

# from the heart



## UN WOMEN

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

Our Lenten fundraising this year has been for the charity UN Women which focusses on

- **Leadership** - Helping more women become leaders in politics, business, and communities;
- **Economic Empowerment** - Supporting women to access fair pay, decent work, and financial independence;
- **Freedom from Violence** - Taking action to prevent and end violence and abuse against women and girls; and
- **Peace, Security & Humanitarian Action** - Ensuring women's voices are included in decisions during conflicts, disasters, and peace processes.

The UN Women's goal is to create a fair, equal world where every woman and girl can live safely, make decisions about her life, and reach her full potential.

We have held assemblies talking with students about this and our fundraising fair was held on Friday 20 March. Pictures from this energetic event (!) are included overleaf.

**Overall we have raised over £4,000**



**FOR ALL  
WOMEN  
AND GIRLS**

# Lent Liturgy



Michelle M (Y13) Kairos Team leader

Our Lent liturgy this year included a series of reflections on the stations of the cross, honouring the voices of women and children, in line with our Lent fundraising campaign for UN Women.

Our choirs performed beautifully, their voices were angelic.



# Lenten Fundraising Fair



# A closer look at our chapel

Initials engraved at the top of the organ on either side.



**AM** on the left, we think likely to denote Ave Maria or Mater Admirabilis  
**SC** on the right, Sacre Coeur.

## St Peter and St Edward (the Confessor)



St. Peter and St. Edward either side of the main arch, likely to symbolise the union of the **Universal Church (Rome/Papacy)** and the **English Catholic tradition (National/Royal sanctity)**. During the late Victorian period, particularly after the restoration of the Catholic hierarchy in England (1850), such pairing was common to assert that English Catholicism was both loyal to the Pope and rooted in English history .

St Edward is **King Edward the Confessor**, wearing his crown.

## Corbel Heads in our chapel, still to be identified. Open Challenge!

These are commonly craftsmen that worked on the building but one seems to be a Cardinal and another, a King!  
 Suggestions to [comms@sacredh.lbhf.sch.uk](mailto:comms@sacredh.lbhf.sch.uk)



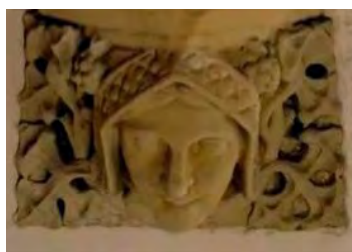
Might this be Cardinal Manning who raised the funds to build the seminary?



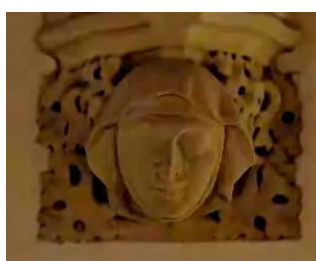
Might this be the chapel architect, John Francis Bentley, or is that a fanciful suggestion?!



Another King



Could be a woman?  
Seems unlikely at that time?



And there are more we cannot get close to yet. Hopefully we can get more pics when scaffolding is up for the lights in the summer holidays



## PTFA Grand Auction

# SHHS AUCTION APRIL 2026

**Silent Auction** in April &  
**Live Auction** Friday 24 April, 7.00pm,

*Bid on exciting prizes and experiences  
while supporting our school community.*

**Monies raised so far  
this year by the PTFA  
volunteers**

Quiz Night £1574  
Christmas hampers £6173  
Valentine's Boxes £715  
Y7 Disco £860

*Lets support them further at  
this auction event, which  
they work so hard to pull  
together*

The countdown is on! The PTFA's biggest fundraiser of the year goes live on **Wednesday 8 April in the Easter holidays!**

You can pre-register now to get a sneak peek at the 160+ incredible items up for grabs before the auction opens. You can save your favourites by clicking the heart icon so you're ready to bid; and you can get updates so you don't miss out!

**Pre-register now!** [Click here](#) to sign up today and start browsing the incredible items. The PTFA have gathered amazing prizes, generously donated by parents, local businesses, and our PTFA, all to support our school and daughters.

Expect fantastic deals on:

**Concerts & cultural experiences**

**Food & drink offers**

**Health & fitness memberships**

**Spa & beauty treatments**

**Family entertainment & kids' activities**

**... and so much more!**

With starting bids from **just £5**, there's something for every budget!

Last year, the PTFA raised an incredible amount of **over £18,000!**

They say *"Let's do it again and make this year's auction the biggest and best yet!"*

**Don't forget about the LIVE event!**

**You can buy tickets for the live auction  
using the link below.**

[Silent Auction \(April\) & Live Auction |  
Events | Sacred Heart High School Ham-  
mersmith](#)

***Thank you to the PTFA Committee for all their hard work on fundraising events and especially for the auction. The auction lots look brilliant and there are so many of them!!***

## Update on the Organ

The organ project is important for us, but not just because we value the efforts made by Sacred Heart Sisters in Paris in 1904, to save it. We recognise the incredible responsibility we have, housing one of the rarest organs in Europe and the opportunities that it can provide to our community and beyond.

Organ lessons here once created incredible music scholars and can do so again. The organ can help us further develop our choral tradition and enable us to offer organ recitals open to the public, opening up our chapel to professional musicians.

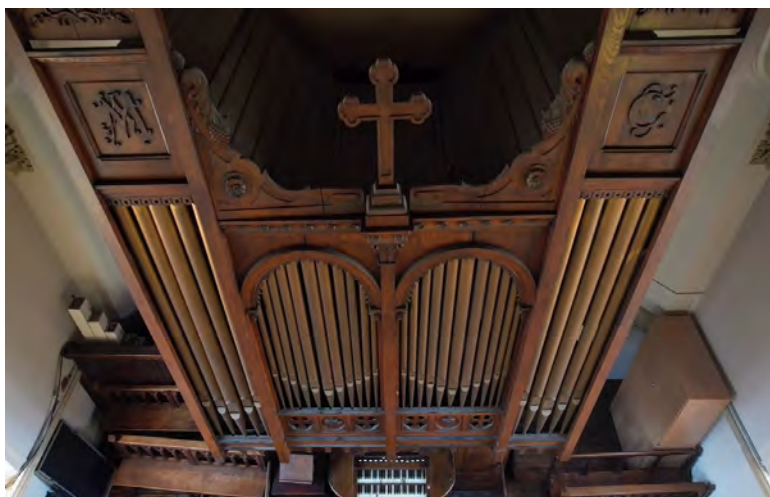
The organ can also serve as a historical reminder of the expulsion of Catholics from France. We've had a lot of publicity about all this in the national press and elsewhere.

**Our brand new organ talk happening for the first time on Thursday 16 April, provides the inside story not recounted in any of the press articles.**

Tickets are selling well (£12) and the talk is followed by refreshments and a new exhibition.

The money raised from this event will support our organ restoration fund.

Given that we need to raise just over £250,000, our fundraising will need to include applications to trust funds. A couple of submissions have already been made and for these, it has been important to demonstrate enthusiasm at the local level. Our direct fundraising appeal which has so far generated (in funds received and enroute to us) almost £10,000. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has donated to the organ fund so far.



**TICKETS HERE:**

[The Story of the Sacred Heart organ, smuggled out of Paris in 1904](#)  
| [Events](#) | [Sacred Heart High School Hammersmith](#)

## Also!

We applied to an organisation called 'Organs for Schools' that makes temporary loans of digital organs to schools, for free. We thought it would be good to see if we could borrow such an organ to use in the period before our organ is restored, so we can start to build up interest in organ lessons and to start to rebuild that tradition of organ music in other aspects of school life.

Having been on a waiting list for a while, we have just heard that we have been selected to receive such an organ on loan. We are awaiting delivery details but hope to have this shortly after Easter.

## And!

See an update overleaf about our grand fundraising concert for the organ.



