

# VERITAS

St Mark's Catholic School

No. 15 - SUMMER 2017





# ARTS WEEK

## GALA NIGHT



Students and staff celebrated the Arts in a week dedicated to the enjoyment and participation in various events featuring Music, Theatre, Poetry, Dance and Art.

Arts Week was launched with St Mark's inaugural Arts Gala, a fantastic evening in which the Orchestra and Choir performed beautifully in front of an appreciative audience. There were also moving and entertaining Poetry and Letter readings.

The week that followed offered all students from all year groups the opportunity to experience and contribute to arts events, with visits to Galleries and activities ranging from the Orange Tree Theatre's Play in a Day to workshops on Hip Hip William Blake and Shakespeare.

Students were encouraged to complete an Arts Week passport as a record of their participation and, we hope, enjoyment!



## HeadLine



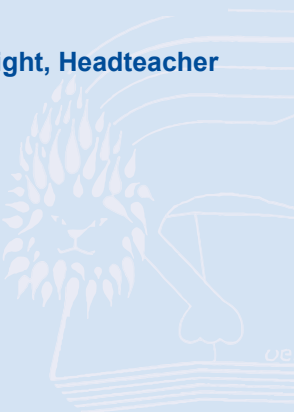
As another academic year comes to an end I would like to thank all the staff at the School for their tremendous commitment throughout the year. The students at St Mark's benefit greatly from the hard work, expertise and care shown by both the teaching and support staff at the School. The School Community is also dependent on the support of Governors and Parents. Thank you for the strong partnerships which you have established with the School.

There are no quiet periods in the school year any longer as demonstrated in the pages of this Summer edition of Veritas. The energy, enthusiasm and talents of our students is evident in the wide range of activities that have taken place this term. It has also been a term full of exams and we wish all those students who have been doing external exams the very best of luck with their results.

Finally can I thank all those families who have contributed towards the School Fund this year. At a time of increasing financial pressure on schools this fund has enabled the School to provide new text books for students and to support the conversion of the old Gym changing rooms into a Sixth Form dining area. We are pleased that many parents have signed up to contribute through a standing order.

I hope everyone in the School Community has an enjoyable summer break.

**Paul Enright, Headteacher**





# ARTS WEEK

## ART EXHIBITION



The Art Exhibition which was hosted by the LRC throughout Arts Week was a wonderful celebration of all things artistic created by both students and staff. The impressive and varied collection included drawings, photographs, textiles, paintings and sculptures.

Mr Enright's colourful contribution was of particular interest to students visiting the Exhibition, with one discerning future art critic commenting, 'I've seen worse...!'





# ARTS WEEK



Arts Week activities enjoyed by students included *Play in a Day* with the Orange Tree Theatre, *Art* at Orleans House, a screening of Ken Loache's *I, Daniel Blake* for the Sixth Form, a *Much ado About Nothing* workshop for Years 9 and 10, an Introduction to Shakespeare for Year 7, Hip Hip William Blake, and a performance from the Gospel Choir.





# GCSE Product Design



Jerome Gorlecku



Megan Da Cruz



Tyler Lewis



Catherine Sunga



Filip Galezki



Grace Fox-Clinch

# A Level Product Design



Adriana Almeida



Kyle Stoneley



Virtue Igbokwuwe



Carl-Henrik Andersson



Oliver Dias



Callum Doona



# A Level Art



**Alexis Parinas**



**Paula Mita**



**Thomas Jennings**

# GCSE Art



**Delina Melaku**

Lauded by senior moderators, governors, teachers and most importantly students and their parents, the Art Exhibition 2017 was a huge success, 'a real feast for the eyes'!

Proud students and parents who were bursting with pride enjoyed a cultured evening sipping sparkling refreshments whilst viewing some of the incredible talent displayed at the private view this year.

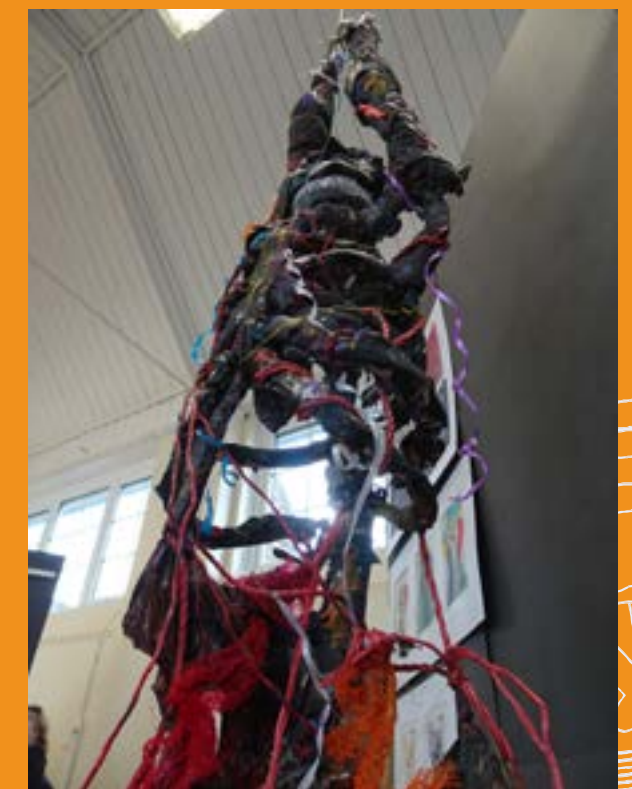
The Main Hall was busy with students during the two open days, many of whom were excited by the idea of potentially working in film, photography or textiles as part of their future GCSE course. One student was overheard saying, 'I can't wait until Year 10, I'm going to do all of it! I really want to do computer animation.'

