Year 8 have been busy this week learning about and producing art inspired by stained glass windows. Our own stained glass window in the chapel was installed by the Society of the Sacred Heart in 1907 and includes many heart images.

The work produced by the students was put up in the cloisters for everyone to admire.



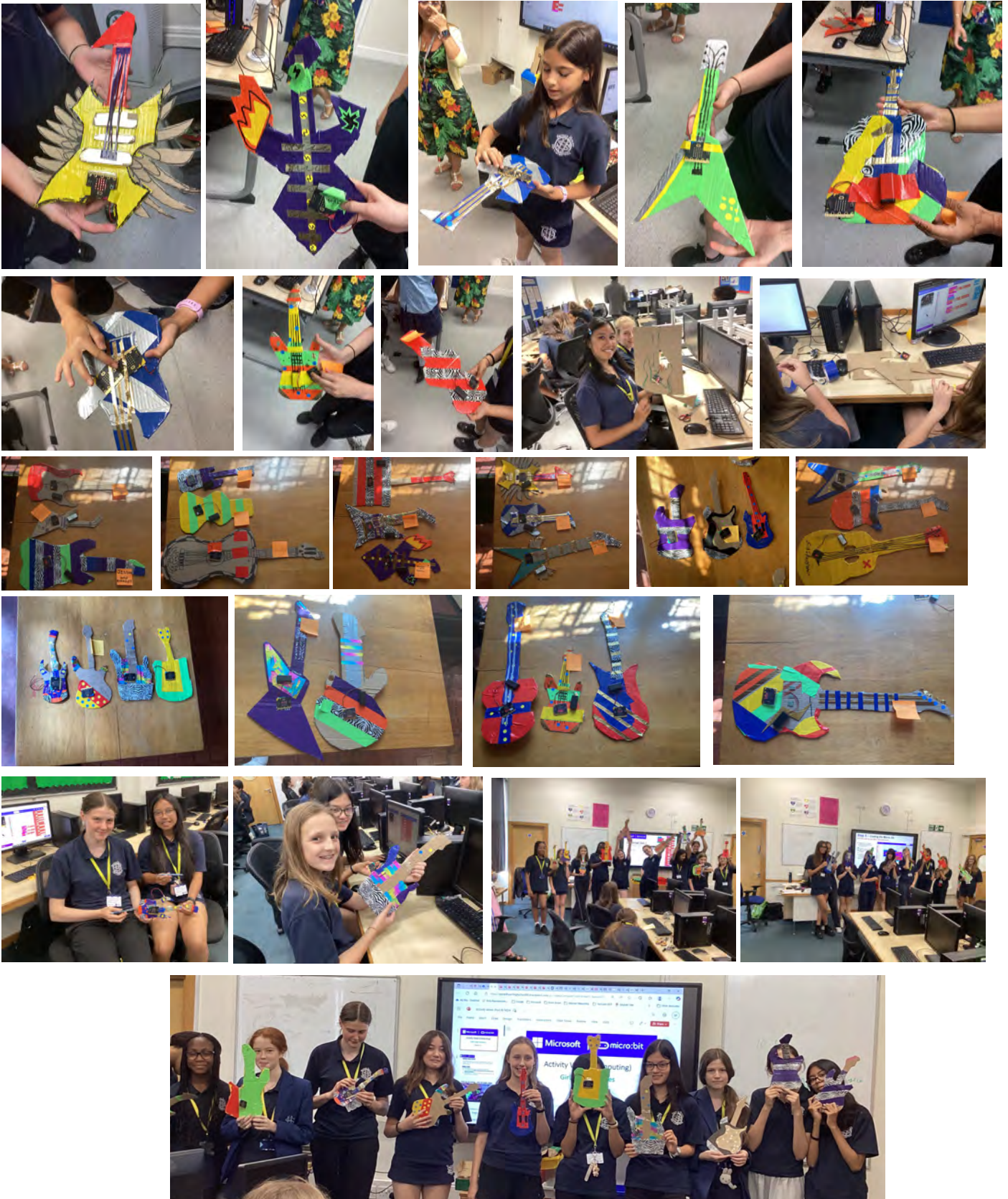
Computing Activity Day

GirlsCode Grooves

As part of our recent Computing Activity Day, students took part in an exciting hands-on workshop called GirlsCode Grooves. Designed to inspire creativity and confidence in tech, this session gave students the chance to unleash their inner tech stars by using Micro: bits to build and code their own digital musical instruments, from custom guitars to sound machines!

Using simple block-based coding, they designed, programmed, and personalised their creations, with no prior experience needed. The atmosphere was buzzing with energy, imagination, and music. Some even brought colouring pens to add a unique flair to their project designs.

A brilliant day of coding, creativity, and confidence building.



Enterprise Day Success

Students Channel Elizabethan Elegance with a Modern Twist

As part of activities week, Year 10 students took creativity and business skills to new heights during our recent Enterprise Day, themed **'Create and Promote an Elizabethan-Inspired Dress Designed to Appeal to Middle Class Women.'**

Working in teams, students combined historical research, fashion design, marketing, and presentation skills to develop stylish and practical dress concepts that reimagined the grandeur of the Elizabethan era for today's consumer. Each group sketched detailed dress designs, selecting fabrics, colours, and features to reflect both historical influence and modern appeal.

The day also helped students build a wide range of career skills, including teamwork, critical thinking, budgeting, communication, marketing, problem solving and public speaking.

Alongside their dress creations, teams developed distinctive brand identities and delivered persuasive business pitches, showcasing their designs through compelling visuals and well thought out promotional strategies.