# A BAROQUE FEAST

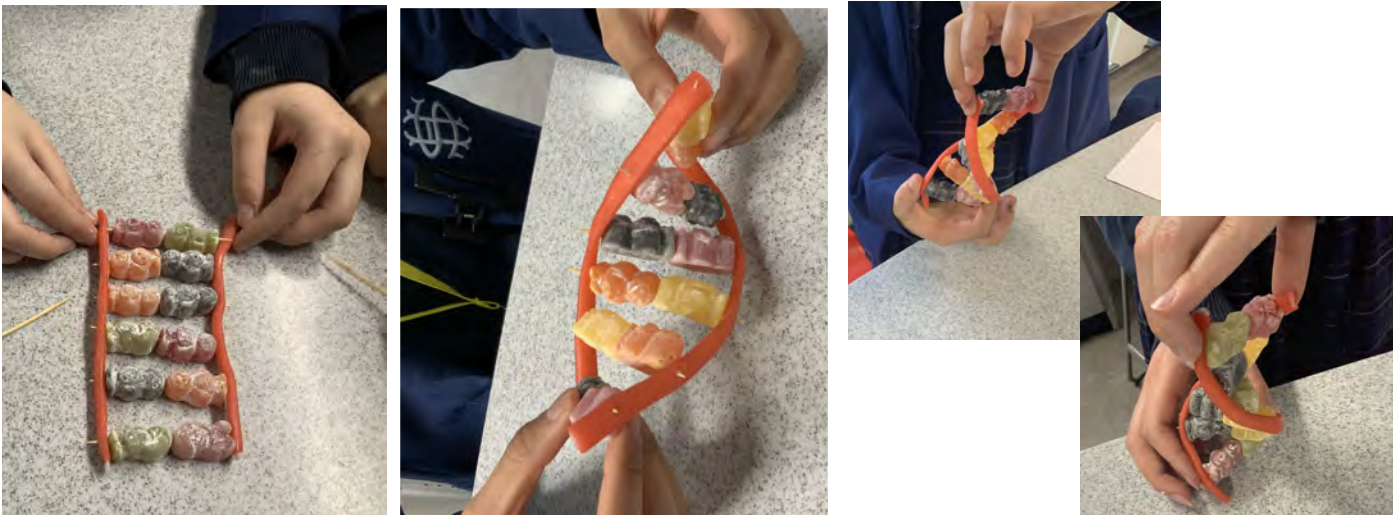
*Our grand fundraising concert planned for March had to be postponed but has been rescheduled for **Friday 19 June** and the event will be live on Connect for bookings in the first week of next term.*

*This will include works by Bach, Handel and Vivaldi. Our Schola Cantorum will performing and we will be welcoming the Kensington Sinfonia (violins, viola, trumpet, double bass and cello) together with an incredible professional soprano; a couple of additional choralists; and our very own head of Music, Mr Swain on the flute!*

*Blanaid Murphy who learnt to play the organ here in the 1970s went on to become an organ scholar at university and is now Director of Music at St Mary's Cathedral Dublin. We are thrilled that she is returning for this concert.*

*As a significant fundraising event, there will be canapes and drinks afterwards and a discount on the ticket-price for a parent of each performing student.*

## 'Stay and Shine' Week!



In February, students in Years 7-11 learned a little about what its like to stay on into our Sixth Form - Stay and Shine!

A number of our sixth form alumnae kindly recorded advice for the Year 11s which was played to them in full and these video clips have been edited together for our social media channels this weekend.

Senior prefects in Year 12 spoke with younger students and taster lessons and tasks were experienced by everyone.

Our alumnae say it all. They communicated their experience of staying on, mentioning the wide range of subjects available to study (both A-Levels and BTEC) and the academic challenge provided. They talk about incredible support being provided to sixth formers by staff and of course also about the fun times they had in these important years.

Do listen to what our sixth form alumnae have to say:

[https://www.instagram.com/reel/DVWIC\\_jDCIq/?igsh=OGhjemc wd2Jmam5r](https://www.instagram.com/reel/DVWIC_jDCIq/?igsh=OGhjemc wd2Jmam5r)

## Copy of famous altarpiece in our cloisters



Above and above right are images of the tiny base of a Fra Angelico altarpiece, only 32 cm high, and gleaming with gold, in the Sainsbury Wing of the National Gallery.

We have our own huge version of this in our cloisters, right and below - dirty, scratched and covered in a layer of yellowing varnish.

Individual saints can be identified within the painting and it will be wonderful to see, after cleaning, how brightly the colours and the gold come up.

The original in the National Gallery is described as:

*Shimmering with gold and glowing with rich colours, these remarkable panels once formed the predella (base) of the high altarpiece of the painter's own convent, San Domenico in Friesole....In the centre of the predella, Christ appears surrounded by angels and the vast company of heaven. The Virgin, Apostles, and other saints gather at the left. To the right, the forerunners of Christ are joined by Christian martyrs. The outermost panels show saints and blessed (beati) members of the Dominican Order.*

We need to tackle our cloister paintings project in stages, and this section will come later. Our current focus is on the short stretch of angels and a copy of Fra Angelico's Annunciation on the right as you enter the cloisters from the chapel.

We have been raising money for this through our 'Nunnery at Hammersmith' talk in February and from other donations. We hope to raise enough for this short stretch to be restored in the summer holidays.

It is wonderful to have copies of significant artworks lining the cloisters where all our students stroll daily.

[Donations to our cloister paintings fund](#) can be made through this link to the restoration project page on Connect at [sacredheartconnect.com](http://sacredheartconnect.com).



*Our version needs cleaning and repair*



## Y9 talk to Sister Cath, RSCJ



As part of their study of discipleship and vocation in RE, Year 9 pupils were visited by Sister Cath RSCJ, who spoke movingly about finding your vocation and shared her own journey of being called to religious life.

Students also learned about the amazing variety of work being done by the Society of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ, in French) in 41 countries worldwide, spanning education, charity, social outreach, and even running small farms!

## Y13 Retreat Day

Our Year 13 students took part in a Retreat Day built around the inspiring theme “**The Power of One Voice**”. Throughout the day, students participated in a series of open discussions exploring the realities of fear, personal obstacles, inner resilience, and the important role positive influences play in their lives. These discussions included biblical narratives, which helped them to explore how individuals demonstrated resilience, faith, and integrity when faced with challenges.

Another focus point was the exploration of young influencers, including: Malala Yousafzai, whose courageous advocacy for girls’ education became a global catalyst for justice and human rights; and Carlo Acutis, a modern young man of faith whose compassion, and devotion to the Eucharist has inspired young people to use their gifts and talents for the good of others.

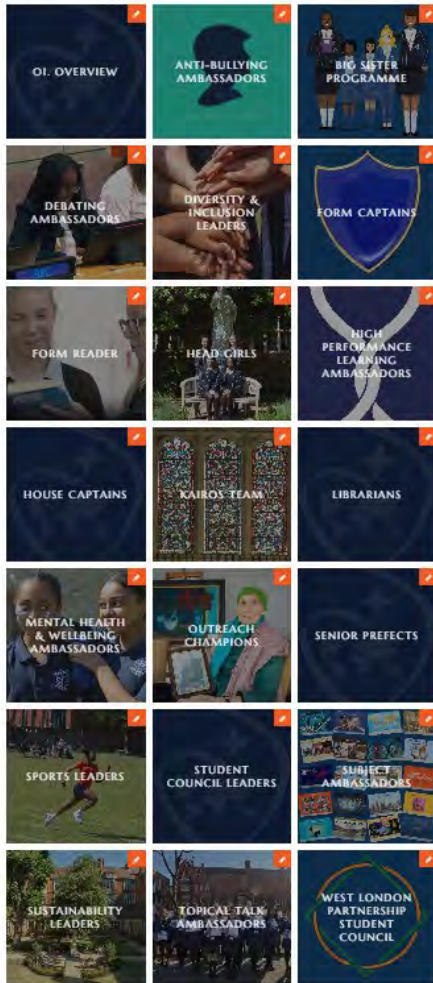
Feedback from students reflected a strong appreciation for the opportunity to speak openly, listen to one another, and feel heard. Many shared that the day helped them recognise how their own voices, experiences, and values have the power to make a positive impact.

The retreat concluded with a motivational and passionate speech from one of our Head Girls, her powerful words challenged students to step confidently into their futures with purpose and not to let disappointments hinder their growth.

The closing message of the day: ***every voice matters, and one voice can change everything.***



# Student Leadership opportunities



The school is preparing a webpage (draft left) to identify and explain our wide range of student leadership roles and opportunities.

The intention is to further engage students in decision-making processes to strengthen our school community. Where training is available we will offer this to develop their confidence as leaders.