For some students the Exhibition marks just the beginning of an exciting rewarding career in the creative industries. I would like to wish all the students who took part the very best of luck in their future plans. In particular I would like to congratulate our three A level students Thomas Jennings, Paula Mita and Alexis Parinas; three dedicated artists who continually produced challenging work ranging from profound explorations of sexualisation in modern advertising, a philosophical study of using material as a metaphor to the beautiful intimate response to the idea of control. A level, we will miss you...

*Mr Hook*



**Maria Harris-Sutton**



**Klaudia Zaporowska**



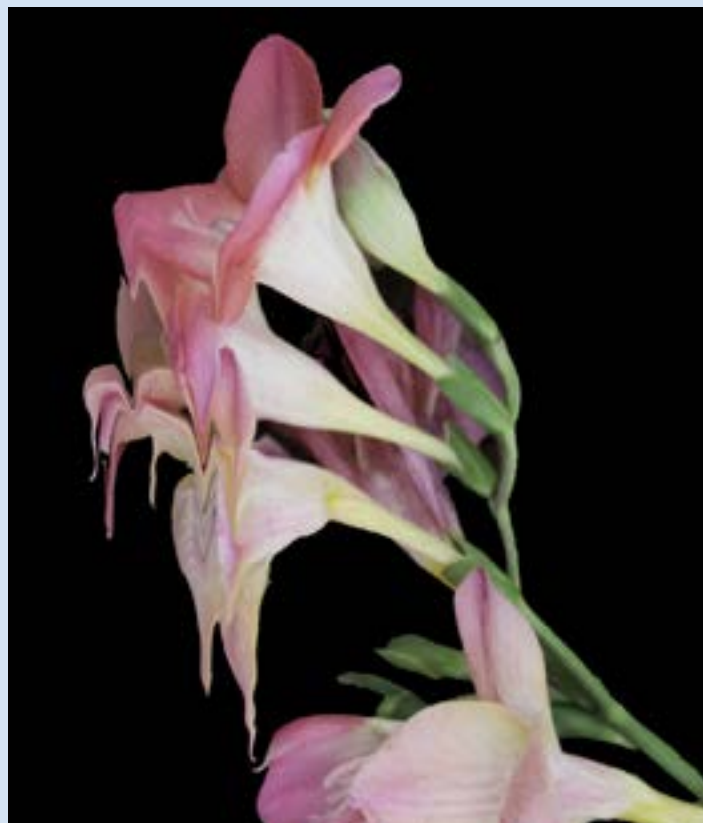
# A2 Photography



Erik Wiszenko



Giodarno Boscarelli



Jade Chopra



Emily Wilmer



Lia Volcere

# Choir Festival



The annual Choir Festival took place on June 15th. As always it was a highlight of the musical year and was so much fun to be a part of. The event consisted of the St Mark's School Choir, St Mark's Liturgy Choir, and the choirs from St Edmund's Catholic Primary School, St Michael & Martin's Catholic Primary School and St James's Catholic Primary School.

It was lovely to watch the primary school pupils singing their hearts out to songs such as *Hallelujah* by Leonard Cohen and *Try Everything* by Shakira. Our school choir performed *Oceans* by Hillsong, a mash up of *One Last Time* by Ariana Grande and *Where is the Love* by The Black Eyed Peas. We were so thrilled when this prompted a standing ovation from the crowd.

All choirs then joined together to sing a Disney Medley which had been arranged by Ms Jackson.

The Choir Festival was a wonderful event full of the talents of hundreds of students. We also managed to raise £500 for the victims of Grenfell Tower.

*Etienne Quartey-Papafio Year 12*





# The Bookshelf

CILIP Carnegie Medal 2017



St Mark's is, once again, shadowing the CILIP Carnegie Medal Book Award this year.

## What makes a truly great book?

The CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medals are the UK's oldest and most prestigious children's book awards. Often described by authors and illustrators as 'the one they want to win', they are the gold standard in children's literature.

The CILIP Carnegie Medal is awarded by children's librarians for an outstanding book written in English for children and young people.

In 2017 the CILIP Carnegie Medal reaches its 80th year.

Our group has been busy reading the excellent shortlisted books and the winner is ...



## BOOK WEEK 2017



Book Week was held during the week before half term, with lots going on. We held a Book Fair in the LRC, which was very popular. This meant lots of free books for the LRC, which is very welcome. Thank you all for supporting this.

The poet Adisa visited us, and captivated Year 7 with his tales and poetry.  
<http://www.adisaworld.com/main.html>

Book Week competitions were held with Year 7 making book marks, Year 8 designing a book cover, and Year 9 making a children's book. The winners will be on display in the LRC.



## HOUNSLOW POETRY SLAM 2017

This took place on 13th June, at the Robeson Theatre in Hounslow. All the Hounslow Secondary schools got together to perform their own original work, after spending the morning working with the poets Adam Kammerling and Deanna. This was a great experience for everyone who took part. Our poets were Ella Hanna Sanz, Joseph Das, Olive Igbokwuwe, Evelyn James, Ramiro Barros and Tarun Bose. Well done to you all!



*St Mark's entry, by Ramiro Barros, Evelyn James, Olive Igbokwuwe, Joseph Das and Ella Hanna Sanz*

### THIS IS US

I'm from India, where I was brought to be,  
To be the bright girl and my opinion to free.  
I'm from houses filled with colours and smells  
of a variety of spices.

I'm from Nigeria, a country in Africa.

I'm from laughter and having friends around.

I'm from Italy, Europe's boot,  
From a family of Bangladeshi blood.

I am made of my own choices to be independent  
but focused.

I am made up of love, hatred and care.  
I am made up of all the organs in me, sometimes  
My heart feels loved, sometimes feels hated.

I am made of blood, sweat and tears.

I am made of flesh, blood and bones like all  
human beings. I am made of memories,  
thought and emotions of knowledge and  
relationships.

I have lost my determination through life which  
I will catch up on when I get time. I have lost  
family along the way, even though I wished  
they would be with me for my  
days.