Judges were impressed by the students' creativity, professionalism, and commercial awareness. Enterprise Day was a memorable celebration of innovation, collaboration, and entrepreneurial spirit.

Well done to all involved!



Culmington Manor Adventure Trip

A Fantastic End to the Year!

For activities week, a group of Year 9 students spent three action-packed days at Culmington Manor in Shropshire, enjoying a wide range of exciting outdoor activities. From crate stacking and rock climbing to abseiling, the trip was filled with adventure, laughter, and plenty of teamwork.

The focus throughout was on building confidence, strengthening friendships, and celebrating the end of the school year together. Our students embraced every challenge, showing determination, enthusiasm, and brilliant team spirit.

As always, Sacred Heart students made us incredibly proud. The staff at Culmington Manor were full of praise for how engaged and positive the girls were throughout their stay.

It was a memorable few days and the perfect way to mark the end of the school year before students transition into the next exciting chapter of their journey – GCSEs.



Dance

During activities week, students explored eight diverse dance forms - Capoeira, Flamenco, African, Hip Hop, Irish, Ballet, Bollywood, and Jazz - and crafted a 16-32 count choreography inspired by one chosen style. Their performances showcased a deepened understanding and mastery of the selected dance form, reflecting both technical skill and cultural appreciation.



Laudato Si and Global Water Dances

During the summer term, students came together to create site-specific dance choreographies on the school green, inspired by environmental themes. These performances were part of the Laudato Si project and aligned with Global Water Dances, reflecting Pope Francis's call to "care for our common home."

Through dance improvisation and subconscious movement, students forged deep connections with each other while

fostering environmental awareness. They engaged with elements of the Global Water Dance Education syllabus, learning to embody natural elements through dance and using varied dynamics to express their choreographic intentions effectively.



Auction Success (and fame!!)

We had plans to radically resurface our outside courts with a moss resistant surface, similar to Astro-turf, suitable for both netball and tennis. This would help alleviate current problems with the courts and provide a far nicer surface for our students to play on -and even to sit on. This is the type of project that benefits from parents' regular giving to the school and just over half the funding for the project will come from that regular giving by parents to 'school fund'.

At the start of the year however, we asked the PTFA committee if they could also raise funds to help subsidise this project, and as many of you will already know, the Sacred Heart PTFA is great at organising fundraising auctions. They have a special talent!

Special thanks to Sue Clancy and Maria Monterio who worked tirelessly to make the auction happen and to other volunteers who contributed to making the event such a success. A word also for Adrian Biddell, a former Sotheby's auctioneer who was so entertaining (and effective)!

Thanks to the generosity of parents and others across our community, and your spirited participation in both the live and silent auctions, the PTFA surpassed their target and raised £17,000. £15,000 of this is being passed to the school to help subsidise the resurfacing costs. The PTFA are also passing other monies to the school for other smaller projects including some new netball hoops and sewing machines! We are incredibly grateful.

The resurfacing works have been commissioned and take place over the summer.

A photographer and journalist from the Sunday Times were present at the auction, and last Saturday an article about school PTFAs made the front cover of the Sunday Times Magazine – featuring inside, photos and commentary about our PTFA and the auction!



THE SUNDAY TIMES *magazine*

senior playground into a court for tennis, netball and basketball. "Think of the resurfacing," Biddell cries out to the parents eating charcuterie.



A fundraising auction at Sacred Heart High School in west London



The auctioneer Adrian Biddell drums up the bidding at Sacred Heart High School
PETER DENCH FOR THE SUNDAY TIMES MAGAZINE

Debating

The debaters have rounded off the academic year as they began it with some impressive victories in competition. It has been our most successful year to date with students from all year groups competing and participating in our debate offering. The details of our competitions this term are below.

Putney High School Friendly – Wednesday 7 May

We were hosted by Putney High School for our final round of friendly fixtures for this academic year. The KS3 students debated against Latymer Upper and Putney High School with victories for every team. A huge thanks must also go to the senior debaters in Year 10 and 12 who gave up their evenings to come and judge the debates.

Bingham State School Cup – Thursday 10 July

Sacred Heart took 35 debaters (8 teams) to compete at the Bingham State School Cup which was hosted by South Hampstead High School. They competed against 68 teams in four rounds of fierce debate. Both the senior team of Milan, Teresa and Anushka and the junior team of Vesa, Clara, Martha and Martina made their grand finals which took place in front of large audience. Huge congratulations must go to the junior team who won their final (and the trophy) and to the senior team who took runner up.

Vesa (Y8) from the winning team, describes the day below.

When we arrived at the school, they served us a small breakfast and gave us a quick briefing of how the day would look. They then gave us our first motion which was 'This House Believes the Big Bang Theory was good for the neurodivergent community'.

Each round of debating lasted around an hour - with prep time and feedback included - and after we were given the verdict of the first round, we were given the second motion, 'This House Believes that people should prioritise a well-paying, stable career over a career they love'. All of the Sacred Heart teams in the Junior Strand (Years 7, 8 and 9) won the first two rounds.

We then had lunch and the third motion was announced: 'This House Believes that cheerleading is good for feminism'. After feedback and winners for that round were given, the last motion was given to us, which was 'This House Supports parents using spyware'. The last round of debates was a closed round, meaning that we wouldn't get the results until after the competitors for the finals were announced.

Two Sacred Heart teams made it into the finals, one in the Junior Strand and one in the Senior Strand (Years 10, 11 and Sixth Form), with the Junior Strand team being the team that I was on along with Marth and Clara from Year 8 and Martina from Year 9.