## Organisation

Each student leadership strand relates to a specific Sacred Heart Goal and is led by a member of staff and sixth form leaders who promote leadership roles to the student body via assemblies, tutor groups and Google Classroom to yield membership. Student leaders will be commissioned in the chapel and anointed for mission later this year.

### Valuing an Active Faith

Kairos Team

### Valuing Intellect

High Performance Learning Ambassadors  
Subject Ambassadors  
West London Partnership Student Council

### Building Community

Senior Prefects  
Big Sister Programme  
Outreach Champions  
Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

### Personal Growth

Mental Health & Wellbeing Ambassadors  
Form Reader  
Form Captains  
House Captains  
Sports Leaders

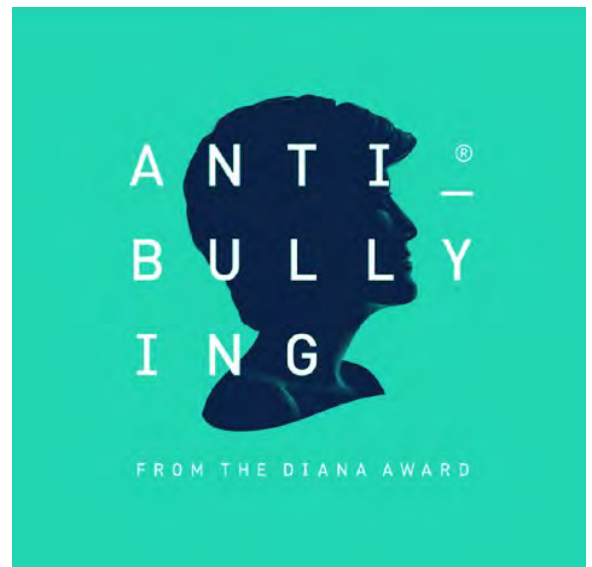
### Social Awareness that Impels to Action

Diversity & Inclusion Leaders  
Student Council Leaders  
Sustainability Leaders  
Debating Ambassadors  
Topical Talk Ambassadors

## Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

This term, we welcomed Ciaran O'Byrne from The Diana Award Team to train 40 students from Years 9, 10 & 12 as Anti-Bullying Ambassadors as part of our student leadership programme.

Our students engaged in conversations about the nature of bullying, how to create an environment where bullying is tackled head-on and how to create a safer, kinder school community. The day ended with students creating ideas for whole school events to promote the values that underpin an anti-bullying culture.



## Topical Talk Ambassadors



Our newest leadership initiative, the Topical Talk Ambassadors programme, designed by *The Economist Educational Foundation* has empowered students in Years 8 - 10 to deepen their understanding of current affairs through structured discussion, debate, and exploration of global issues.

Throughout the course, students engaged in international forums with young people across the globe, sharing perspectives on subjects such as politics, global conflict, misinformation, and the legal age of voting. One pupil's online comment on "agreeable disagreement" was shared with all Topical Talk Economist teachers around the world as an example of high-quality debate.

One student reflected on the experience:

*"I found it interesting how each person had a different point of view. This showed me the variety of options to an answer and how everyone is entitled to their opinions on different topics."*

The programme culminated in a strong collective performance from our ambassadors, placing 3rd on the National Leaderboard.

Congratulations girls!

## The Brilliant Club Graduation



**Congratulations** to Jenita, Zaria, Tia, Rioghna, Olivia, Naomi, Mia, Heaven, Abrianna, Ellee-Jane, Milka, Florencia, and Amelia

Our Year 9 and 10 Brilliant Club Scholars recently graduated at King's College London after completing a three-month programme of university-style study. Their hard work, commitment, and reflective speeches made the event a fantastic celebration of their achievements. This is what Rioghna in Year 9 wanted to share about the experience:

*During the Brilliant Club programme, we were given the opportunity to participate in a series of tutorials learning from our tutor Dr Daniel Marcu about fertility and reproductive biology. At the end of our course, we had to write a 2000 word essay using subject knowledge, critical thinking and written communication. A key feature of the essay-writing was trying to incorporate all the new scientific language and use our own research to complete them.*

# Highlights from our Careers Programme

## West London Partnership Careers Fair

We are proud to have hosted the West London Partnerships Careers Fair as part of National Careers Week in our very own sports hall! The space was transformed and brought together over 40 exhibitors representing a wide range of industries, training providers and career pathways. The event offered our Year 9 and Year 10 students a unique chance to explore future possibilities and engage directly with professionals from fields they aspire to join.

The variety on display was exceptional, giving students the chance to speak with representatives from major corporations such as KPMG, explore the world of design and infrastructure with engineers from Balfour Beatty, and even learn practical medical skills with Dr Akash from *TheUKCATPeople*. The Ministry of Defence Police was also a popular stand, offering students the opportunity to try on real police gear and learn about the many roles within the force. Solicitors, journalists, conservation experts, filmmakers and many other fabulous exhibitors also joined us, all providing invaluable insights, guidance and inspiration.

We were also delighted to welcome visiting students from three local partner schools. It was wonderful to see so many people asking engaging questions, participating in demonstrations and, of course, collecting classic careers-fair souvenirs (no fair would be complete without a tote bag... or seven).



*A special thank you also goes to Mr Williams, our Head of Careers, whose leadership and organisation made the day possible. We are grateful to all internal and external staff and exhibitors who contributed to an event that ran smoothly and left a lasting impression on everyone who attended.*



## My First Great Job



Our Year 12 students joined Dale Willis from *My Great First Job* for an engaging careers-related session.

Our students were introduced to personal branding and setting up a LinkedIn profile, as well as being advised on exploring work experience and apprenticeships/university paths.

The workshop also uncovered a wide range of post-18 options for students to consider and gave pupils useful insights to support their UCAS applications and future career planning.

## Women in Engineering Workshop

SHHS alumna Nicole Manley, joined by five other inspiring women from the Berkeley Group, shared their knowledge, expertise and passion for careers in construction, including engineering, planning and marketing, with our Year 7 students.



## Biosciences careers talk



We are very grateful to have had Dr Jacqueline Dickson, a Senior Teaching Fellow in the Faculty of Medicine at Imperial College London, visit our school to deliver an inspiring workshop titled **“Careers in Life Sciences: Where Can Biology Take You?”** for our Year 10 cohort and Year 12 Biology A-Level students.

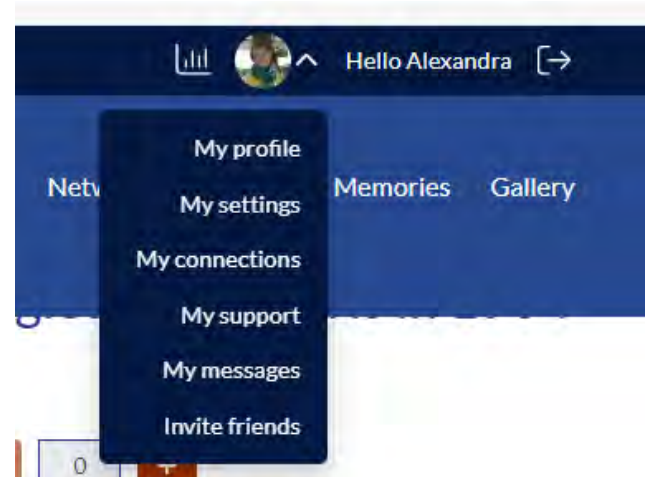
As the Educational Development Lead for Imperial’s new MSci in Medical Science and Innovation, Dr Dickson shared a wealth of knowledge about the many career pathways available to young people interested in the life sciences. She highlighted that students who are passionate about biology and improving human health do not need to become doctors or clinical professionals to make a meaningful impact.

Dr Dickson explored a wide range of fascinating roles open to life sciences graduates, explained the skills needed to succeed in these fields, and offered practical advice on choosing the right university course. Students also enjoyed an exclusive peek into the innovative new MSci programme being developed at Imperial College London.

# Enhancing your profile details on Connect

Joining up as an 'online member' of Connect is only available to those over 18, because it enables members to link up with other adults. For those parents, carers, alumnae and others in our community who have joined up as 'online members' of Connect, we encourage you to fill out more of your profile information.