## Readathon

This term, the Year 7 students have been involved in a wonderfully worthwhile fundraising event. Working alongside the charity Read-a-thon, our students have been setting themselves some intense reading challenges; over a period of two weeks, students have challenged themselves to read as many books as they can! This has varied from some students reading two books to other tackling ten. We have had some serious book worms this year!

The money raised will be donated to various schools and hospitals nationwide. It will be spent purchasing new books for children throughout the country who are hospitalised or disadvantaged. And how Year 7 stepped up! At the moment, students have fundraised a grand total of over £950 and there is still money to be collected.

A massive well done, and thank you, to all of the Year 7 groups who have worked tirelessly to read as much as possible and dedicated their time and energy to support such a worthy cause. We are proud of you!

*Ms E Smith*





# STEP INTO DANCE

Dance Club has had a fantastic year with a loyal following. The group performed at The London Hospital School. The students looked great in their outfits enjoying the 'old skool' Rose Royce hit Car Wash and managed to be selected for the next round to be held at Ballet Rambert on the Southbank.

*Mr Alexander*





# Year 11 Prom



On Friday 12th May, Year 11 celebrated their last 5 years together at St Mark's with a Leavers' Mass followed by the Prom in the evening.

The Mass enabled the Year Group, tutors, PPLs and all members of staff to reflect, celebrate and be thankful of the time spent together over the last 5 years. Year 11 students were able to show appreciation for the support, dedication and hard work of all staff that had encouraged them to fulfil their God given potential.

Then onto the evening celebrations! As the clock struck 7pm, smartly dressed young men and glamorous young ladies began to arrive along the red carpet. Students and staff enjoyed watching each arrival in many impressive modes of transport!

Year 11 then began to dance the night away, try their luck on the casino and have many photos taken. The photo booth also proved very popular as the props on hand made for some very entertaining photos and the opportunity to get an immediate photo print out to take away as a keepsake.

The eagerly awaited awards took place and the Y11's cheered each other on as the winners came up to receive their certificates and trophies.

The firework display at the end of the evening made for a really impressive end to what had been a really lovely and enjoyable night.

It was a fantastic way to conclude their time together as a Year Group. I would like to wish them all the very best for their future.

*Ms Davies  
Head of Year 11*





# Year 13 Prom

Year 13 students gathered at The Holiday Inn, Brentford Lock in May for their final Prom. It was a wonderful evening for all who attended and much fun! After a three course dinner a short Awards Ceremony was held; Jack Bartrip kindly officiated as Master of Ceremonies and this part of the evening ended with the crowning of Prom King 2017, Aidan Bradshaw and Prom Queen 2017, Lucy Kenny. With impressive dancing continuing until midnight our Year 13 students made it a truly memorable evening.

The Prom was followed by lessons coming to an end for our Year 13 students in May as they gathered in the Theatre for their Leavers' Liturgy. In this beautiful service the students reflected on their time at St Mark's and gave thanks to God.

Each student was able to light a candle to represent the light they carry into the world, but also to offer to God their personal intentions at this final stage of their time in St Mark's. Afterwards, the students kindly showed their appreciation for their teachers. Head Boy, Alex Moreland and Head Girl, Jessica Ulisse made their last speeches – emotional, but a real sign of how seriously they had carried out their positions of responsibility to the end.

We will miss our Year 13 students, but wish them all much success for the future.

Ms Ferguson  
Head of Year 13





# Rome Trip Year 8

On the first day we went to the catacombs. A catacomb is an underground burial site when there was no space over ground. Attached to this catacomb was a church with stunning statues and a magnificent marble altar. Then we went to the baths, however there was no water to be seen! There were massive stonewalls and bridges. We then went to our hotel called "Florida," walked to a restaurant and had our meal, then it was time for bed.

On the second day of Rome we took the metro to the Vatican and we saw the Pope with his important message about the Our Father. The Vatican was built like two arms embracing the crowd.

We then went on a guided tour around the Vatican where we saw stunning artwork consisting of sculptures, huge maps painted on walls, also portraits and spectacular ceiling art that was drawn to look like 3D sculptures.

We then went to the Sistine chapel where we saw the famous painting of the Final Judgement and the scenes of Genesis by Michael Angelo. It took four years to paint; when he was painting the ceiling his eyesight drastically deteriorated as paint got into his eyes. After the tour we went to St Peter's Basilica. All are connected by St Peter's Square. At the Vatican there was a souvenir shop.

We then walked to the top of Castle Angelo, which looked over the whole of Rome. Then after a long day of lots of walking we went to the Hard Rock Café, however we had to walk up the Spanish Steps! We had an amazing meal and on the way home we visited the stunning Trevi Fountain. We all threw our cents in to the crisp turquoise water overlooked by the stunning statues.

On the third day we went to see the Coliseum. It was very interesting and we had a guided tour which showed us underneath the stage and where everything was. We then went to the Roman Forum. Shortly after we went to a plaza where there were food shops and markets for t-shirts and key rings. We then went to a temple called the Pantheon with a circle with no roof because the Romans used to pray to the sky, sun and rain. We then went for pizza and walked home.

On the fourth day we went to the Basilica of Santa Maria where the crib of baby Jesus is kept. Then school then bought us all pizza. We then went to a plaza where we bought bracelets and the school bought us two scoops of ice cream each. This plaza was full of fountains and stalls. We then went to our hotel to collect our bags and we left for England.

Alannah Williams Year 8



# Madrid Trip Year 7



On 28th June 35 Year 7 Spanish students went on an absolutely amazing trip with four teachers to Madrid. This trip allowed us to try traditional and delicious cuisine, to explore and understand the importance of the Spanish culture, to test out our Spanish language and most importantly to enjoy the whole experience of visiting the capital city of Spain.