The motion for the finals was announced - 'This House Would introduce a European wide exchange programme where all students would have to spend Year 9 living and studying abroad' - and preparing for this motion was stressful. We were opposing the motion (against it) and although we had already done four debates that day, it was a lot more pressure on our shoulders.

Preparation time flew by and before we knew it, we were standing up in front of a theatre filled with students and staff. The Year 9's from Sacred Heart came to watch and support us and I'm so thankful that they did. Every time one of us got up onto that stage or finished our speeches, they were cheering the loudest and clapping the hardest, and honestly, seeing them encourage and support us was the highlight of my day.

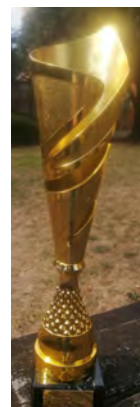
I found out the next morning that we'd won the competition for the Junior Strand and I couldn't have been more proud and glad. Was it a stressful day? Yes. Did I still have fun? Also yes. This was my second competition at South Hampstead but I sincerely hope it won't be my last.

Noisy Classroom Economics Debate – Thursday 26 June

Three of the Year 12 debaters and Economics A-Level students took part in a zoom debate with Ashmole School. They debated two motions: "This House would lower the UK's corporation tax to 10%" and "This House believes the UK should rejoin the EU for economic reasons." Ciara, Mudra and Milan won both rounds and were praised by the judge for their knowledge of economics and the high quality of their arguments.



Noisy Classroom Economics Debate



Wimbledon Ball Girls 2024-25

We are thrilled to celebrate the exceptional performance of our 2024-2025 Wimbledon Ball Girls cohort! This year, 70 talented pupils applied, showcasing immense dedication through a rigorous selection process. The journey included four challenging rounds of trials, followed by an additional final trial at Wimbledon. From this competitive pool, four outstanding girls—two of whom were recalls - earned the prestigious opportunity to serve as Ball Girls at the Wimbledon 2025 Championships, marking an increase from last year's three participants.

The selected cohort demonstrated remarkable commitment, training diligently through early morning sessions, afternoon practices, and one-on-one coaching. Their hard work culminated in a standout achievement: one pupil performed daily on Centre Court, an exceptional achievement.

We are incredibly proud of these young athletes and anticipate the talent that will shine in next year's cohort.

Miss Anderson



Macbeth at the Lyric Theatre

Year 11 were lucky enough to go and see a production of Macbeth at the Lyric Theatre in support of their GCSE English Literature studies. Student Tamina A shares her thoughts on the production below.

I recently had the opportunity to watch Macbeth at the Lyric Hammersmith, and found it to be a modern and thought provoking take on Shakespeare's classic.

As a student studying this play for my GCSEs, I enjoyed mentally reciting the quotes I had been revising. The interpretation of the eponymous protagonist was quite fresh as he was portrayed as more hesitant and vulnerable, making his descent into madness even more compelling. In addition, Lady Macbeth's performance was especially intense, as she was depicted to be ambitious yet emotionally vulnerable; it was interesting to witness her guilt, grief and psychological unravelling.

The atmosphere of the play was enhanced by live bagpipe music which added a haunting and immersive quality to the production and connected it back to its Scottish origins. Furthermore, the use of live video projections was very clever and helped to further immerse the audience in the play.

One of the most striking moments was Lady Macbeth's sleepwalking scene which felt very raw, intimate and perfectly encapsulated what I believe to be the main message of the play - that unchecked ambition can lead to one's demise... Therefore, upon exiting the Lyric Theatre, my friends and I were left very impressed by this performance.



Y10 visit the Charles Dickens Museum

Leora, reflects on the Year 10 trip to the Charles Dickens Museum in support of their English Literature GCSE studies.



The Charles Dickens Museum was such an educational and brain-stimulating experience. It was an excellent opportunity to use and revise my 'A Christmas Carol' knowledge and apply it to the visit.

Throughout our visit we were accompanied by a kind guide from the museum who led us when going around the house and provided context for each room that we were in.

The first room we visited was Charles Dickens' drawing room (which is a room where you host guests). There were various paintings and the museum guide passed around an object that looked like a pair of binoculars (I now know that they are called opera glasses) and she explained their use - which is to see more clearly when you go to watch plays. The majority of the rooms contained paintings that depicted the narratives in his books.

The room that I found really interesting was his daughter's room. It had a timeline at the front of the room that outlined the key moments in Dickens' life. This was an amazing moment to remind myself of the important context behind the novella. It explored Dickens' privileged childhood that soon turned melancholic and how he and his family managed to get out of the trouble that they were in.

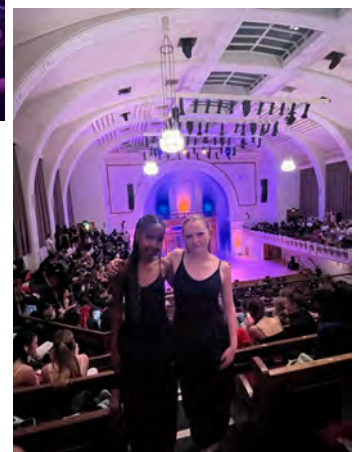
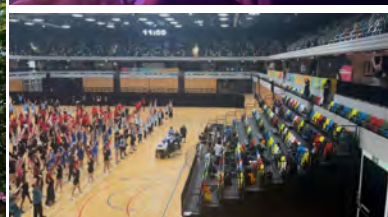
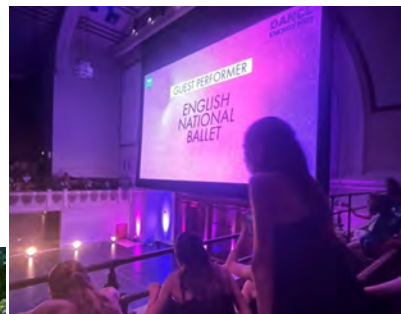
Overall, I would really recommend a visit to this Museum when you get the chance. Aside from the backstories behind each room, it's a very beautiful house that can tell you a lot about Britain (more specifically London) during the Victorian era.

