



CHRISTMAS 2023

St Angela's Ursuline School Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

After what seems like a long term we have reached the Christmas period and I am proud to share with you this newsletter celebrating the many achievements of the students of the school. As you can see from the experiences within the students have had many opportunities to continue to ensure they flourish and grow.

I am particularly proud that with all the wonderful and privileged education they get, they have not forgotten those most in need in the world. Naturally a very large part of our thoughts and prayers in recent weeks has been for the children in Gaza. In the lives we lead here it can be a challenge for our students to truly understand and comprehend the horror of what has unfolded there as well as the loss of normal and school life for Gaza's children. In that context I am pleased to inform you that this week's charity fundraising has raised £1000 for UNICEF in their work to support Gaza.

My thanks to the staff of the school for their hard work this term as well as demonstrating their customary spirit in the Christmas Choir and during the Bake Off! We wish Ms Chase all the best as she begins her maternity leave and of course a fond farewell to Mr James (Careers Advisor) and Ms Chintu-Chigbu (Learning Support Assistant) as they move on to new careers.

I wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas period with your families and we return for the Spring Term on Thursday 4th January 2024 for all year groups.

Yours in Serviam,

Mr M Johnson
Headteacher

Centenary Celebration of the Ursuline Roman Union



On Friday 13th October, the Ursuline Community of England celebrated one hundred years of being in communion with the Roman Union. This magnificent event began with Mass at St Anthony's Church celebrated by none other than Bishop Alan himself. The Mass began with students from every Ursuline school carrying in and presenting their banners. Students from every school also wrote and read the bidding prayers and the Offertory was accompanied by a liturgical dance performed by the skilled students of St Angela's. After Mass, the good Ursuline Sisters and their guests enjoyed a three course lunch



served by Sixth Formers and staff from St Angela's whilst students (and staff) representing their schools enjoyed a pizza party. The sun shone and all was well - a perfect day marking an important landmark for our beloved Ursuline community.



St Angela's URSULINE SCHOOL

Christmas CHARITY DRIVE

This term the school has worked to ensure a range of charities are supported by staff, students and families. Our annual Soup Day took place to raise funds for Cafod to provide clean water and education for the recipients. Jeans for Genes provides additional support for families who have children with a range of illnesses in the UK. The Royal British Legion this year supported the theme of 'Service on the 70th anniversary of the Armistice. Young Minds support young people in the UK with their mindset and mental health in proactive ways. DEC (Disaster Emergency Committee) has been in operation for 60 years and co-ordinates support for natural disasters such as in Libya and Morocco. Year 7 raised £250 litter picking, Year 8, 9 and 10 raised £1000 for their Peace Wall, Year 11 raised £250 for their duties completed and Post 16 £250 for their Random Acts of Kindness for DEC this term.

MOROCCO AND LIBYA
£2000

CAFOD
£500.00

JEANS FOR GENES
£950.00

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
£800.00

YOUNG MINDS
£500.00



For updates on our latest events follow @StAngelas_Sch





St Angela's has been participating in the prestigious Brilliant Club Scholars Programme for a number of years now and our students have always attained very high results in the final challenging assignment. The Brilliant Club is a university access charity that works with schools and universities across the country to open up the world of academic research and give young people the opportunity to study at university-level in an accessible way.

Following an introductory launch students take part in a series of seven university style tutorials with a PhD tutor, Sopolnawitch

Ponglamjiak, which enhances their critical thinking skills and builds their confidence in preparation for completing a challenging 2,000 word essay which is marked and moderated using university grades. This year's focus is based on Sopolnawitch's PhD research - Lights, Camera, Action: How Critical Lenses Help Us Understand Films and our students are busy learning about different types of Film Theory.

"Brilliant Club has served as a great opportunity for me to explore learning at a university level. Being able to learn about a completely unique subject

has been really intriguing and has definitely challenged me to push my limits regarding topics I haven't heard about before. The Scholar's Programme is really fun and I believe it will be very beneficial to me when applying to universities." Elsie Year 10



Students in Year 9 have been attending English and Maths tuition afterschool every Wednesday. St Angela's works closely with an organisation called TeamUp who recruit enthusiastic students, graduates and retired professionals who share a love of learning and working with young people. The programme continues to be very successful.