On the first day, we visited the Prado museum where we got to walk around in groups to explore, learn from and be inspired by various pieces of famous Spanish artwork. We saw pieces of artwork from different stages in history, including pieces painted by artists such as Diego Velázquez and Francisco Goya. As well as the museum we also visited many attractions on our first day including a guided tour of the Las Ventas Bullfighting Ring. We learnt that we had some instinctive Spanish Matadors as many of us attempted to use a capote (the pink cape) to perform Spanish cape dancing! On the whole I can say that everyone was absolutely bewildered at the immense size of the bullfighting arena and also by the amount of blood which was shown in a video clip of a bullfight and the Matador ultimately killing the bull.

On our second day, we got to visit the Bernabeu Stadium, home to the Real Madrid Football Club. We got to sit in the dugout, tour the stadium as well as actually feel the grass floor of the pitch where Cristiano Ronaldo plays! Our day got even better when in the afternoon we then went to the Parque de Atracciones where we got totally drenched on the water rides and only the bravest of the brave, 12 of us including the teachers, went on the biggest rollercoaster.

Finally, on the last day we went to the Puerto del Sol where we got to spend any spare Euros on souvenirs. During our stay we also went to two parks as a break from the endless walking. Honestly, more people were crowding around the ice-cream parlour than the view point of the whole city!

On behalf of all the students on this trip we'd like to thank all the teachers who organised and accompanied us, and for making it so much fun.

Alice Snell Year 7





## Year 7 Paris Trip



On 5th July, 33 Year 7 students set off on a coach to Paris where they stayed for three nights.

On the first day they visited the Musée d'Orsay, Les Jardins des Tuileries, took a boat ride on La Seine, climbed the stairs to Le Sacré Coeur and finished the evening with snails! The following morning they managed to climb out of bed, get back on the coach, and set off for Disneyland. where they braved long queues all day in scorching hot weather with few complaints. We just about managed to tear everyone away and back to the hotel for their last night. On the Saturday morning, before heading back to Calais, everyone went up the iconic Eiffel Tower, with most even braving the ascent to the very top.

It was a great trip filled with activities and visits for the students to understand and appreciate the wonderful city, and everyone agreed they would rather stay and not return home. Thanks to all Year 7s for making it such a magnificent trip!

Ms Delaney



## Year 10 Natural History Museum Trip



As part of our GCSE Biology course, we were given the opportunity to visit the Natural History Museum as it has a phenomenal number of exhibits and displays that were related to our Biology topics. I for one can safely say that all students enjoyed the trip as much I did: it was a day filled with exploration, discovery and insight into topics such as human biology and sciences which were related to the study

of how the brain worked and the study of the human life cycle as well as behaviour. The research into the life of Charles Darwin and his findings and discoveries on natural selection and the infamous theory of evolution was fascinating.

Moreover, there were sections and wings dedicated to volcanic and tectonic research which was informative and insightful. I must say that the mammal wing was most enjoyed by most of my peers as well as teachers because I have never seen Mr Shore's face light up so brightly as when we all marvelled at the enormous size of the honourable blue whale and other mammals from around the globe!

It was a day filled with weird and wonderful creatures. I highly recommend a visit because The Natural History Museum does really sum up only a portion of the wonder and awe the Earth has to offer.

*Gareth Gbesemete – Kasenu Year 10*

## Year 7 Teach French

On Monday 10th July, students from 7 Fisher took their time off school to go to St Michael and St Martin's School to teach and help Year 6's become better at French. We were accompanied by the motivational French teachers Ms Anne and Ms Bandarian.

Year 6 students played games handmade by the Year 7 students and ordered from a real café with real food and a menu also made by the Year 7 students. They took time and effort to make this a successful event.

The activities the Year 6 students took part in were: slap the board; card games; songs and snakes and ladders. If a student won the game they would be awarded with a sweet which they absolutely loved.

All the Year 6 and 7 students enjoyed this afternoon of learning and teaching French. We hope next year we can repeat this trip, and the standard will be above and beyond this year.

*Charlayne Tetteh, Year 7*





# Year 8 Faraday Engineering Challenge



Team 1



Team 2



Team 3



**And the winners are...  
Team 6!**

This term teams from each Year 8 class took part in the annual Faraday Challenge. The students were challenged to design a solution to a problem faced by the UK's entry to this year's America's Cup race. The students were tasked with identifying a problem, prototyping a solution using BBC Microbit computers and then delivering a presentation about their ideas. There were some fantastic ideas ranging from crash avoidance devices through to wearables designed to encourage hydration of the sailors.

It was a fantastic day and all of the students were able to develop new skills.

Mr Wilkinson



Team 4



Team 5



Team 6

## Hounslow Heath Trip



Science isn't just about working all day in a nice air conditioned lab, and on a very hot Wednesday Year 12 Biologists headed down to Hounslow Heath to measure succession. While assessing the biodiversity we saw maggots in broom pods, tunnel web spiders

and even befriended some grasshoppers. While plant species were rich and diverse, the UK's only venomous snake (the adder) was nowhere to be found!

Mr Shore

# Year 10 Business Studies Trip to Oxford



On Monday 19th June Business students from Year 10 and Year 12 travelled to the Mini manufacturing plant in Oxford. It was a beautiful day and a fantastic trip!

We got a tour of the 'bodyshop' where the body of the Mini is welded and produced by 1000's of robots! For safety reasons the paint shop is not open to members of the public but we were shown the array of colours that the mini can be purchased in.

Following the manufacturing site we went to the assembly line where we saw all the different car parts being added to the main body, for example we saw where the steering wheel and the seats are added to the car. Our tour guides told us lots of facts, one of which is that a new mini drives off the production line every 68 seconds!

It was a real insight to see this in person and made what we learn in business lessons so real. We were accompanied on the trip by Ms Wade, Mr Wilkinson and Ms Bennie.