Leora O, Year 10

Sacred Heart Dance Company

This year, dance has been a valuable addition to the school's curriculum, with the Sacred Heart Dance Company's 16 female dancers making remarkable improvements in technique and artistry. They competed in three prestigious dance competitions, showcasing their talent and dedication. At *The Great Big Dance Off*, their performance of *Time After Time* earned a perfect 10/10 for crowd appeal and 9/10 for choreography/creativity. This piece explored themes of love, loss, identity and trust, using metaphorical masks and symbolic representations of time to convey profound societal and emotional narratives.

In the *London Youth Games* competition, one dancer's exceptional performance secured a scholarship to the renowned Rambert Dance Summer Intensive Programme, along with termly dance sessions, setting a new standard for the school's dance programme. Additionally, the company was awarded a £250 bursary to participate in the *Dance Energy 2025* competition, where they not only performed their routine but also had the privilege of observing world-class companies like Boy Blue and English National Ballet.



Library

Book Fair

The Trinity term at the library began on a very exciting note with a school-wide book fair! Collaborating with Scholastic Books, the library hosted a book fair in the Reception room which gave students the opportunity to browse many book titles and purchase brand-new books! We had many books for students to choose from, ranging from all different genres of fiction, non-fiction, as well as manga and comic books, ensuring that all students would be able to spot a book they would enjoy. As a library, we gathered multitudes of inspiration for new books to add to our catalogue, and many extra purchases and reservations were made by students throughout the week!



Our Book Fair all set up

Poetry by Heart - Grand Finale at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre

The library arranged and participated in many other exciting opportunities this year. Most recently, the winners of our SHHS Poetry Showcase held in the Lent Term attended the Poetry by Heart Grand Finale at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. The Poetry by Heart Grand Finale was a national celebration of all students who had taken part in the Poetry by Heart spoken poetry competition. It included a showcase of selected student poetry performances and crowned the overall national winners of the competition. It was wonderful to participate in a celebration of spoken poetry with schools and students across the country, and by coming together in this way, we had the opportunity to watch poems being performed in an exciting way and at an exceptional venue. It was a fantastic and inspiring day!



On our way to the Poetry by Heart Grand Finale



Poetry by Heart Grand Finale



Poetry by Heart Grand Finale



Poetry by Heart Grand Finale

National Poetry Library Trip

A group of students who had taken part in every poetry competition run by the library throughout the year, also went on a library rewards trip the National Poetry Library where they received a tour of the library and took part in a specialised poetry writing workshop titled 'The Poetry Box'. This workshop linked poetry with science by encouraging students to experiment with writing their own poetry using different writing techniques and exciting tools such as interactive boxes with microscopic slides.

Divine, a student who attended the trip summarised that *"the Poetry Box merged science and poetry as one. You may not like one thing but with the other it is incredibly enjoyable. I was not used to using poetry techniques outside of free verse however the Poetry Box trip introduced some other writing techniques that I wouldn't have known otherwise. It was also a chance to meet people with the same interests as you. Would 100% recommend and go again!"*

Maame, a student who also attended the trip wrote *"I really enjoyed the poetry trip to the National Poetry Library. It was a fun, interesting, and amazing experience!"*, and Raniel likewise recalled that *"Going to the National poetry library was one of the highlights of my year because I love poetry and love reading and analysing poems, figuring out the meanings behind them. I had so much fun taking a tour around the Library and getting to write our own poems. I heard lots of nice poems from my friends and different authors that I would definitely be reading in the near future when I go with my family"*.

It was indeed a day full of friendship, fun, learning, and exploring new bounds of what writing poetry can and should entail!

Creative Writing Workshops for Aspiring Writers

Year 10 students have been expanding their horizons and furthering their creative writing skills by participating in Creative Writing Workshops for Aspiring Writers hosted at St Paul's Boys' School in Barnes. These workshops were held over three Saturday in June and gave students the opportunity to receive specialised creative writing advice and practice their skills. The workshops were led and curated by award-winning writers, poets, theatre practitioners, and academics, and covered topics such as Exploring Storytelling, Unlocking Creativity and Imagination, and Discovering Poetry!

Competitions

Furthering our participation in out-of-school activities and extra-curricular events, we have continued to make our name known in the literary community by taking part in various national competitions. Many students were entered in the **Foyle Competition for Young Poets**, a very prestigious poetry competition.

Students had also written fantastic entries for the **Stephen Spender Prize** - a prize awarded for poetry in translation, as well as the **H.G Wells Short Story Competition** - testing students' skills in curating short stories.

At school, we held a **'Stories of the Future'** writing competition, encouraging students to write stories of their visions of the future. The winners of this competition were Ellen H and Amarah R from Year 9. Huge congratulations to everyone!



National Poetry Library trip, exploring some of the Library's poetry



National Poetry Library trip



National Poetry Library trip



National Poetry Library trip

National Writing Day

For National Writing Day on 25 June, the library challenged students to create a list of all the different forms of writing they used during National Writing Day in order to demonstrate that we use many different writing forms and styles every day without realising it!

The winner of this challenge was Grace M, who not only extensively listed how many different forms of writing she used, but went above and beyond to produce written pieces in many other forms too!