Our students have benefited by improving their understanding of key concepts and developing their fluency in essential numeracy and literacy skills. Niamh in Year 9 said 'My tutor helped us a lot because she taught us something that we didn't really understand before.' Chloe said 'We learned things that we haven't learnt in class yet and this makes me better prepared for my GCSE's!'. Aylsh added 'The tutors explain everything really well and go through different methods'.

I have been really impressed with the girls and their dedication to this programme. I have also been impressed with the tutors at TeamUp. After every session the tutors meet and discuss the progress that the girls have made and reflect on the different teaching strategies that have been used. There is always a focused and happy learning environment. In the last week of term the girls will be having pizza whilst they work!



CAREER ADVICE AND OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to starting the Careers Club for KS3 students, the main focus for the Careers Advisor this term has been meeting with Year 11 students to talk about their future career aspirations and making the right choices about what they do next. In addition to this, Mr James has been preparing Year 10 students for what to expect when they go on work experience.

This included an assembly for the year group when Mr James spoke about the fact that work experience is an opportunity for all students to develop their communication and interpersonal skills in a professional environment. In the coming weeks, the expectations around work experience will be the focus for discussion in Year 10 tutor time and future assemblies.



Rise Up Days have continued to go from strength to strength with the start of the new academic year. The combination of well planned lessons and accompanying resources linked with an increased number of external speakers has meant that students are exploring a range of topics.

Rise Up Day 1 (Tuesday 5th September)

Year 7 spent their first Rise Up Day completing the induction they began when they visited the school in July. This included a welcome assembly with Mr Johnson followed by a school tour and then lessons on keeping healthy and stereotypes. Year 8 considered self management, peer pressure and resilience. Year 9 learnt about social media and building relationships. Year 10 looked at preparing for GCSEs and study skills whilst Year 11 considered wellbeing and trust. Year 12 spent the day at Aylesford to get to know each other and their Form Tutors whilst Year 13 had a day in Thorpe Park as their St Angela's Day celebration.

Rise Up Day 2 (Monday 2nd October & Monday 16th October)

Year 7 considered the Rule of Law and the Equality Act whilst Year 8 learnt about budgeting and the Prevent agenda. Year 9 studied the effects of illegal substances and had a presentation from representatives from Transport of London (TfL) on travelling safely. Year 10 had a focus on employment as they studied finding and applying for a job as well as professional standards in the workplace. Year 11 considered financial literacy and consumer rights whilst Year 12 looked at wealth and wellbeing as well as university life. Finally, Year 13 had a presentation and discussion groups about preparing for university life.

Rise Up Day 3 (Tuesday 7th November & Tuesday 21st November)

The flagship event for Rise Up Day 3 was a performance of 'Knowing Me Knowing You' by Chain Reaction Theatre to all Year 7 and 8 students. The performance focused on students understanding the importance of protected characteristics as well as the impact of harassment and bullying. Year 7 also considered staying safe on the roads and online, whilst Year 8 learnt about the impact of smoking and vaping as well as the benefits of using music to support wellbeing. Year 9 studied managing emotions at puberty and parenthood whilst Year 10 considered positive relationships as well as understanding how criminals attract young people to run county lines. Year 11 learnt about addiction and mental health whilst Year 12 studied the impact of radicalisation and how to manage their digital footprint. Lastly, Year 13 considered staying safe at university and managing risks.

Ursuline Student Profile (USP)

In addition to all the above all students were also taught lessons on our USP virtues for the autumn term and the first half of the spring term. For the first half of the spring term this is 'Grateful and Generous'. The virtue for the autumn term was 'United in Harmony' where students learnt about the importance of diversity as a strength and working together for the common good which brings us neatly to being Courageous and Resilient.