Darren Snarski Year 12



## Former student visit



It was amazing to welcome back to St Marks former student Patrick Sylla who is currently studying Natural Science at the University of Cambridge. He came in and spoke to us informally and gave us some useful tips and an insight into one of the most well-known Universities in the world. One useful tip he gave was to not cram in revision near the exam period. It is important to pace yourself during the course and to be extremely passionate about the subjects you have chosen.

The talk was very inspirational and informative as it gave us ideas on how extracurricular activities can impact what you do. Patrick also has a YouTube channel which includes educational videos on Physics and Chemistry. These are very useful for educating young people and helping them develop their knowledge

Abigail Fernandes and Snovia Fernandes Year 12

## Higher Education Fair

The annual Higher Education Fair was once again a tremendous success. Students from Year 12 and Year 11 were able to speak to various different university ambassadors that came from all across the nation. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to get an insight into life after Sixth form, whether it be through an apprenticeship programme or a university degree. The one to one talks with representatives of established universities such as The University of Cambridge, University of Kent, The London School of Economics, The University of Swansea and many others that were in attendance helped students including myself into thinking about University and what degree I would like to pursue.

All of the Universities that were in attendance were helpful in answering general queries about courses and entrance requirements. Students were encouraged to ask university ambassadors about

their chosen courses, the history of the university and any general queries that we had about University and what it is like. During the second half of the fair the Head of Sixth Form Mr Longuehaye discussed the importance of our UCAS applications, helping us to understand the application process for universities.

Before the Higher Education Fair I had a rough understanding of what it's like living in University, being away from your parents and fending for yourself, but talking to actual students of the Universities helped me to get a better insight into all aspects of student life. We appreciate all the hard work and time taken from ambassadors busy schedules to come and speak to us about their university.

Anisha Jhaver Year 12

## Ogden Trust Schools Physicist of the Year Award

Two Year 13 students, Virtue Igbokwuwe and Louise Wiener, were each awarded the Ogden Trust Schools' Physicist of the Year Award by Royal Holloway, University of London, in recognition for their attainment in A Level Physics in Year 12.

The Ogden Trust is a charitable trust that exists to promote the teaching and learning of physics and to maximise the opportunities available to young people. This includes offering scholarships to talented undergraduates.

The Award was made at a presentation evening at the University, where guests were also given a talk highlighting some of the world-class research being carried out at Royal Holloway. The students were also able to chat with some of the research staff and students to find out more about studying Physics at university.

In addition to the award each student received a £25 book token and are registered as Ogden Trust alumni.



## Maths Challenge Update

Following on from the news in the last edition of Piotr Gnap's qualification for this year's Pink Kangaroo (the follow-on round to the UK Intermediate Maths Challenge ) we are delighted to say that he achieved a top 500 score from the c.6500 students who sat the PK, his score also putting him in the top 0.2% of this year's c.220,000 UKIMC entrants nationwide.

At the end of April, 123 of our Year 7 and 8 Mathematicians took on the 2017 UK Junior Challenge, with over 43% of them earning an Award Certificate.

Special mention goes to Saulius Ceckevisius and Hugo Dawson of Year 8 for their Gold Awards and to Kathryn Buchan of Year 7 whose score earns her a Gold Award, a Best ( Junior) in School Award and the right to sit the Junior Kangaroo follow-on round to the JMC.

Her score puts her in the top 2% of the c.307, 000 JMC entrants nationwide.

Congratulations also go to our 11 Silver and 39 Bronze Award winners, and to the 22 who were within 1 correct answer of a Bronze Award!

I know the students would like to thank their teachers for the smooth running of this year's Challenges, as indeed would I.





## D of E Bronze Award



Earning my Bronze Award was amazing, along with the views! My group and I were enjoying every moment of it. Stretching from the sea and rising to the sky, the scenery was spectacular. The challenge didn't set us back one bit. We pushed on through every obstacle - and there were a lot of them; from horse-bites to Trangia fusions, we met with various difficulties, but our teamwork kept us going. We knew our goal, and we knew that we could achieve it. And we did!

*Hayden Fernandes Year 10*



Duke of Edinburgh was a very memorable experience for my group and I. This was a real eye opener as this was my first real challenge without any form of modern technology, which was a hard hurdle to overcome – but thankfully we made it! We survived the gruelling walk, scorching sun, sleeping out in the open, and charging farm animals.

Overall, this has been extremely rewarding experience as I have learnt a variety of skills. I recommend it to any students considering taking part in this adventure, as it has helped me with future life skills, as I am sure many other students in the future would also benefit from.

*Jaden Vales Year 10*

## D of E Silver Award

On the 30th June fifteen Year 12 students set off to Lyndhurst in the New Forest in order to complete the challenge that silver Duke of Edinburgh presents. The months of planning that we endured gave us a route to follow and a goal to achieve. Planning was a vital step as it minimised any confusion on arrival, however it didn't stop it all together and several debates were held on which way to go or where we were on the map!

Over 3 days and 48 kilometres we walked up to our waist in marsh, waved glow sticks, and found wood for a campfire. We walked the countryside carrying all of the equipment we would need to survive for the three days including tents which we would sleep in and food that we would later cook on a Trangia stove. The walking was hard and we were absolutely exhausted by the time we reached the campsite.

The New Forest offered a wide variety of wildlife including ponies, cows and a shrew as well as ferns, trees and mushrooms to walk through. The weather was equally great, lifting our spirits as we tanned - avoiding sunburn.

The silver D of E exhibition was a huge challenge, but we passed! It was undoubtedly a rewarding experience...especially now it's finished!

*Izzy Bowles Year 12*

## ROTARY YOUNG LEADERS' AWARDS



When we weren't getting wet and muddy, we enjoyed a trip to the theatre in London where we watched *Kinky Boots*, an amazing musical. We also had two gala evenings that we had to arrange without the help of the instructors, and they were both a success.

Finally, I thank the Rotary Club, my sponsor Matthew and Mr Jivan for providing me with the opportunity to have one of the best experiences of my life.