Moreover, on National Writing Day students very eagerly participated in a scavenger hunt organised by the library. The aim of the scavenger hunt was to find all fifteen posters of authors' names and quotes hung around the school. Each poster included an author's name, image, and a quote by them about the act and process of writing.

This scavenger hunt was extremely popular and was completed in the early afternoon of National Writing Day.

Huge congratulations to Charlotte and Valery (Y9) who found all posters first, Nia and Josephine (Y8) who came in second place, and Mia, Mary Ann, Grace, and Sol (Y7) who came in third!



First place winners of National Writing Day Scavenger Hunt



Third place winners of National Writing Day Scavenger Hunt

Mental Health Awareness Week

We celebrated Mental Health Awareness Week. During this week the library hosted a board game lunch time during which students were encouraged to come into the library to play board games with friends and make new connections, or de-stress by completing some colouring in individually.

We also created a kindness board on which students wrote kind messages to one another. These dates, as well as VE Day and our school Culture Day also enjoyed a display of recommended library books for students to browse and borrow.

Revision

A key role of the library this term was supporting students who were revising and preparing for their official examinations as well as the in-school summer exams. This was a busy time for both the library and for students, and we very much enjoyed seeing the library being used as a quiet study space to its full effect.

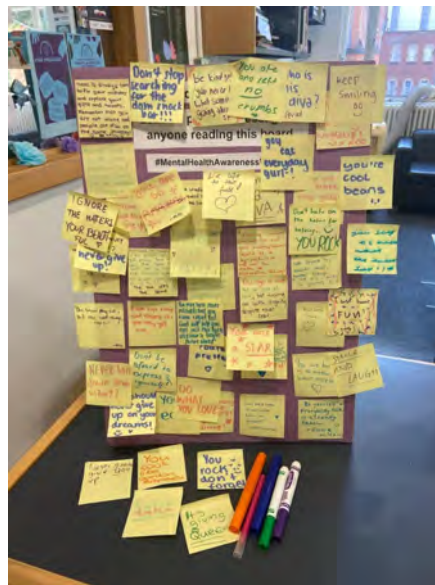
In order to alleviate some of the stresses of the in-school exam week, the library hosted a Legally Blonde movie night on the Friday before exams began.

Library Clubs

Library clubs (with the exception of Year 10-13 Book Club) continued to run as normal and many students participated in a new initiative called 'Book Rescue Sessions' every Tuesday after school. This initiative encouraged students to come to the library to help mend some of the broken books which needed repairing after bravely standing the test of time.



Mental Health Awareness week board games



Mental Health Awareness week kindness board

Writing 'Piece of the Week'

The library introduced a 'Writing piece of the week' display which encouraged students to email Miss Spek (the librarian) any writing pieces that they do in their own time for a chance to be featured on our display board as our 'writing piece of the week'. Students participated in this eagerly, with the following students producing fantastic writing pieces of the week so far: Emma P (Y10), Margaret W (Y8), Jessabelle E (Y11), Megan M (Y11), Amarah R (Y9), Divine Z (Y7), Grace W (Y7), Joanna Z (Y12), and Winnie O (Y12).

Library Lessons

As every term, Year 8 and Year 9 English classes used the library for their bi-weekly library lessons. The library continued to run starters for these lessons using the Day news outlet, choosing all sorts of topical stories to read and discuss as a class.

Most recently, we read and discussed a news story titled 'Bard boom brings hope in Ukraine war', which explored how Shakespeare's drama is used in different contexts and circumstances. It was insightful to consider the significance of literature and drama outside of its primary context.

Library Volunteers

Library volunteers continue to offer impeccable support to the library. Their help and enthusiasm contribute to make the library the lovely place that it is. Their organisation and drive to support its initiatives, are greatly appreciated.

Our new volunteers who are participating in the Duke of Edinburgh award have also been excellent additions to our volunteering team and we are very excited to have them.

Senior Learning Resource Centre Ambassadors

Senior LRC Ambassadors, whose time has come to bid farewell to their volunteering duties have been exceptional in their work and dedication to the library. In addition to helping with paired reading and dedicating their time to volunteer with many different library activities, they have put together a list of classic novels they recommend for younger students to read.

This list has been turned a library display titled 'Y12 LRC Ambassadors share their book recommendations' and has enjoyed spectator popularity. In order to thank them for their work and support this year, the library organised a fun pizza party for them. They will be missed!

As the summer term approaches, we encourage all students to participate in the Library Summer Reading Challenge. It is a fantastic opportunity to engage in reading over the summer holiday, complete extra challenge tasks, and win a great prize in September!

Thank you to all the students and staff who have made this a truly enriching and fantastic year!

Miss Spek, Librarian.