STARS

We are delighted to announce that St Angela's has been awarded Gold Accreditation. Our Gold accreditation is for the 2022/23 academic year. In order to achieve Gold, students and families have to be involved in a staggering;

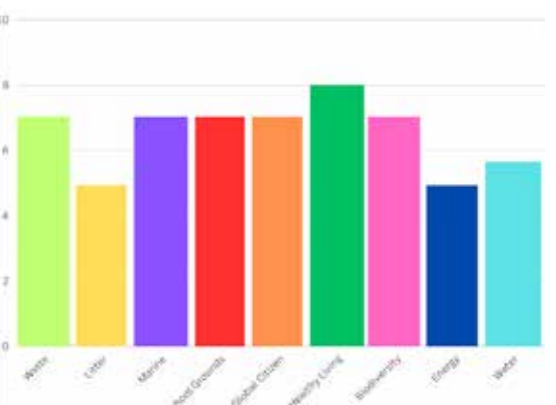
- 25 Travel Activities
- 15 Supporting Activities
- 8 Consultations

We continue to work with TFL on STARS and are using the groundwork to explore Eco School status. This term, students have been actively involved in travel talks and campaigns for safe travel to and from school.

The chart below shows the aspects the students think are important to focus on next term.

ECO Club

Eco Club students have had a very busy term. The Eco Club met every Wednesday in the Geo Room. Eco Club is made up of students from Year 7 to Year 9. The aim of the Eco Club is to make St Angela's even more environmentally friendly. In order to do so, students have conducted an environmental audit of the school investigating a wide range of environmental areas, ranging from transport, food waste and recycling. Below are the results from our first student audit. The chart shows the aspects the students think are important to focus on next term.



Having conducted the audit, the Eco Club has decided they would like to focus on two key areas. This would involve running two main projects throughout this year. The first project involves encouraging sustainable travel to and from school and so far students have created projects which will form a visual display board for others. The second matter which Eco Club are very passionate about tackling is recycling. This will involve organising for all classrooms to have paper recycling bins and encouraging students to use reusable bottles.

HEADS OF YEAR

Year 7

Year 7 have made a fabulous start to their academic career at St Angela's. They are now seasoned students, navigating their way to lessons, organised with their equipment and are managing their workloads through excellent use of their planner. The cohort have successfully embedded themselves in school life - participating enthusiastically in Interform, joining extracurricular clubs such as Eco Club, Cheerleading and Choir. We are at the start of our academic journey towards the GCSE and it is important to remember this as we work together to create a firm foundation. Their form tutors have commented on how well they are doing and are very proud of you all. Well done Year 7s. Thank you to all the parents and carers for their support and we wish you and your families a restful holiday.

Ms Sheehan

Year 8

Year 8 have made a fabulous start to the academic year, they have been brilliant role models to our new Year 7s. The pastoral team is incredibly proud of them. The Year 8s continue to collaborate effectively with their staff and it is a pleasure to watch them in lessons as they grow in their understanding of the subject content. They have worked incredibly hard this term. They are also involving themselves in the extra-curricular life of the school with many returning to clubs from last year as well as joining new ones, they are making the most of every learning opportunity. I am so pleased to see the cohort excelling in so many different areas of school life. I hope you all have a restful holiday and look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year- Ms Kerridge

Year 9

Year 9 have been working very hard this term in all aspects of school life. Core Plus Coaching started this term with students being coached and tutored by exemplary Year 12 students who received Level 8s and 9s in either English or Maths. It has been lovely watching the students grow in enthusiasm for these subjects and learn further skills that will support their move into KS4. Team Up students have also been working fantastically with their tutors and are growing from strength to strength in their core subjects English and Maths.

As ever Year 9 wowed the whole school with their dancing, acting, singing, musicality, effort and team work in this year's school musical High School Musical. I am so impressed by the girls' resilience in continuing with both school work and frequently rehearsing - their work ethic is unparalleled. And finally my knowledge that Year 9 an amazing group in the school has been confirmed as we have persistently stayed in the top spot for the most number of positive messages sent home and the best attendance since the start of the year. I am so very proud of you all. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break with your families and look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

Ms Peacock

Year 10

Year 10 have started their KS4 journey this year and have adapted well to the demands that GCSEs can bring. It has been extremely positive to see a number of students making use of revision resources (including the TLC) as well as rising to the challenges that GCSEs can bring. Alongside their studies, students have embarked on a number of activities to support them in being well-rounded learners. It has been excellent to see a number of Year 10 students supporting in High School Musical, Jack Petchey Speak Out challenge, and beginning their preparations for the work experience in March.