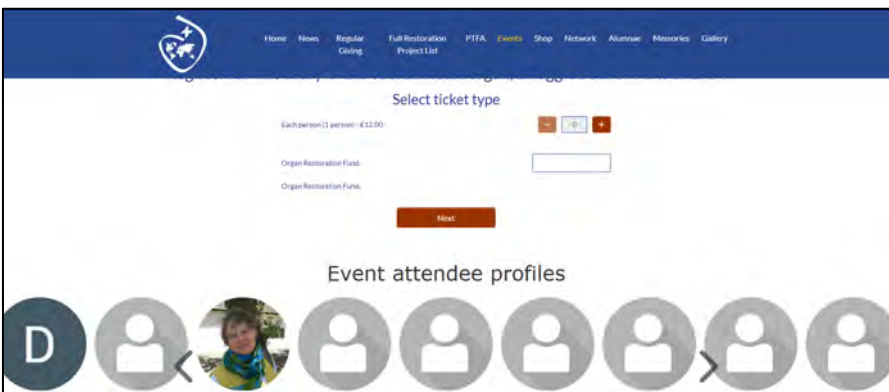
You can do this by clicking the down arrow next to your name. You can also get into settings here to update your email or change your email preferences, etc.



## Why add a photo or image?

When people press a button to book tickets to events, the Connect system shows you who's already coming at the bottom of the page but where people have not uploaded their photos, this just shows up in grey, see below. It also shows names, but so as not to target anyone individually, I have removed the names on the image below! You can then scroll through them all.

To upload your photo or an image, you just click My Profile as shown above and then you can see your profile and you can amend by clicking the red cog 'Edit Profile'. You can upload a photo, and including website links perhaps associated with your work.

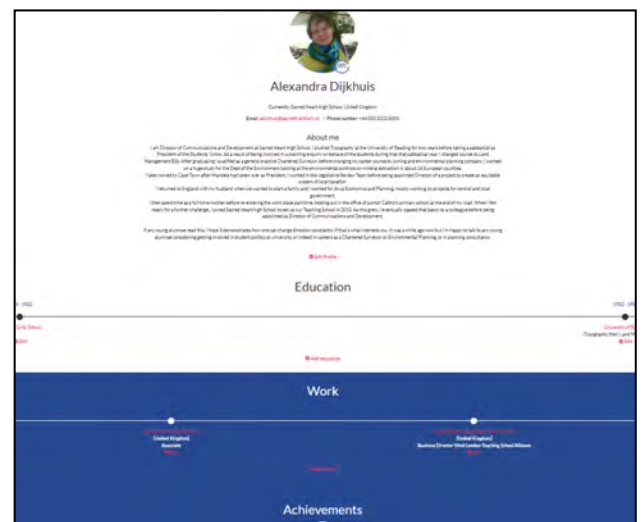


## Completing other parts of your profile.

You can write about yourself, as I have done (Mrs Dijkhuis) offering to speak to anyone considering a career in certain fields where I have experience.


You can look people up in the Network tab on Connect and you can message them directly through that. This could all help our students when they are at university and later when considering specific careers.

The Advanced Search button allows you to search for people in a particular industry but this won't work effectively until members complete these sections of their profile. Connect is still only a year old, but it has the potential to add even more value than it does already.




Thank you so much to all our online members!

## UCAS Launch Week



**How to plan & write a competitive personal statement**

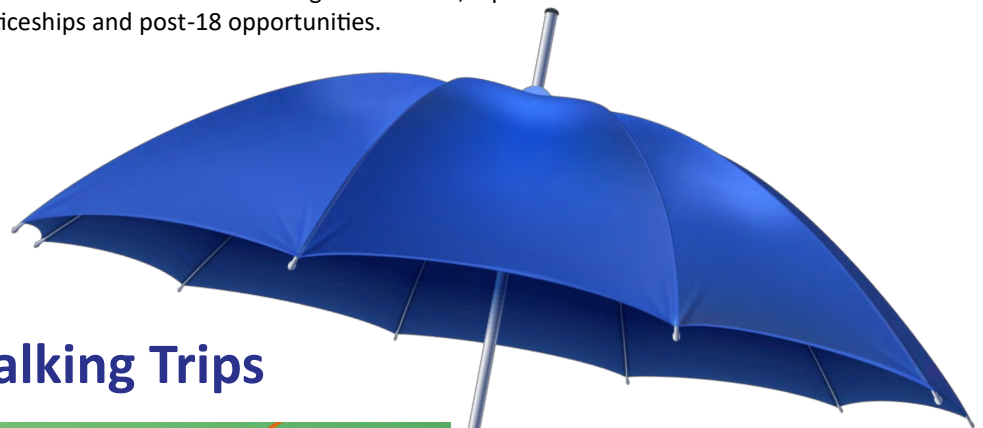


Our Year 12 students kicked off their UCAS journey in February with the University of Bath, taking part in inspiring sessions and workshops on how to craft competitive personal statements. Parents also joined us for a joint Zoom presentation led by our school and the University of Bath - working together to support students every step of the way.

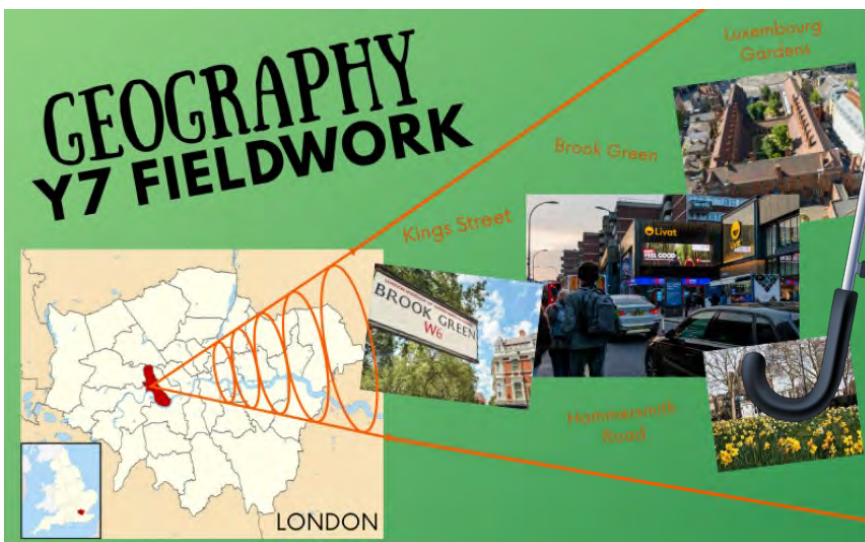
## UCAS Discovery Fair



Later students were out exploring their futures at the UCAS Discovery Fair on 23 March. A brilliant day at ExCeL London discovering universities, apprenticeships and post-18 opportunities.



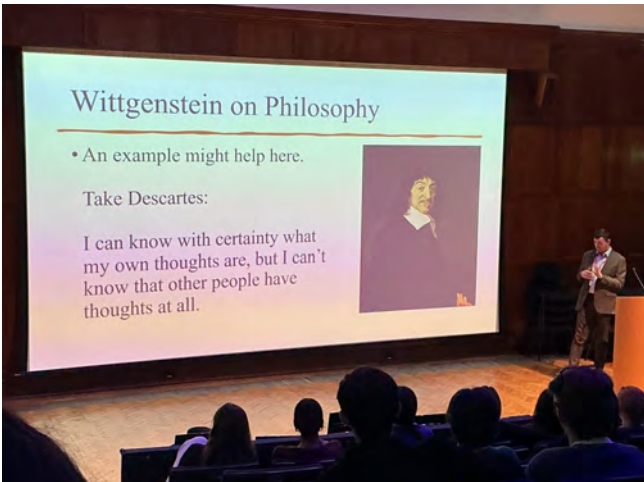
## Y7 Geography Walking Trips



Students of Year 7 Geography classes braved the elements to embark their first fieldwork around the local school area. Armed with opinion surveys, questionnaires, and their umbrellas, students began conducting an environmental survey of five sites around the immediate area.

Tasked with investigating what the local environment is like, and discovering what problems exist in Hammersmith, the students will soon embark upon a letter writing assessment, summarising their findings and presenting suggestions to local authorities on how Hammersmith's environment might be improved for all.