Margaret, the first author of our Writing Piece of the Week



Friends supporting Margaret, the first author of our Writing Piece of the Week



Students participating in book mending

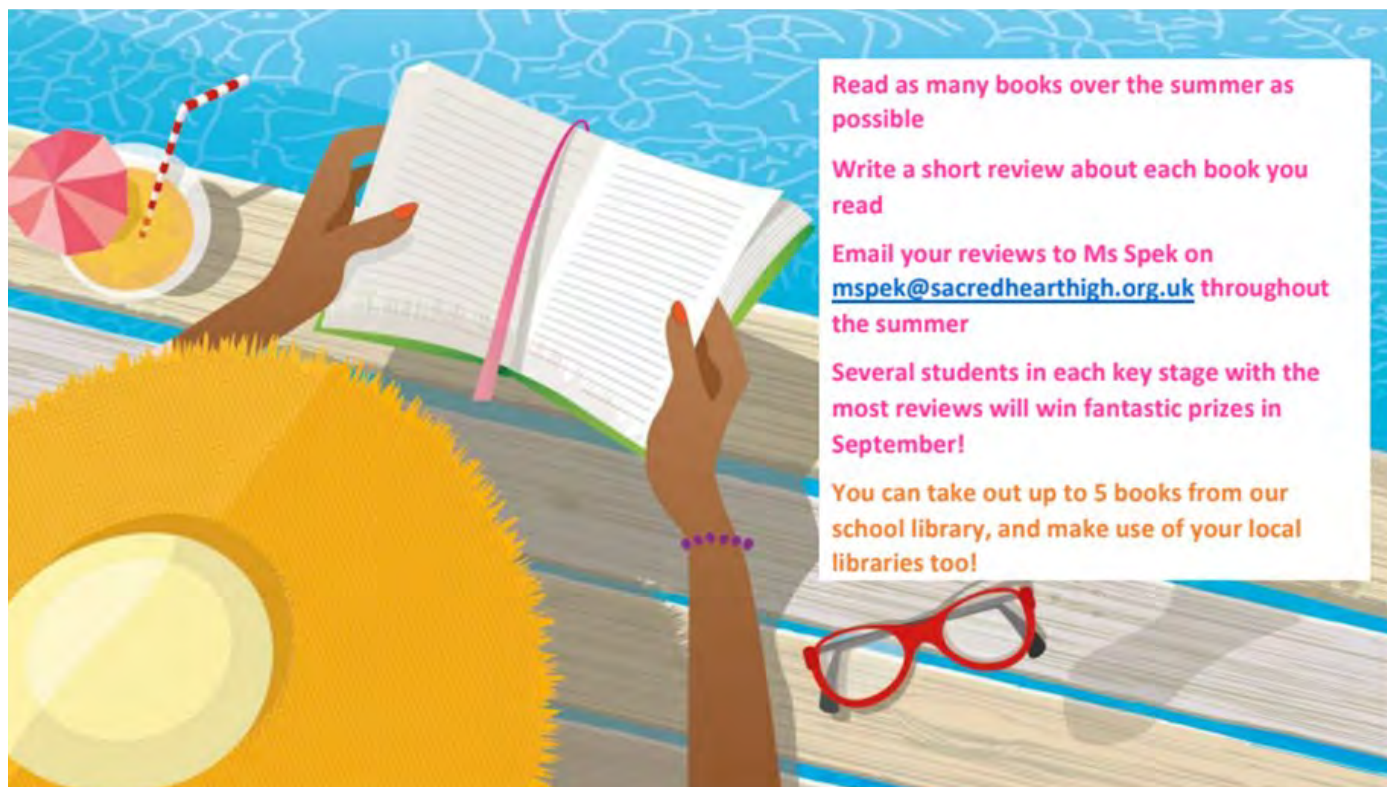


Senior LRC Ambassadors Classics Book Recommendations



Senior LRC Ambassadors group photo post pizza party

Library Summer Reading Challenge



Read as many books over the summer as possible

Write a short review about each book you read

Email your reviews to Ms Spek on mspek@sacredhearthigh.org.uk throughout the summer

Several students in each key stage with the most reviews will win fantastic prizes in September!

You can take out up to 5 books from our school library, and make use of your local libraries too!

Our new head girl team



Milan

Deputies

Julianna

Mar

Francoise

Head Girls



HEAD GIRL TEAM 2025-2026

Emotional Last Day for Year 13



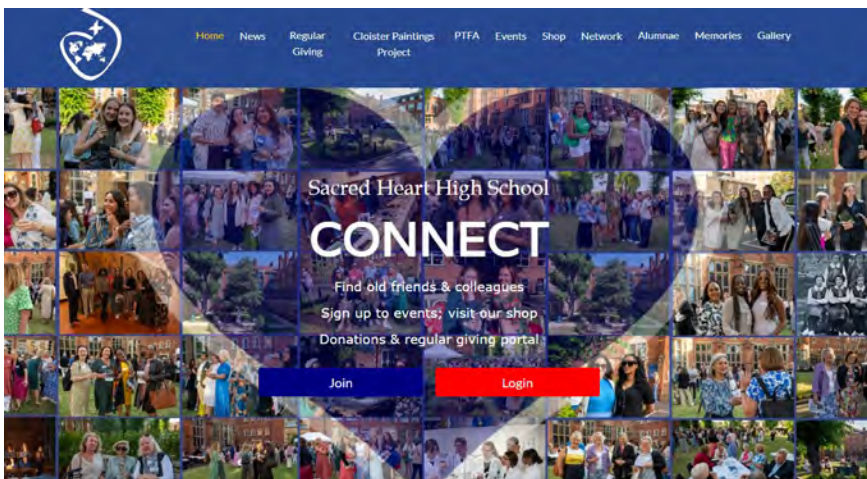
On Thursday 1 May 2025, celebrations were held in honour of our Year 13 students, departing now for study leave before their final exams.

Parents joined us for a liturgical celebration in the chapel which included an address from the headteacher and speeches from the girls thanking staff for all their support over the years. Girls were each given a Madeleine Sophie prayer card, a Miraculous Medal and personalised cards from staff and the headteacher.

After the Liturgy, girls and their families poured out into the cloister garden for tea and each student received a cupcake and keepsake mug describing the symbolism of the school logo. Students wrote farewell messages on the shirts of their friends and later in the evening they all attended a Leavers' Ball.