It is clear that the year group wishes to be extraordinary in all ways possible and as we continue throughout the year, I am sure there will be many opportunities to demonstrate just how extraordinary they are. I would like to thank families for their continued support as we continue this ever important KS4 journey at St Angela's. I wish you all a restful and peaceful Christmas and I shall see you all in the new year!

Ms McKenzie-Gray

Year 11

And then they're in year 11! With the blink of an eye the year 7s of 2019 are the year 11s of 2024. Their journey to this point has been eventful with the pandemic in Year 7 and Year 8. Year 11 are currently in the midst of their mock exams and we could not be prouder of them. They are approaching the exams with good humour and support for one another as they have always done. They have worked incredibly hard this term without complaint (maybe the odd grumble here and there!). Year 11 have taken advantage of all of the intervention that is in place for them with after school study support taking place Monday to Thursday. Their determination to succeed is commendable and I would like to thank you for your continued support, working together as we have always done to ensure every student gets the opportunities they deserve. I would like to wish you all a restful and peaceful Christmas and I am looking forward to working with you again in 2024!

Mr Mason



Sixth Form

It's been a very busy term for the sixth form. The new Year 12 students began the year with a trip to Aylesford Priory for their induction trip where they got to know each other and their form tutors away from school. The weather was glorious and everyone appreciated the opportunity to be outside of London, in the countryside.



Reeyana, Year 12, said:

"When enrolling at St Angela's, I wasn't sure what to expect about life in the sixth form, and I was nervous about meeting lots of new people. However, these worries quickly subsided thanks to a trip that was held at the very start of the year. Away from school, I gained the courage to befriend people in my form group and later on, befriend many others. I think it's safe to say that the community within this sixth form is very welcoming and I strongly believe that I will continue to have a great time here."

The second day in school for Year 12 was spent with their form tutors. The topics that were covered included independent learning in the sixth form, and strategies for improving mental toughness. The students were also taken on a tour of the school by the Year 13 student leaders, learned about who's who at St Angela's, and had a library induction with Ms Bacon and Ms Royer. In the evening, we welcomed the Year 12 parents into school where they had the opportunity to meet the students' form tutors and learn about the ethos of St Angela's and our daily routines.



At the end of September, the Year 13 Student Senior Leadership Team (SSLT) spoke to Year 12 in assembly about applying for the newly created junior leadership positions. We had over 40 applications and the successful candidates were: Reeyana (Wellbeing Ambassador); Serena (Green Ambassador); Janine (Fundraising Ambassador); Hoshana (DEI Ambassador); Yusuf (Super-curricular Ambassador). They will listen to students' ideas for making improvements in the sixth form and support the work of the SSLT.



Another exciting development this year was the assembly that the SSLT presented to all students in the school. Students in Years 7-11 really enjoyed listening to the SSLT talk about their ambitions for the future and what it's like to be a student in our outstanding sixth form.



All of the student leaders are working hard to plan ideas for after Christmas. Right now, they're very much focused on their mock exams. However, the first event they planned, responding to student feedback, was a wellbeing day for Year 13 just before they finished for their mock exams. It was a comfy clothes day for Year 13 and, after school, we showed the movie, Home Alone, giving out hot chocolate for everyone to wind down before a very busy period of revision and exams.

In the spirit of Serviam, it was a joy to watch students in Years 12 and 13 serve the food at the Ursuline Centenary Celebration in October. They very quickly learned their role and carried out their duties with the utmost professionalism.