## Y12 Philosophy Conference



Our Religious Studies Year 12 students have kicked off February by attending a Philosophy Conference hosted by St Paul's Girls' School. The talks centred on human nature and political philosophy in the context of modern society, with discussions led by three university lecturers: Dr Matteo Mameli (King's College London), Dr Oliver Spinney (UCL), and Dr Helen McCabe (University of Nottingham).

## Y9 Playwriting Workshop



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!

## Year 12 Sculpture Competition



## Lost-Wax for Lost-Species.

Sacred Heart is proud to be acting as the central hub for an exciting new cross-school arts initiative titled *Flora and Fauna Under Threat in London*. Building on the success of the [Lost Wax for Lost Species project](#) two years ago, we are now collaborating with other schools to bring this creative opportunity to a wider group of students.

Our Year 12 Design & Technology students will work through the traditional lost-wax casting process, with the final outcome being a competition in which the strongest designs will be cast as bronze sculptures at a local foundry. The project is coordinated by Bernie Rickinson and delivered in partnership with UAL's Chelsea College of Art and the Worshipful Company of Founders.

The launch session took place at our school on 29 January, led by sculptor Abigail Burt. Five of our Year 12 D&T students were joined by six students from Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School and five students from the City of London School for Girls. During this session, students developed their initial wax models inspired by endangered species found across London.

A follow-up workshop was held on 12 February at Cardinal Vaughan, where UAL staff reviewed the wax sculptures to ensure they were suitable for casting.

The staff were very impressed with the quality of the work and encouraged our Year 12 students to enhance the surface textures of their pieces.

Once completed, the selected bronze sculptures and accompanying storyboards will be displayed at various locations across London to raise public awareness of species under threat. The project offers students a unique chance to broaden their understanding of metalworking, collaborate with peers from other schools, build confidence, and enrich their creative portfolios.

The project will conclude with a showcase and judging event at UAL, where families, teachers and guests will be invited to celebrate the students' achievements.



## Proto-Maker Champions receive their prizes



Last term, our Year 8 students Juliette, Victoria, Rayah, Zoe and Mia were victorious, winning first place in the Imperial College Proto-Maker Challenge and ranking top among all participating schools across Hammersmith and Fulham.

Today, our talented students received the rewards of their hard work: a selection of exciting design and engineering goodies, a remote-control monster truck each, a glorious trophy now proudly displayed in our school trophy cabinet, and even a 3D printer for the school! We could not be more proud of their hard work.

Our Year 7s will have the opportunity to enter this year's competition. We can't wait to see what brilliant ideas they develop next!



## Riverside Studios Rewards Trip



We had two Rewards trips this term, with a record number of students involved. Students were selected for their excellent behaviour and for continually demonstrating the five Sacred Heart Goals.

Sixty students from Years 7, 8 and 9 had lots of fun bowling at 'Queens Bowl'; and forty-five students from Years 10 and 12 went to Riverside Studios.

We rented out an entire screen at the famous Hammersmith venue, and their surprise movie ended up being Wildchild which is a cult classic!

## Valentine's Day

SHHS PTFA  
Valentine's  
SWEET BOXES



Raised over £1,000!

Thank you to everyone who supported the PTFA's Valentine's fundraiser this year by purchasing one of the hand-crafted sweet boxes. Each box was handmade by our dedicated PTFA volunteers. As always, we are incredibly grateful for their creativity, generosity, and commitment to fundraising for our school.

This year's Valentine's fundraiser not only brought sweet treats but also raised funds for future school projects and resources.

### ..in the library

Valentine's Day was a similarly exciting event as students participated in a 'books we love' workshop and created hearts containing titles of their favourite books. Students further attended a lecture-style talk at the Library titled 'Depictions of Love in Shakespeare's sonnets', which they really enjoyed.



*Depictions of Love in  
Shakespeare's Sonnets*

**The Elizabethan Sonnet Sequence**  
Ms Spek 12 Feb 2026



## Helping to Create a Heritage Trail

From 20 November 2025 to 14 April 2026, Year 12 students in collaboration with the Irish Cultural Centre, Hammersmith are researching, designing, and producing both a digital and printed **Heritage Trail map** documenting the history and cultural impact of the Irish community in Hammersmith.

### What the Project Involves - Students will:

- Work with archivists at the Hammersmith and Fulham Archives and the Irish Cultural Centre Library to research historical locations, people, and stories.
- Conduct oral-history interviews with elderly members of the Irish community who attend ICC classes.
- Collaborate with a documentary filmmaker and Year 10 students to learn interviewing, videography, photography, and editing skills.
- Film interviews on location at historic sites and create QR-code-linked videos for the final map.
- Use Canva to design the final A3 foldable Heritage Trail map, which will later be shared on the H&F Heritage Trails webpage.
- Build an Arts Award portfolio throughout the process and receive their Arts Award at the launch event on Tuesday 21 April at the Irish Cultural Centre.

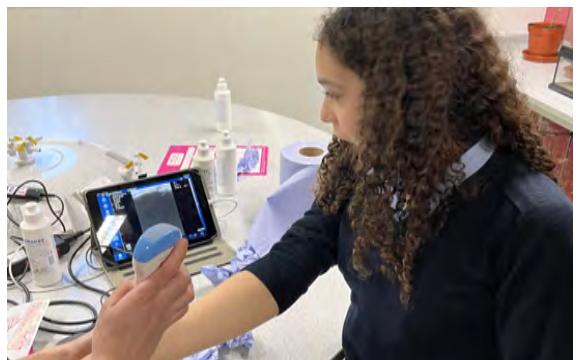
### Why This Project Matters

This unique programme will help students develop: research and critical-thinking skills; Interview and communication skills; cinematography, photography, and digital-editing experience; graphic design abilities; a deeper appreciation of local community history.

The project encourages confidence, creativity, teamwork, and pride in local heritage.

Irish Cultural  
Centre  
Hammersmith





In January, Sacred Heart hosted a hands on workshop with Medical Mavericks. Students got to explore a range of medical instruments and processes, filling in their own medical observation sheet and printing out their own ECG!

Featured in the workshop was also a careers wall introducing our students to dozens of different healthcare and biomedical sciences career paths, as well as salaries and training routes.



*I had a lot of fun wearing the Drowsy Goggles and testing the Truth or Lie Detector with my friends. It was a memorable experience and one that I will never forget. It has inspired me to also think about my future career.*

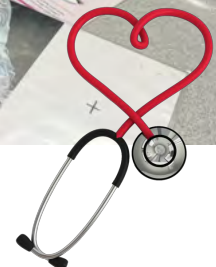
Ashley C Y8

*My favourite equipment was the [...] ultrasound as it was something I had never experienced before and have always been curious about*

Thashni A Y10

*The workshop was really fun [...] and the vein scanner was very impressive. I hope these types of workshops continue!*

Ella C Y7



## Message to Sacred Heart from the Education Secretary about Outcomes and Fischer Family Trust Award for Attendance



This term, our entire school community has worked incredibly hard to maintain our high standards and continue improving in every area of school life, and we are delighted to share several achievements that reflect this collective effort.

We have received a congratulatory letter from the Secretary of State for Education, Bridget Phillipson, for our excellent outcomes for disadvantaged students at the end of the last academic year.

This puts Sacred Heart High School among the very best nationally. We will continually strive to provide the best possible opportunities for all pupils and remain immensely proud of our students' every success.

Our exceptional attendance this autumn term has earned us an Fischer Family Trust award, placing us in the top 25% of schools nationwide!

Good attendance is essential to students' achievement, well-being and wider development, and this outstanding achievement is a testament to the collective efforts of our pupils, parents, carers and staff.

We are very proud of our Schools, Students and Teachers (SSAT) Network 'Educational Outcomes Award'. This award places our school among the highest-performing secondary schools in the country in the 2025 end of KS4 exams (GCSEs).

Receiving this award reflects the dedication and commitment of our entire school community, and as this year's exam season approaches, we remain committed to helping every stu-



## Sheliya performs at The Royal Albert Hall



My name is Sheliya and I performed at the Royal Albert Hall in March. You must be wondering how I feel, well I am definitely glad that I got to go to the Royal Albert Hall with my music group (Merton Music Foundation). I played the violin and also did the narrations. The songs I played were Skyfall, Stairway To Heaven and Jupiter, with my violin group. We had a practice somewhere at 11am, then after the practice, had a break, then I went back with my sister to do the narration practice. Afterwards, we had a break to eat dinner before the performance.