All girls in Year 13 will be eligible to join our online alumnae network as soon as they are 18. They will be able to set up personal profiles, upload their photo and reach out to message their friends for years to come. Alumnae reunions and garden parties will follow. This is not the end, it is just the beginning of the next phase of their lives and we will always be here to welcome them back!

They have benefitted from a Sacred Heart Education which will stay with them for ever. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them and we wish them well as their life journey continues.

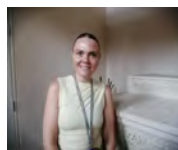


Farewell to staff

We bid farewell to all staff who are leaving us at the end of term, including:



Ms Sarah Westley: I am very sadly leaving Sacred Heart after 11 happy years! I'm going to miss all the amazing pupils I have had the pleasure of teaching over the years plus my wonderful colleagues. I am moving up to the midlands to continue with my teaching career and be closer to my family.



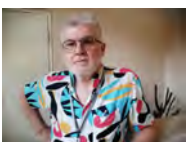
Ms Sarah Collison: I have been at Sacred Heart since January 2024, teaching Geography, and I've truly enjoyed my time here. The girls have been absolutely fantastic to teach. While I'm excited for my next chapter as I move to Australia, I will genuinely miss working here. I feel incredibly lucky to have been part of such a wonderful school.



Mrs Sarah Stingelin: From trainee to Second in Charge of English - it has been a wonderful journey through which I suspect I've learned at least as much as I've taught! I am very sad to leave but it is time now to focus more on my immediate family and enjoy the next stage of life.



Mr Ainsworth Darby - I am thankful for the 6 years I have spent and I wish the SHHS all the best for the future.



Coming to SHHS was sort of a sliding door moment for me; I am so glad that I went through that door. I have grown very attached to the school, students and staff. It has been like a second home to me and so I will miss everyone very much. We moved to Chesterfield earlier this year to be nearer my older daughter, her husband and my four granddaughters. I hope to see some of you again in the future.



My time at here has been full of growth, gratitude, and unforgettable moments. From being a student to then working with the incredible science department and coaching rowing, this community has shaped me in so many ways. I'm now taking the next step and studying Veterinary Medicine at the University of Bristol, a dream I wouldn't be chasing without everything I've gained here. I'm deeply thankful for the impact this community has had on my journey.

Farewell to Mr. Kellett

“The best Guitar and Drum teacher ever!”



Alumnae - Tri-borough band winners

After nearly 18 years of inspiring students, we say a farewell to Mr. Kellett, one of our most dedicated and passionate peripatetic music teachers.

Since he first joined our school, Mr. Kellett has worked with generations of young musicians, nurturing raw talent and guiding many towards careers in the music industry, as musicians, songwriters, producers, sound engineers, etc.

Mr. Kellett has played a major role in developing our school band culture. From small jam sessions in practice rooms to the formation of award-winning bands, his influence can be heard and felt across nearly two decades of school concerts and competitions. Under his guidance, several school bands went on to become finalists and winners in local school music competitions.

Last Thursday afternoon, past and present students gathered to give Mr Kellett the send-off he truly deserves. The event was filled with gratitude and excitement as members of former school bands, including *Rudy’s Theory*, *All That Matters*, *Metanoia*, *After Hours*, *Feedback* and *The Kelletts* - returned to say thank you, in person. It was a fitting tribute to a teacher who not only helped them find their musical voice, but also supported them as individuals.

The music department won’t be the same without hearing live bands playing all around the school and seeing him bobbing in time to their every beat!

As he moves on to the next chapter, we are deeply thankful for the years he has given to this school and the legacy he leaves behind. Mr. Kellett, from all of us - thank you.

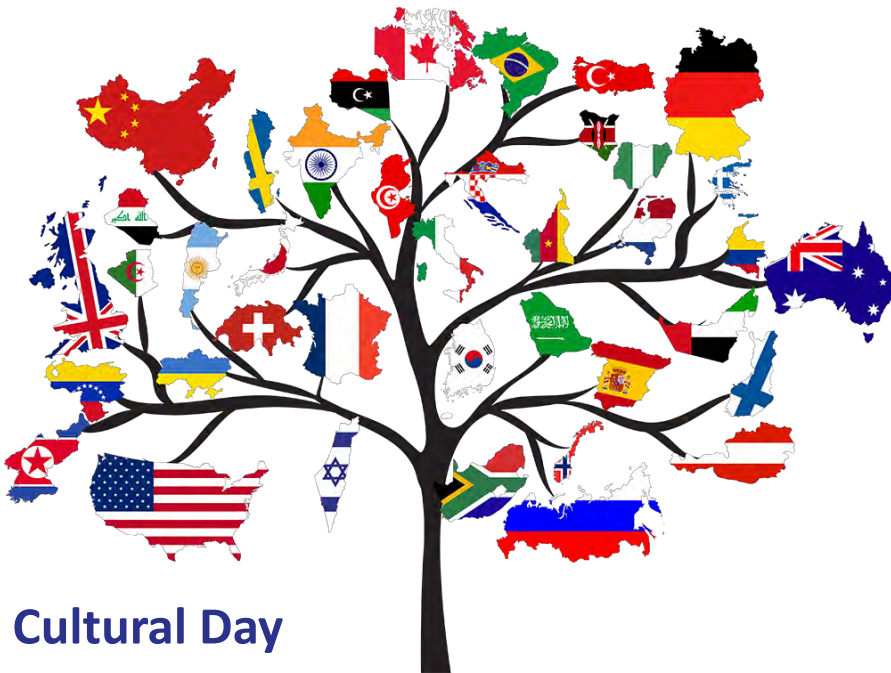


Preparation for Cultural Day

In preparation for Culture Day, students have been diligently learning an Irish Dance choreography, honing their musicality and expressive skills to bring vibrancy to the performance. Additionally, in anticipation of the end-of-term Liturgy, selected students have been working on a sacred worship choreography centred on the theme "You are loved and wanted."