*Marion Oju Year 12*



I participated in the Rotary Young Leaders' Awards in April this year and it was certainly an unforgettable experience. As I was the only student taking part from St Mark's, it was a little daunting on the first day to see clusters of girls and boys who were already friends. Despite this, everyone was so welcoming and lovely that I was able to make friends easily.

RYLA was an intensive and challenging journey; there were various tough activities including rock climbing, abseiling, a 15km walk, raft building and more. I was forced out of my comfort zone at times, such as during kayaking, as I really dislike water based activities. However, the instructors were really encouraging and I am glad that I took part in the end.



# FAITH IN ACTION

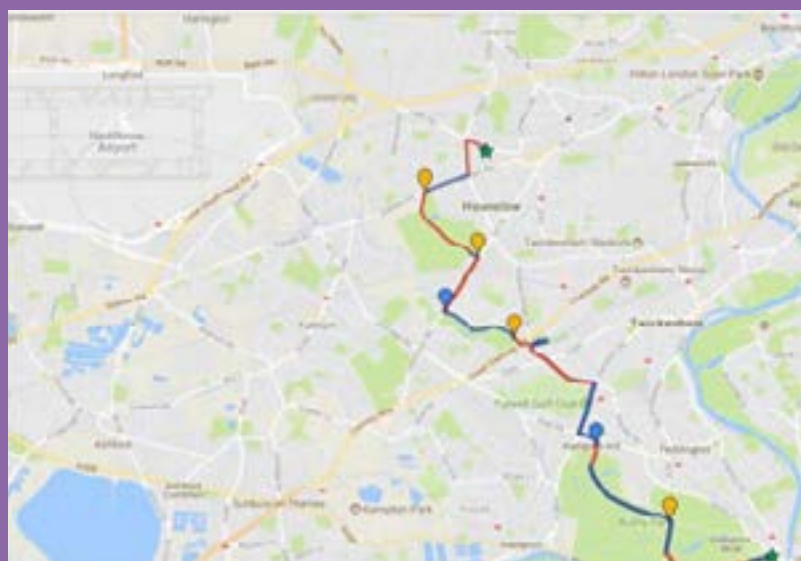
## Sixth Form Charity Walk



Every summer, the consortium of Gumley, Gunnersbury and St Mark's come together to participate in the 12km Sixth Form Charity Walk. The Charity Walk began at St Marks and followed roads and paths through Hounslow Heath, Crane Park and Bushy Park with checkpoints dotted along the route where teachers were posted with the responsibility of providing snacks, drinks and the essential moral support to get us through the afternoon.

The trek lasted for a few hours as we navigated and followed the marked out route in our bright-blue coloured charity T-shirts, finishing in Hampton Wick. Along the way, we were approached by members of the public with questions about what we were doing, and people were pleased with the effort that we were putting in to help others less fortunate. These charity events are important to us as it gives us a chance to share our school values and connect with the local community.

*Kyle Quadra, Year 12*



## Fundraising

It has been another fantastic year for fund-raising in St Mark's with the whole school community – students, teacher and parents – all excelling themselves in helping put their faith into action through their efforts at raising money for a whole raft for worthy causes. The current whole school charities are, The Sparrow Schools Foundation which helps provide education for disadvantaged children in Johannesburg in South Africa; SALVE International which is a British and Ugandan based charity working with homeless children and Hounslow based The Mulberry Centre which offers practical and emotional support for anyone affected by cancer. Through our community efforts we have been able to donate £1500 to each of these charities.

Other events throughout the school year have included a Year 7 Christmas card competition; a Soup Lunch to raise funds for CAFOD; Cupid's Day, which raised money for the charity Smile Train. The Year 12 Faith in Action students also raised extra funds for The Mulberry Centre and for the annual Senior Citizens Christmas Party and the party for students from Oakland Special School.

Finally, in response to the tragedy at Grenfell Tower, the school raised over £2,000 from a collection at the Choir Festival on June 15 and an Own Clothes Day for students on June 22. The money will be used to help victims through the offices of the Catholic Children's Society.

*Dr Callaghan*



*Ms Ferguson, Head of Yr13, presents a cheque for £1,500 to Mona Singh from The Mulberry Centre*

## Year 9 Retreat

In June, Year 9 went on a retreat to Wintershall to develop a closer connection to God.

Arriving early to school, we got on a coach and travelled an hour and a half to get there. The day consisted of us participating in three activities which let us take a break from the stresses of school. First of all we played 'The floor is lava' game. This involved using teamwork. We were split into two teams and we were both given five tiles each. We then had to use the tiles to get from one side of the path to the other by lifting up the tile at the back and bringing it to the front.

Secondly we sat down and reflected on life and listened to a prayer as we wrote down all of our feelings.

Finally we climbed a hill and looked at all the Stations of a Cross. There were 14 separate Stations and as we stood around each one, one member of our form would say a prayer. We really felt the Word of God shine on us as the sun shined on us. It was a good day that we would highly recommend for younger years.

*John-Joe O'Neill and Francesca Gilham Year 9*





# Debating

*"Time spent arguing is, oddly enough, almost never wasted."*

This has been an incredible year in the world of St Mark's debating and public speaking. We have a regular meeting every Monday night, we have discovered new talent, we have taken part in over 20 events and we will say goodbye to some stalwarts of the St Mark's debating world.

The year started with success in the Catenians public speaking contest and Eoin Hanlon will represent the South East in the national final in September. The success continued with both the Lower school and Senior school winning the Rotary Hounslow area competition, including wins for best speaker to Alice Snell. The regional round proved more of a challenge although both teams held their own. The Rotary Club like students to remember the whole speech, something to remember for the future.