At the performance, there were lots of colourful lights and it was very big with lots of people. After my performance, the violin group and I went upstairs to the top view and watched the other bands. There were two daleks and the theme was Space Exploration! It was also cool to watch from there. I also did narrations 3 and 8. I did narration 8 solo and narration 3 with other children. The story we narrated was called The Story of Flight.

*Sheliya P, Y7*

## Championing our School Community



At the end of last term, two girls from each year group were nominated by their Heads of Year for their outstanding contributions to school life.

In January, they were rewarded with hot chocolate, croissants and fresh fruit which they enjoyed with Mrs O'Donovan.

Congratulations girls!

## Netherlands: A trip that should *NetherEnd!*



Where to begin? The best designated driver anyone could ask for, Cameron, our coach driver. He took us through four countries in a day until we finally arrives at Utrecht where he warned us about the treacherous bikes.

He was not wrong. When we arrived we took a detour around the town. There were ruthless cyclists who WILL MOW YOU DOWN. We saw an enchanting Cathedral that reminded us of our Scared Heart Sisters values, we all broke into song and sang Shackles together.

After a restful night's sleep and a delightful breakfast we set off to Clara Maria Cheese and Clog Farm in Amstelveen. I (Carla) made a beautiful clog with my bare hands and learnt a wide range of historical facts about clogs e.g. there is a clog for nearly every occasion. Then we learnt to make cheese and even had a taste test of the different cheeses they make on site. They were delicious.

Cameron then set us on our way to Amsterdam. What a highlight. The vibe was live and we visited all the sights and a range of districts in the surrounding areas. We went on a tour which set off from Dam Square. We were guided around the UNESCO Canal Belt, heard some fascinating stories from the Jewish Quarter, and even saw a princess. We finished off our first day with a ride on the Rederij Lover Canal Cruise.

The next day we went to Keringhuis, a huge water management barrier. We learnt that it had only been used three times since it was opened. We soaked up a range of other interesting facts about the barrier and its work in protecting over one million people in the surrounding area from serious flooding.

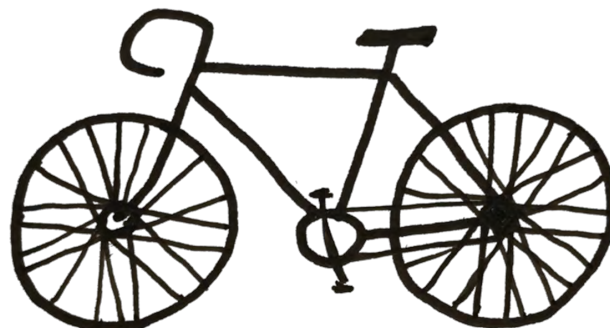
Rotterdam was our next stop, where we explored and took advantage of some midseason sales. Whilst in Rotterdam we went on another boat tour of the harbour. This was made even more special as it began to snow, you could even say it was a blizzard.

On our last day, our first stop was a very special site. Kinderdijk is a UNESCO World Heritage site that tells the story of traditional water management and control. We saw nineteen beautifully preserved and lived in windmills that help drain the land for agricultural use and settlements. We saw inside one and how people traditionally used to live in them. The mechanism at the top is like nothing we have seen before.

We then headed to the beach to investigate the Noorwijk coastal dunes. This once quiet fishing village is now more a hip and vibrant seaside resort. We wandered along the sea front enjoying a breath of fresh air after the rain had stopped.

Many memories were made on our trip to The Netherlands; exploring new cities, visiting UNESCO World Heritage Sites, seeing Ms Conran in a clog, Miss Nye's sense of direction, Mr Cooper showing his bowling skills, making new friends and driving a boat are just some that spring to mind when we think back.

*Carla B and Lavinia A (Y11)*



## Drama



### A-Level Alumnae visit

Our Year 11 drama students were treated to the words of wisdom of nine of our A-Level Drama alumnae, who have gone on to pursue amazing study and career paths.

Pupils engaged in conversations with our alumnae, discovering a range of post-drama pathways, such as studying acting at Arts Ed, Philosophy at Warwick and schooling in musical theatre in Barcelona.

It was inspiring to hear of our past students' success and their enduring love of SHHS drama!



### LAMDA

The Autumn term saw close to 50 SHHS students take their LAMDA Acting, Musical Theatre or Verse and Prose exams. Not only was this our biggest ever cohort entry, but also our most successful, with 80% of students achieving a Distinction.

Congratulations to all our fabulous thespians!



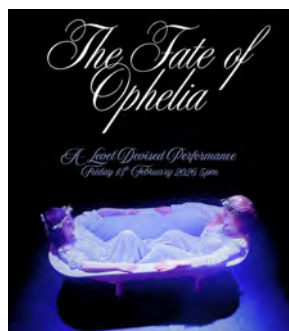
### Ballet Shoes

Year 9 students recently visited the National Theatre to see the Olivier Award-nominated production of Ballet Shoes. The trip forms part of the Drama Department's initiative to enhance classroom learning through live theatre, while also giving students a memorable evening of fun!

### A-Level Devised Pieces



As part of their Drama A-Level course, Year 13 students devised a performance called 'The Digital Mirror' inspired by John Wyndham's 'The Midwich Cuckoos' in the style of The Emma Rice Theatre Company. 'The Digital Mirror' tells the story of the town of Midwich where after a strange event known as 'the day out', all women of child bearing age in the town become pregnant and give birth to identical children on the same day. These children possess unimaginable power and intellect and pose a threat to the villagers! Ultimately, the village people do what they believe best and destroy the children. Perhaps this is an allegory for the growing threat of AI in today's 21st century society.



As part of their Drama A-Level course, Year 12 students devised a performance titled *The Fate of Ophelia*, inspired by Shakespeare's 'Hamlet' in the style of Artaud's Theatre of Cruelty. The piece reimagines Ophelia's death as the result of sustained silencing, emotional neglect and heartbreak, while also shedding light on the societal pressures that contributed to her suffering as a woman.

# PSHE Day 2026

Thursday 12 February marked PSHE Day, where Year 7 to Year 13 students all took part in a rich programme of workshops, classes, and activities. Each year group focused on a specific theme and students experienced a variety of activities throughout the day.

## Year 7: Building Positive Relationships



This theme was designed to help Year 7 navigate their new secondary school environment with confidence and kindness. The interactive *Tender Sessions*, encouraged students to reflect on the qualities of healthy and unhealthy friendships. Students were also reminded that school is a safe environment where girls can learn to develop healthy relationships with their minds and bodies, as well as with one another.

## Y8: Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

Year 8 worked together to create an advice flyer aimed at supporting a young person who might be in an unhealthy relationship; an activity designed to build empathy and encourage critical thinking. We also had a visit from an NHS nurse who led a session on menstrual health, giving students the opportunity to ask questions in a supportive, open environment.

## Y9: Drugs, Alcohol & Staying Safe when Socialising

Our Year 9 programme encouraged pupils to think critically about risk, peer influence, and the decisions they make as they grow into greater independence. Pupils also took part in a self-defence session, helping them to build both practical skills and personal resilience.

## Y10: Students Pitch for Change at First Give Final

The next generation of activists and philanthropists took the stage as Year 10 students competed in the grand final of the First Give programme. The event saw students pitching for a £1,000 charity grant in front of an audience of their peers and judges. As part of their project, the winning team organised sales where period products, rather than pound coins, were used as currency. This innovative "swap" system was designed to directly combat period poverty. The Mayor of H&F, who was in attendance, noted the impressive level of empathy and resourcefulness displayed by the students. After a period of intense deliberation, the £1,000 prize was awarded to team 10E representing Flow Happy, with 10T highly commended.

## Y11: Thriving Through Exam Season

Year 11 began the morning with a talk from Dr Josephine Perry, a sports psychologist, who explored how to perform well under pressure. Whilst academic preparation for exams is essential, our Year 11s were also reminded that taking care of themselves is just as important. Our pupils took part in a series of workshops themed around "what refills your cup," encouraging them to consider the importance of hobbies and interests when navigating exam season.