This piece addresses global inequalities and ongoing conflicts, using the evocative phrase "who lights the sun" to invite personal interpretation from the audience. The rhythmic, poetic words underscore the connection to the world's natural elements.

Students have explored a unique dance form incorporating physical theatre, dance improvisation, and raw, indigenous movement styles. They have also delved into Laban Movement Analysis, examining how contrasting forces like push and pull, and elements such as time and space, enhance dance as a powerful art form.

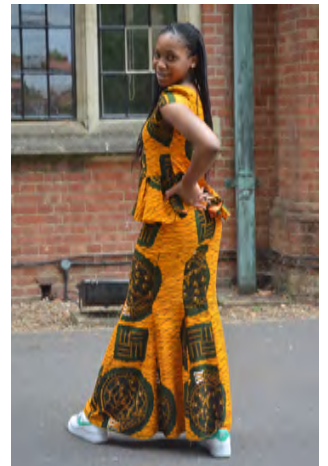


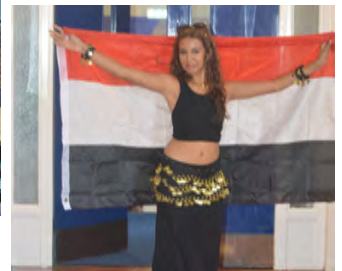
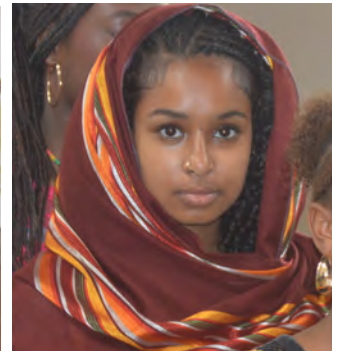
Cultural Day

On 17 July, students were invited to wear something which represents their cultural heritage. We held an assembly to celebrate cultural diversity and remind us, as Catholics, of Christ's mission to be people of love, in the face of increased hostility in our world. The day ended with an outdoor concert and picnic. Credit to Jeslyn from Y12 who took the photos.

A full gallery of almost 150 photos is available on Connect but a selection are included below and overleaf.

[Cultural Day 17 July 2025 | Gallery | Sacred Heart High School Hammersmith](#)





A Final Word

What an amazing term and year this has been. I am incredibly impressed with and proud of, the achievements of both our students and staff. The vast range of activities and enrichment offered to our students enables them to truly shine whatever their talents. As always, I am grateful to our talented staff who go over and above to support the holistic development of students.

Thank you to you as parents for your ongoing support of the school. I wish you and your families a restful summer break.

S. Donohue





SEPTEMBER 2025		
Monday	01	Professional Training Day for staff (school closed to students)
Tuesday	02	Professional Training Day for staff (school closed to students) Year 7 Parent information Evening 5pm
Wednesday	03	Y7 & Y12 only attend school Y11 Residential
Thursday	04	All students return to school Y11 Residential
Friday	05	Y11 Residential Y12 Launch of Micro Internships at SPGS
Tuesday	09	Y10 & Y12 Parents Information Evening, 5pm
Wednesday	10	D of E Silver Expedition
Thursday	11	D of E Silver Expedition Secondary Transfer Open Morning 9:30-11am Secondary Transfer Open Evening 4-6pm
Friday	12	D of E Silver Expedition Y13 EPQ trip to British Museum
Wednesday	17	Speak Out! Y10 training
Thursday	18	Early Entry UCAS support 8.30-3.00pm Secondary Transfer Open Morning 9:30-11am Secondary Transfer Open Evening 4-6pm
Friday	19	Y12 Teamworking event at SPGS AM Y7 Parent & Student Welcome Mass 2pm Y8-Y13 school day ends at 13.45
Tuesday	30	PTFA Annual General Meeting 6pm
OCTOBER 2025 <i>Black History Month</i>		
Thursday	02	Y11 & Y13 Parents Information Evening, 5pm
Thursday	16	Sixth form Open Evening 4-6pm
Thurs-Fri	23-24	Y9 Ypres Trip
HALF TERM Monday 27 Oct - Friday 31 Oct inclusive - <i>but note students return Tues 4 Nov</i>		
NOVEMBER 2025		
Monday	03	Professional Training Day for staff (school closed to students)
Friday	07	PTFA Quiz night 7pm
Thursday	13	Y13 Parent Teacher Meeting 4pm - 6pm
Friday	14	Y11 Careers Event at Olympia 12.30 - 2.30
Thursday	27	Y10 Parent Teacher Meeting 4pm - 7.00pm
Friday	28	Flu Vaccinations 9.30-3.00pm
DECEMBER 2025		
Tuesday	02	Flu Vaccinations 9.30-3.00pm
Wednesday	03	Y11 English & Maths Mock Exams
Thursday	04	Y11 English & Maths Mock Exams Y11 Parent Teacher Meeting 4pm -7pm
Friday	05	Y10 Charles Dickens Museum
Wednesday	10	Y10 Charles Dickens Museum
Thursday	11	Y7 & Y12 Transition Parent Meeting 4-6pm
Friday	12	Y10 Charles Dickens Museum BTEC Christmas Event
Wednesday	17	Advent Service 6pm-7.15pm, parents welcome
Thursday	18	Term ends 1pm
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS		
JANUARY 2026		
Monday	05	All students return