For the remainder of the time, the Sixth Form has been very much focused on university preparation. Year 12 students have had online assemblies from the University of Bath and SEO London. Year 13 students have been super busy completing their university applications and writing their personal statements. To support the process, we had an information evening for Year 13 students and parents with representatives from the University of Cambridge and the University of Essex. The topics covered included making a competitive application, student finance and student accommodation. We have also been talking about these issues in Rise Up days, as well as everything else the students have to look forward to when they begin the next chapter of their lives at university.

As is the tradition at St Angela's, once students have sent their UCAS application, they ring the bell in Desenzano to rapturous applause from their peers.



St Angela's Great BAKE-OFF



The Great St Angela's Bake Off Results!

Well done one and all!

Key Stage Three Winners
Ms Clarkson and Josephine
Mr Mason and Chloe - Overall Winners

Key Stage Four Winners
Ms Ali, Anne, Lanae and Aaliyah - Overall Winners
Ms Vassiliou, Ms Larkin with Avril, Caterina, Isabel and Maya

Key Stage Five Winners
Angelica and Aimee
Tsin and Rebecca

Food Preparation and Nutrition

The Great St Angela's Bake Off

This year for Children In Need, the food department hosted The Great St Angela's Bake Off! Over the course of a week students and staff were challenged to make 12 cupcakes during their lunch, that both tasted and looked great! The event was highly successful creating a huge buzz and competitiveness around the school. At the end of the week all cakes created were sold during break time, creating a total of £250.03!

Fish Heroes Programme



This year St Angela's Ursuline is one of 200 schools across the UK taking part in the Fish Heroes Programme. As part of this, we were lucky enough to have received 8 kg of fresh mussels for students to cook and eat with! On Friday 17th November, 38 Year 9 students volunteered to attend a 'Mussels



Masterclass' put on by Ms Walsh where they learnt how to make Thai Style Mussels and Yoghurt Flatbreads. It was the first time many of the students had tried mussels and all were converted!

I really enjoyed the class as I was able to learn new skills and try something that was delicious but simple enough to make - Myah



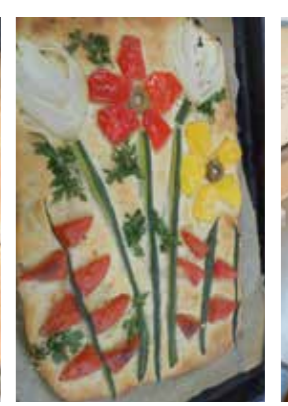
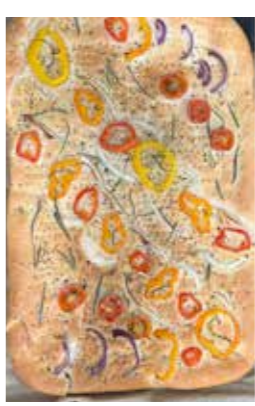
I learnt a lot about mussels including where they come from, how to cook them and careers in Food. I would definitely make the recipe again for my family at home. Thank you for the opportunity! - Kimone



Mussels

Food Art Focaccia

As part of the cultural foods project, Year 9 have been learning about breads from around the world. Having completed a sensory food tasting, students then go on to design their own focaccia food art, considering how their products can be visually attractive whilst also still tasting great! Fantastic work Year 9!



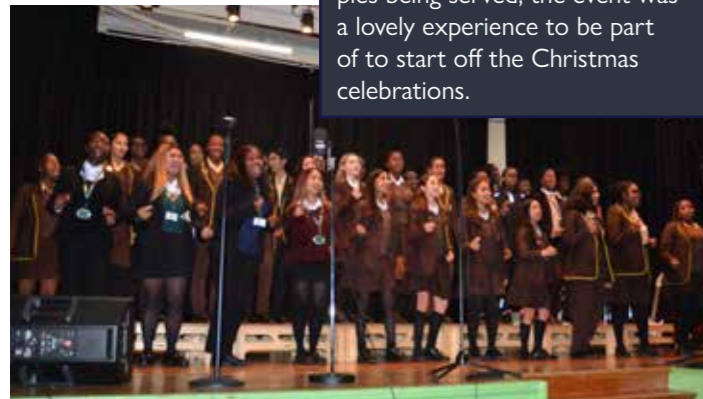
Music



St Angela's
Wednesday 13th December
BRESCIA HALL 6:00 PM



Staff, friends and family came to support our wonderful musicians, many of whom were performing for the very first time. The audience was treated to festive performances from three different choirs, the school orchestra, guitar ensemble, percussion group, bands, piano duet and the surprise performance by our very own staff choir. The programme ended with Carol of the Bells. With mulled wine and mince pies being served, the event was a lovely experience to be part of to start off the Christmas celebrations.