## Y12: First Aid Training

Our Year 12 students received certified First Aid training delivered by STS First Aid, gaining a nationally recognised qualification that empowers them with vital, life-saving skills. These qualifications also work to enhance our students' employability as they look ahead to future study and career opportunities.



## Y13: Life Beyond Sixth Form

With their school journey nearing its end, the day aimed to equip our Year 13's with the practical knowledge, confidence, and independence they will need as they enter university, apprenticeships, or the world of work. Students explored tuition fees and maintenance loans, gained an insight into payslips, taxes, pensions, and also had the opportunity to participate in a self-defence class, helping them build awareness, confidence, and practical strategies for keeping themselves safe as they move into new environments.



Winners 10E supporting the Happy Flow Charity

# World Book Day

The winners of the Six Book Challenge were announced on World Book Day, kicking off a whole day of fun. The Library was transformed into our very own 'Book Village', and many fun events and activities took place throughout the week(s). Some of these activities included a 'lunch date with a book', Magazine Club X Debate Club WBD collaboration, 'guess the department's favourite book' initiative, and a WBD Scavenger Hunt, challenging students to find all 30 classic novels placed around the school. Congratulations to Louise, Asia, and Guilina from Year 7 for being the first to find all 30!

Our World Book Day celebrations also included many author visits and workshops. Marianne Levy visited and spoke to Y7 classes about her books and experience of being an author. She also practiced writing books and plotlines with our students.

Year 8 students likewise enjoyed a talk and workshops about Lord Byron's life and poetry, where they expanded their writing skills by composing Lord Byron inspired poems. Nina, reflecting on her experiences wrote *'It was great, I absolutely loved it, and learning about poets and poems was so fun'*.

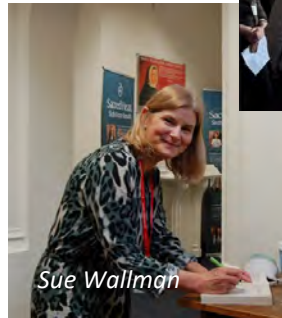
Similarly, author Sue Wallman gave a talk to students from Year 9 and Year 10. Sue discussed her books as well as her writing process and the various practical aspects of being an author. Sue also shared her tips for writing crime and mystery novels and many students have been borrowing her books since!



Marianne Levy



Lord Byron talk and workshops



Sue Wallman



## Costumes for the day





Lunch date with an anonymous book

## Library

The Lent term is always a particularly busy time for the library encompassing the celebration of key literary dates such as World Book Day (previous page) and introducing many other new Spring initiatives.

Significantly, as we entered this new calendar year, we celebrated the achievements of students who took part in the Winter Reading Challenge and Christmas Short Story Competition last term.

Congratulations to the many students who have completed the Reading Challenge and to Clementine R (Y7), Athena O (Y8), Margaret (Y9), Amarah R (Y10), and Pola J (Y12) whose writing pieces have been selected to constitute the year group winners of the Christmas Short Story Competition.

## Carnegie Medal Shadowing

This term the Library introduced a brand-new Carnegies Medal Shadowing Club, which entailed students following the award happenings and reading and reviewing most books from the longlist and shortlist nominations for the Carnegie Medal for Writing 2026.

Students submit their reviews of the books they are reading, to an online Carnegie portal, where they also see reviews from students from other schools! This Club is proving to be a fantastic opportunity to be part of a community around reading which transcends our school, and we look forward to continuing it next term.



## Poetry by Heart

The Library also ran a new Poetry by Heart Club which emphasised poetry in performance. The sessions in this club centred on building confidence in performing poetry and culminated in a whole-school SHHS Poetry Performance Showcase. This showcase was a popular and much anticipated event open to all students.

Students performed a poem off by heart individually or in groups. Congratulations to Denva C (Y8) and Eira Geen C (Y9) who won the showcase in the 'classic performance' category, and to Olivia B, Pola F, and Ashley C (Y8) and Isabella A-F and Annabel H-H (Y7) who achieved success in the 'freestyle performance' category.

These students' performances will be submitted to the Poetry by Heart judges for a chance to perform at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre at the Grand Finale in the summer term!



## Magazine Club

A significant achievement this term was also achieved by Magazine Club, which released their first magazine issue. We are very impressed by the creativity of our Magazine Committee and would like to say a thank you to our sixth form leadership team:

Carlee Jane S (Editor in Chief), Niya R (Deputy Editor in Chief), Saline E (Design Lead), and Cherry C (Marketing Manager) for all their efforts.

## Story Writing Club

Story-writing Club likewise continued to develop their writing skills, and Book Club read and discussed many significant books. We also held a Movie Night screening of *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak, enabling students to discuss literature across different media.

## Upper School Book Society

Notably, Upper School Book Society visited the beautiful London Library. Students received a tour of the library and learned about its past members, history, and books/ resources available. Plus, they got to read the *Times* magazine from 1942 and see many historical books otherwise not available to the public. This was a lovely trip touching on the importance of documentation and literature.

## Six Book Challenge

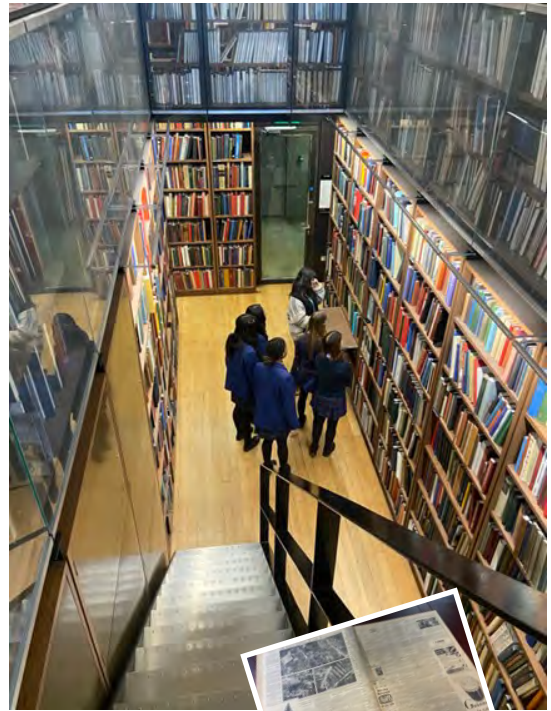
As annually in the Lent term, the Library announced the winners of the Y10 Six Book Challenge. Congratulations to Francine C, Rhodes Y, and Natalia B for being our lucky raffle winners and to all the Year 10 students who approached this challenge with great enthusiasm and reached or exceeded the six-book reading target!

## Sofia Blake's publishing industry visit (Y12)

When Year 12 students completed their mock exams, we welcomed a visitor, Sofia Blake, to give a talk about her commercial young adult book, *Mourning in Private*, and about navigating the publishing industry. Having recently graduated with a master's degree from King's College London, Sofia presented a testimony about post university life and working towards a career as an author.

## Handwriting Day

Aside from World Book Day, the Library celebrated many other literary events. In January, the Library celebrated Handwriting Day by encouraging all students to contribute to a large library display of beautifully decorated quotes about books. Letter-Writing Day also encouraged students to practice their calligraphy skills and craft handwritten letters addressed to friends and family. The Library was additionally decorated with notable letters from history, highlighting their significance as an important literary form.



London Library



Sofia Blake



Letter-Writing Day



Handwriting Day

## Holocaust Memorial Day

For Holocaust Memorial Day, students browsed 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.



## Achievements in Poetry and Reading



Following Martin Luther King Day in January, we celebrated students who took part in the Young Writers' national competition titled 'I Have A Dream' (just as Martin Luther King did in 1963) and were chosen to be published in the 'I Have A Dream' competition poetry anthology! This is a huge achievement that we are all very proud of - ten of our students will be officially published poets! A big well done to them and to everyone involved in library initiatives and competitions!