The ESU Mace, the premier debating competition proved an excellent competition, with the team majestically progressing to the London final before losing out to St Paul's Girls but along the way we had crushed Tiffin, Hampton and Istock place to mention just a few. The ESU Public speaking saw the Year 9 team take on the Year 10 in a local derby. The Year 10s experience proved vital and they progressed all the way to the London final where they lost narrowly to North London Collegiate Girls' School. The Year 9s reached the London final later in the year in the ESU London Speaks competition they enjoyed a training day at the ESUs Mayfair headquarters and we expect great things next year.

This year we entered the Godolphin & Latymer Junior Debating League a challenging competition primarily based around private schools. We attended the training with a number of Sixth Formers undertaking the training to become judges and the Year 7s and 8s who the competition is aimed at. Just like the World Cup we were placed in a group of 4 with the winners of the groups progressing to the grand finale.



Once again we met our nemesis North London Collegiate School and yes it came down to a head to head after both schools had seen off the other two schools. St Mark's were triumphant and progressed to the final - a huge success in our first year. Our team was made up of Joe Gibson, Alice Snell, Monet Munyoro, Hugo Dawson and Althea Cabucos – while small in stature, this team certainly showed they were big in character and voice!

The Year 10s also competed in the Godolphin and Latymer Middle School Debate and narrowly lost out to some strong competition; both Harry Black and Valeria Atik formed a formidable partnership of strength, argument and sass, while Joseph Nagle and Gabriel Millin showed style and charisma that cannot be taught.

Pixl hosted a debating competition at Alleyns School with the top four progressing. Rather annoyingly our own Ines Walker, Jessica Marsh and Nuttaricha Ngamskullert finished fifth, losing narrowly to the eventual winners! These girls will certainly be the doyennes of the debating world next season.

Overall, what a great year! But now time too for some sad farewells to the Year 13 students who have encouraged, guided, judged and participated for many years; Alex Moreland, Jessica Ulisse, Mevrick Da Costa and Ifunaya Odunukwe. Good luck and thank you to you all.

We end the year with the words of Desmond Tutu ringing in our ears

*"Don't raise your voice, improve your argument."*

*Mr Sheehan*

# Jack Petchey Award Winners 2016/2017



St Mark's is a proud recipient of the Jack Petchey Awards scheme and as such we are able to issue 9 awards each academic year. Students are picked for outstanding leadership or for going above and beyond the normal expectations. They receive an award, an invite to the awards evening and a cheque for £250 to spend on a project of their choice.

Eight of the winners could attend the evening with family and friends, except for poor Kate Richards who had a Maths exam the next day and had to stay in and revise - I hope it went well! Kate has been a star in the Technology department and she has an infectious work ethic. She also bought a series of equipment for Product Design GCSE.

Liam McNulty is a leader amongst his peers. He captains the Year 9 Football Team and always goes the extra mile. He spent the money on the Valencia trip allowing the students to get a coach to the airport.

Zuzanna Rozanska helped to run and organise the lower school Art Club and not surprisingly she bought art equipment for the Art Club. Calum Richards is recognised for being a great School Rep and a dynamo in Charities Week - as Calum's tutor said, everybody needs a Calum! Calum also helped the Food department to improve the presentation of Food work. Rahul Edapully has been a reliable member of the school choir for over 4 years,

demonstrating great commitment and energy. Rahul put his money towards a masterclass with a London Gospel Choir.

Navindu Pigera has made an immense contribution to after school Technology; his contribution enabled them to buy more equipment for after school clubs. Hayden Fernandes is a young man who has a go at everything. His commitment to Duke of Edinburgh is legendary. Not surprisingly his money went towards a new shed for D of E storage.

Alex Moreland is the organiser and master judge of public speaking and debating. Alex runs the club and all the students admire his knowledge and advice. Alex bought a camera for the club to record their successes. Finally, our ninth winner is Megan Marsh, another supportive Technology student who has committed herself to the subject and the work. Megan bought equipment to support A level Product Design.

Congratulations and thanks go to all of our Jack Petchey Award Winners!

*Mr Alexander*



# Yr 9 Valencia Football Trip



The whole adventure began with an early start, striking joy and delight into all 15 of us and of course the two teachers - or Manager and Assistant Manager as they would probably prefer to be known as! We embarked on our magical expedition to the very sunny Valencia. After a tiring long journey, we arrived on the east coast of Spain. Later on in the afternoon, we went on an exciting city tour of Valencia which was followed by a refreshing trip to the beach. As the second day came along we had our first training session in the unfamiliar heat at Valencia CF's training ground.

The next day came with the moment we had to be ready for, our first group game of the tournament. With teams from Russia, Kazakhstan and of course Spain, high quality of football was expected. Unfortunately for us, our first game was against Valencia's Academy, which ended in a disappointing loss despite our very best efforts to contain an extremely skilful and talented Valencia side. In the afternoon we had another match, which was essentially a must win game if we were looking to advance through to the semi-finals. Unluckily, we lost our second match relatively emphatically again, which meant that we were without a win on Spanish soil. We had one more game left the next day and had to make sure that we won it and show the Spaniards how we play down in Hounslow. Determined to make this trip somewhat successful we gave this final game our all and it paid off with goals from Liam McNulty, Reece Hutton and Alfie Buckmaster helping us to a 3-2 victory over our Spanish opponents. We were out of the Tournament, but at least this final game boosted morale throughout the team and helped us to enjoy our few remaining days.

We still had the rest of the fun-packed trip ahead of us. This started with the tour of Valencia Mestalla stadium, and was followed by a trip to Heron City, which could be quite possibly the most fascinating shopping centre/leisure complex in the world. On our second trip to Heron City, there was a game of laser quest waiting for us, which we all found extremely good fun. But the best was yet to come, we got to watch the Valencia vs Sevilla game at the Mestalla which ended in a 0-0 draw - this was an excellent result for Valencia, seeing that Sevilla were in the top four of the League all season.