Drama

It has been a tremendously busy first term for the Drama department! High School Musical was a huge success! The students worked tirelessly for 10 weeks across three disciplines to ensure they could deliver the most high energy, entertaining show to a SOLD OUT audience! Exciting scenes which encompassed a combination of disciplined acting skills, fine tuned voices and technical execution of stunt skills by the cheerleaders. The Drama, Music & Dance department are so proud of everything our wonderful students have achieved and look forward to creating our next show. Keep your eyes peeled for what this could be...



The GCSE Drama students have made an impressive start to the year by completing their first assessments to an incredibly high standard. The students were challenged with how to create engaging theatre using new theatrical styles and use of Theatre Design. They excelled and created interesting, engaging, high energy pieces of theatre, of which they should be very proud!

Students at KS3 have been exploring different topics and working hard to hold on to their creativity as they adapt to drama lessons in a new setting. Students have become experts in their use of voice and how physical theatre can be used to story-tell. Students in Year 7 have been working on an excellent piece of work on The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe and exploring how Physical Theatre and storytelling can be used to engage an audience. Students in year 8 have created incredible pieces of Physical Theatre in response to Shakespeare's Tempest, Students in Year 9 are exploring social issues and working on a fantastic play called DNA and continue to explore how different styles of theatre can be used to interpret a play. This play will also be staged by the StARS Theatre company next term!



St Angela's
PRESENTS
HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL JR



They were soaring, they were flying! Well done to all performers and backstage team who created an amazing showpiece.



English

This term is our "launch" term. As every year, October marks the beginning of Debate Mate - the national competition where students learn valuable skills in all things debating and a competition our students have won at national level on several occasions.



Ms Pellegrini launched a new lunch time Book Club, aiming to emulate the ever-popular book groups that many adults enjoy in their spare time. We asked one of our new 'members' to give an early review (seen below). And finally, we also launched two new and important texts in Years 10 and 13 respectively. Year 10 studied Winsome Pinnock's Leave Taking, a new GCSE literature set text exploring important themes of identity and belonging. Year 13

studied George Bernard Shaw's Mrs Warren's Profession - an iconoclastic, and therefore thought-provoking, late 19th century play. The Year 10 and 13 teachers, and students too of course, have had to read, research, interpret, analyse, and ultimately, get to grips with challenging new material and we have loved every minute of it.



Book Club Review

'Book club has been amazing this year! Everyone is very welcoming and kind. The club is full of people who have a love of books as great as mine. There is a large variety of tastes and preferences that I enjoy as I get to hear different opinions and ideas. This allows me to see literature from different perspectives.

During book club we discuss books we have read, including what we have liked and disliked. We also take books home to read and discuss the next fortnight. So far we have read Pigeon English by Stephen Kelman and Stone Cold Robert by Swindells. Both novels take place in England and have protagonists who aren't very well off. As well as being entertaining the novels educate us about the lifestyles of people who are less privileged and present situations which do often happen in daily life for some.

I really enjoy reading books from book club as I wouldn't normally choose to read books from that genre. It allows me to embrace different kinds of books in a way that I haven't before.'
Bracha (Year 8)

Debate Club 2023-24

Our next cohort of future debaters had the wonderful opportunity to attend the Debate Mate Launch at the Emmanuel Centre which was attended by a range of different schools from London.

Twenty-four very lucky Year 7 students were given an immersive introduction to the world of debate and experienced a show debate, the motion of which was: 'Schools should teach rap over Shakespeare.' They were taught how to structure arguments and were given the opportunity to ask floor questions for both the proposition and opposition teams.