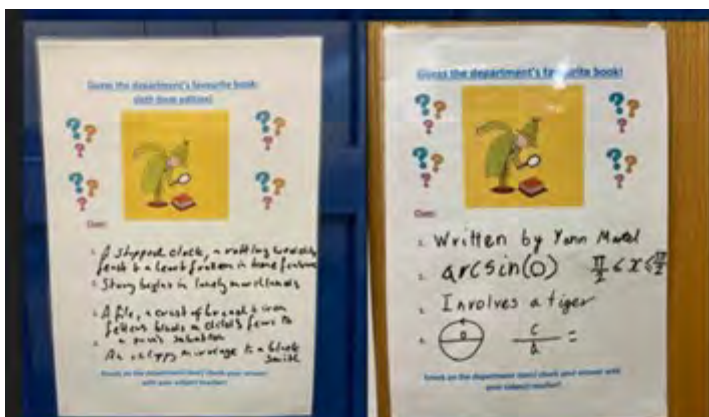
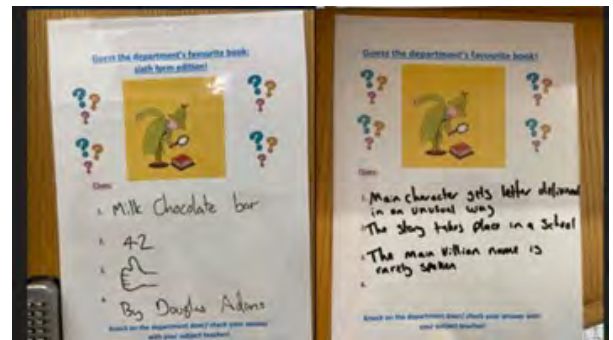
All students who had completed the Christmas Reading Challenge were also heartily congratulated and received certificates and prizes! The year group winners of the Library Winter Short Story Competition were likewise announced and received their awards!

## Next Term

Looking to the new term, we are awaiting news about national competition results which our students have entered this term. Pupils have submitted their entries to the Tower Poetry Competition, a prestigious poetry writing competition for 16-18-year-olds. Additionally, Y8 students have entered a Lord Byron Poetry competition, and we are of course eagerly anticipating any announcements from Poetry by Heart regarding their Grand Finale. We are also thrilled by the continuing success of the library's Word/ Poem/ Writing Piece of the week initiative and are looking forward to continuing to celebrate our student's achievements in the summer term!

As always thank you to our library volunteers and Y12 LRC Ambassadors who are always eager to help and contribute. We hope you all have a restful break.

*Favourite books listed on the doors of all department offices*



## Sport

It has been a fantastic term for sport at SHHS, with excellent participation and commitment shown across all clubs.

The Badminton club continues to thrive, with students enjoying participating each week. We have some very talented players, and we are excited to begin organising competitive opportunities for them.

The Netball club, offered to all year groups, has been going from strength to strength. Despite some tough fixtures this term, the girls have demonstrated outstanding teamwork, resilience, and determination.

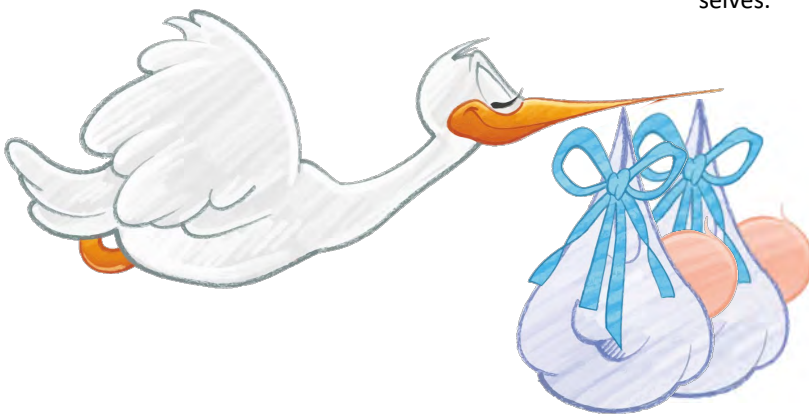
The Wimbledon Ball Girl programme was incredibly popular, making the selection process highly competitive. **Congratulations** to Bianca, Jaya, and Elizabeth, who were successful and are currently attending training as part of the official Wimbledon Ball Girl programme.

Running club remains popular, with strong attendance every Monday morning. Mrs Coleman has been particularly impressed with the dedication of the girls who start their week in such a positive and active way.

Dance club continues to grow in popularity, running twice a week. The girls are working hard on a choreographed routine created by Miss Anderson and are making excellent progress. They are looking forward to building on this and taking part in a dance competition.

The Basketball club, led by our external coach Cheryl, continues to be a success, with students developing key skills and confidence in the sport. Football, also delivered by external coaches, remains extremely popular, and it is fantastic to see the girls engaging so positively with expert guidance.

The PE department is incredibly proud of the commitment and positive attitude shown by all students attending clubs this term. Their dedication to improving is a true credit to themselves.



We cannot finish without talking about St Patrick's Day which was even more special than usual this year. Our Head of History Mr Murphy and his wife welcomed their baby boy on St Patrick's Day and named him....Patrick! Here in school, Mr Murphy will have missed the fantastic feast that was our St Patrick's Day lunch!

Then on 24 March, our Head of Drama, Mrs Brown gave birth to Felicity.

Huge congratulations to them all.



## A Final Word

Wishing each and every family a very happy and holy Easter. Please keep students in Years 11 and 13 in your prayers as they will be studying over Easter for their forthcoming exams.

  
Headteacher

Trinity Term Calendar  
overleaf



## TRINITY TERM

APRIL 2026		
Monday	13	All students return Madeleine Sophie Barat Music Competition, preliminary rounds
Tuesday	14	Madeleine Sophie Barat Music Competition, preliminary rounds
Thursday	16	The Organ talk at 7pm, tickets on Connect
Tuesday	21	Harry Potter Club trip
Wednesday	22	Wintershall Retreat Day Y9 (Forms H, A & S)
Thursday	23	Y10 GCSE Drama trip to Royal Court Theatre, Y10 GCSE PE Cricket Trip to Lords Wintershall Retreat Day Y9 (Forms E, R & T)
Friday	24	PTFA Auction Live Auction 7pm
Mon-Fri	27-01	Y10 Work Experience
Monday	27	A-Level Acting exam 4pm
Tues-Thurs	28-30	Duke of Edinburgh (Bronze) Y9
Wednesday	29	Junior UKMT Challenge
Thursday	30	13 Leavers Liturgy and Leavers Ball
MAY 2026		
Monday	04	<b>Bank Holiday, school closed.</b>
Tuesday	05	Health & Social Care Exam Y11
Wednesday	06	BTEC Applied Science Exams Y12
Friday	08	BTEC App Science Exams Y13 GCSE Drama Y11 Study Leave commences for Y11 & Y13
Thursday	07	Year 8 Parent Teacher Meeting 4-7pm
Monday	11	Mental Health Awareness Week starts Hampton Court Palace trip Y10 History
Tuesday	12	Madeleine Sophie Barat Music Competition, Finals in the Chapel
Wednesday	13	Y10 Drama trip to Hackney Empire, Noughts and Crosses
Thursday	14	Hampton Court Palace trip Y10 History Y8 Drama trip to Matilda the Musical
Wed-Fri	20-22	Y9 PGL Trip
Friday	22	Madeleine Sophie Mass (Year 7 & Y12) in the afternoon Hampton Court Palace trip Y10 History
<b>HALF TERM Monday 25 May – Friday 29 May inclusive</b>		
JUNE 2026		
Monday	01	All students return to school
Thursday	04	Year 7 Parent Teacher Meeting 4-7pm
Friday	05	Hampton Court Palace trip Y10 History
Friday	12	<b>Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Mass at 11am</b> <i>Outside, weather permitting. All parents welcome to join us for this unique event.</i>
Monday	15	Start of a full Exam Week (1) for all students
Thursday	18	Y11 Celebration Event
Friday	19	A Baroque Feast, grand organ fundraising concert, 7pm, canapes and refreshments
Mon-Wednesday	22-24	Exam Week 2 for Years 10 & 12 <i>KS3 on normal timetable but with GL Assessments</i>
JULY 2026		
Wed -Fri	8-10	School Musical 7pm, Grease, tickets available in due course
Mon -Fri	13-17	Year 12 Work Experience
Mon-Wed	13-15	Y10 Duke of Edinburgh Silver Practice
Thursday	16	Term Ends 1pm
<b>SUMMER HOLIDAYS</b>		
SEPTEMBER 2026		
Tues-Wed	01-02	Professional Training Days for Staff (school closed to students)
Thursday	03	Year 7 and Year 12 only
Friday	04	All students return