On the final day we had our concluding training session under the boiling rays of the sun, which we were still not quite yet used to. Our final part of the tour was a trip to the Oceanographic, which had a spectacular dolphin show! Now came the time for our dreaded flight home, resulting in 15 tired boys arriving home safely.

Overall, the trip was a remarkable and tremendous experience which we will all never forget. A massive thank you goes to Mr Taylor and Mr Davies for organising the trip, giving up their time to come along with us and make it such an unforgettable experience.

*Liam McNulty Year 9*

# Sports Awards

NATIONAL ATHLETICS CHAMPION!!! 2016/17				
Y9	Francesca Williams	Hammer	46.78M	
1	53 Francesca Williams	Midd	46.78	ns
2	9 Stephanie Browne	Camb	40.84	es
3	11 Evie Tipping	Chesh	40.20	es
4	20 Tilly Allsopp	Derby	38.98	es
5	83 Meghan Sharman	WMid	38.43	es
6	33 Jessica Bennett	Hamp	36.25	es
7	19 Lucy Forrest	Derby	36.12	es
8	34 Phoebe March	Hamp	35.53	
9	7 Lara Moffat	Bucks	32.83	



**Bronwyn Polley**  
**Victor Ludorum 2016/2017**  
(photo courtesy of Dave Burt Photography)

Borough Athletics Champions 2016/17	
Year 7 Boys 800m	Christopher Garcia
Year 7 Girls 200m	Charlayne Tetteh
Year 7 Girls Long Jump	Esther Colaco
Year 8 Boys 300m	Leomar Zaballa
Year 8 Boys High Jump	Reiss Walker
Year 10 Boys High Jump	Oisin Murphy

Borough Athletics Champions 2016/17	
Year 7 Boys 800m	Christopher Garcia
Year 7 Girls 200m	Charlayne Tetteh
Year 7 Girls Long Jump	Esther Colaco
Year 8 Boys 300m	Leomar Zaballa
Year 8 Boys High Jump	Reiss Walker
Year 10 Boys High Jump	Oisin Murphy

Sports Star of The Year 2016/17	
Year 7 Boy	Joseph Edet
Year 7 Girl	Charlayne Tetteh
Year 8 Boy	Ethan Murphy-Amarteifio
Year 8 Girl	Kamila Nozka
Year 9 Boy	Liam McNulty
KS4 Boy	Oliver Beaven
KS4 Girl	Claire Wiener





# Sports News

## Final heartbreak for Year 8 Boys' Football Team



The Year 8 Boys' Football Team lost their Middlesex Cup final 3-0 to a very strong Enfield Grammar school at The Hive football ground in Barnet on 28th March. Despite having an excellent early chance, Enfield struck midway through the first half and we never really recovered. However, the boys should be pleased with their progress this year and with five Borough Leagues won across boys and girls age groups, St Mark's is showing they are a force to be reckoned with for football.

## National Basketball Finals Trip at O2



On 14th May a small group of students attended the British Basketball Finals at the O2 Arena between the Leicester Riders and Newcastle Eagles. The students were treated to an excellent standard of basketball where Leicester ran out 84 – 63 winners. The trip is set to run next year and hopefully we can increase the numbers who attend.

## Year 7 and 8 Athletics

We have seen some excellent results in our recent athletics competitions for boys and girls with St Mark's coming out on top in a number of events.

For the Quadkids events (100m, 800, Javelin and Long Jump) we finished:

Year 7 Girls: 1st and 2nd

Year 7 Boys: 1st

For the Super 8 events ( 2 events each from Hurdles, 100m, 200m, 800, Long Jump, High Jump, Shot and Javelin) we finished:

Year 7 Girls: 2nd

Year 7 Boys: 3rd

Year 8 Boys: 3rd

Year 8 Girls: 2nd

With the Year 7 and 8 Borough Athletics coming up it is hoped this good form is carried into this competition. Well done to all of those who took part!



Year 7 Boys



Year 7 Girls

## Yr 10 Girls' Netball Borough Champions !



Well done to the Year 10 Netball Team who became Borough Champions this year. This team have now achieved this accolade four years in a row!

## Final 2017 Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	+	-	BPts	Pts
St Mark's	7	7	0	0	154	39	115	0	0	35
Lampton	7	5	0	2	55	55	0	1	1	26
Green	5	3	0	2	58	36	22	2	2	17
Heathland	5	3	1	2	87	50	37	1	1	16
Gumley	7	3	0	4	60	82	-22	1	1	16
Heathland B	7	3	0	4	45	67	-22	0	0	15
Brentford	4	0	0	4	10	48	-38	1	1	1

## Year 7 Rounders

Heston and Heathlands B still to play, but a great start made by the Year 7 Rounders team! Other year groups up to this point have not played as many games. Lots of games still to play!

## Results:

V Green School	13-10.5 WIN
V Heathland A team	18.5 – 13.5 WIN
V Lampton	16-3 WIN
V Rivers	18.5 – 4.5 WIN



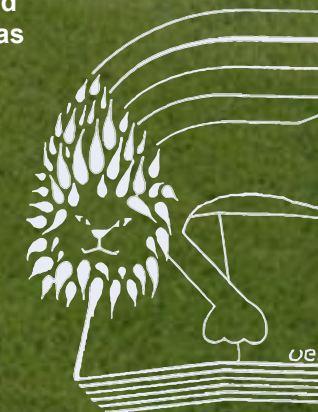
Year 7 Rounders Team



On 17th March St Mark's sent a team of 36 students to the National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships at Lea Valley Athletics Centre.

We have been able to enter these championships thanks to our partnership with London Youth Rowing who have allowed the school use of five indoor rowing machines as well as opportunities to attend free water rowing sessions at the University of London boathouse.

Indoor Rowing has been growing in popularity in lessons and at extra-curricular club and whilst competition is tough at these national championships, it is hoped that our students will continue to practise and improve their performances as well as keeping themselves fit. Well done to all involved.







Matthew Moriarty, GCSE Art