Reese (7 Smith) said "Seeing people stand up and argue for their side in front of all of the schools was so inspiring and one day I aspire to do that as well." The girls had immense fun attending the launch and it served as an exciting kickstart to their Debate Mate weekly sessions which they embarked upon the following week.



RE

Year 11 Retreat



On Tuesday 26th September, Year 11 participated in a year group retreat based on the theme 'Answering God's Call'. The day was led by the RE department. During the day the students were given a chance to reflect on their life vocations, participate in creative activities and also spend some time with God through meditation. The day ended with a Mass in Brescia Hall. It was a great way for Year 11's to start their academic journey, this year.



Advent assembly

To launch the season of advent at school the Year 10 Liturgy Reps led the advent assembly. It was based on the theme of preparing for the coming of Christ. Throughout the assembly the students explained the need for hope and ensuring that we are taking time in our lives to pause and reflect as we get ourselves spiritually ready for the season of Christmas.



Liturgy Rep Mass

On the 20th October, the Liturgy Reps were invited to a special Mass which was said by Fr John Jesus. During the mass prayers were offered for them and their ministry at the school. All Liturgy Reps were awarded with a liturgy rep badge to publicly identify their role and also were given a copy of the Gideon Bible to keep with them in their blazer pocket for spiritual guidance.

Sign language

Year 7 students have been spending their December lunch times with Ms Larkin learning the song 'Away in a Manger' in sign language. This is to be performed during the Christmas liturgy. They wanted a challenge to learn the actions and also make it accessible to all.

The Ursuline Travelling Candle

In honour of sharing Servian values. A special Candle has been created which will journey around all the UK schools this year. The aim is to use a symbol of shared values and community in our Ursuline schools. It has been placed in the Chapel and been lit for special occasions this term.



Learning in RE

It has been a busy half term in RE. All Key Stage Three students have been studying the units under the new RE Catholic Curriculum. This term they explored themes relating to Creation and Covenant and also prophecy and promise. Topics covered included the importance of Creation in Year 7, the role of the 10 Commandments in Year 8 and the significance of Mary in Year 9. To celebrate this wonderful work two displays were put up in the RE classrooms; one of stained glass creation images and another of the purpose of the 10 Commandments.



Year 10 students have been busy this term exploring the topics of Creation, Incarnation and also human rights. Many students have enjoyed being able to unpack the purpose of human rights and connect them to the teachings of Jesus and Christian faith.

Sixth Form Open Evening provided an opportunity for Year 11 students to trial a taste of A Level RE. Two morality activities were set up to challenge the students to think critically and use their understanding of moral decision making to make swift choices. One activity was the famous train dilemma which was recreated with wooden toy tracks and lego men. This activity led to some very interesting debates about how we make moral decisions.

Maths



KS3

A group of our wonderful Year 8 students have been working together at lunchtimes to prepare for the Jack Petchy Count on Us Secondary Maths Challenge. The Jack Petchey Foundation has worked in partnership with the Mayor's Fund for London since 2014 to deliver the Count on Us Maths Secondary Challenge. It is a unique, inter-school maths programme for Year 7, 8 and 9 students across London, which aims to improve confidence and fluency in maths. Students practise in school and can compete in an exciting maths tournament against their peers, with the aim of reaching the Grand Final held at City Hall.

KS4

Our Year 11 students have been working very hard this term preparing and completing their December Mock exams. They have shown great determination and commitment attending extra study support sessions and completing 2 pre-mock assessments to prepare for these important milestone exams. We wish them the best of luck for their results in January!

KS5

Mr Hector took Afrah, Olivia and Kulthum in Year 13 to compete in the Maths Olympiad for Girls at Highgate School. The competition is an excellent chance for mathematically gifted pupils to challenge themselves as they strive to get a grade A*. The visit introduced students to different types of problems and required them to apply their knowledge and understanding in new and exciting ways. We are pleased to report that all three students achieved a merit award!

Below is a reflection from Afrah about her experience of the competition:

'Participating in the Maths Olympiad for Girls was an exciting experience that I thoroughly enjoyed. The challenging problems pushed me to think outside the box and apply mathematical concepts in creative ways. It was a true test of my problem-solving skills and every question posed a unique puzzle to solve. Moreover, the event provided me with the opportunity to meet and engage in collaborative discussions with like-minded individuals who shared my passion for maths.'

items are usually very expensive as consumers are not very responsive to a change in price. Our Year 13 economists have completed all of microeconomics and a key focus of this term was market structures. Did you know that Shell Plc recorded record profits of \$43.36bn in 2022, the highest ever for the firm? As the economists of tomorrow, it was amazing to see their engagement in this topic area! They have now begun their journey into international economics; looking specifically at globalisation and how exchange rates work. The Year 13 students have also learnt about the different ways firms integrate and reasons for collusive behaviour. We wish all of our students a restful winter break and are sending luck to the Year 12 economists who have their mocks upon return!



Economics



The Economics department arranged a wonderful trip for the Year 13 students to the Bank of England in October. During this trip, students learnt about the key functions of the Bank of England and their role in stabilising the financial sector of the economy. Our students found this trip extremely beneficial and enjoyable.

Our Year 12 economists have begun their A

Level course by learning about the different elasticities of supply and demand. This topic has allowed students to understand how businesses make their pricing decisions. For example, branded

Politics

Following in the footsteps of world leaders such as Barack Obama (who spoke to the House of Commons and the House of Lords here) our Politics students visited The Great Hall in the Houses of Parliament. The Great Hall is a truly historic building (built in 1097 by the son of William the Conqueror) and was the building where Queen Elizabeth lay in state before her funeral.

Our students were duly awestruck by this majestic building. Following this tour, the students returned to the House of Lords where they engaged in seminars and debates regarding the problems with democracy in the UK. From their comments I understood that our students are less than impressed by the current state of affairs.

Following the seminars/debates our students headed off to St James Park for lunch - the autumn sunshine certainly feels like a distant memory. Interestingly, whilst our students are certainly not afraid of MPs, the sight of a duck walking towards them was apparently terrifying...

After lunch we walked to the National Gallery, which is rightly famous for its many political paintings, it is now becoming famous as a venue for political protest as seen when young members of 'Just Stop Oil' recently protested there.

Business

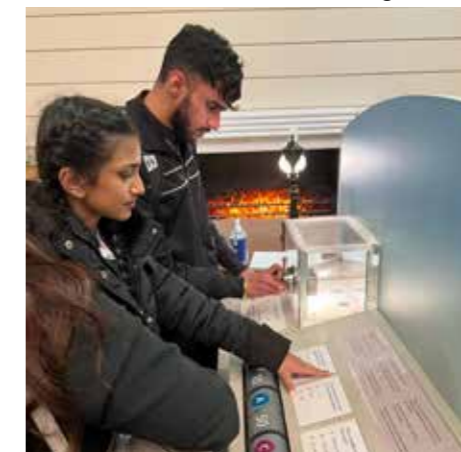
We have had some very exciting developments in Business Studies this year. Year 10 has had a very bright start to their Business Studies GCSE course focusing on the theme of investigating small businesses. The students have revelled in discovering the dynamic nature of businesses as well as the different marketing methods and how businesses manage costs and revenue. The students are also on course for some exciting projects in the new year which will allow them to apply their business knowledge to real life situations. We have also had a number of new additions to business this year and these students are working very hard to develop their business knowledge which is so positive to see.

Our Year 11 students have been very busy expanding their business knowledge and tackling the topics surrounding building a business. This theme builds on from the foundations they laid for themselves in Year 10 and expands their knowledge and exposure to more business concepts in greater detail. They are learning about the wider business world, globalisation, business ethics and environmental factors. These topics link very nicely with subjects they may be interested in at A Level from obviously business studies but economics, politics and a number of other subjects also.

Year 12 have made an excellent start to their A Level journey in Business. They are covering both themes in the AS specification looking at markets and people and managing business activities. These two themes build on the foundations of A Level Business which students can then build on from further into the course.

As well as the course content there have been a number of webinars and talks that are being arranged for the business and economics students to enable them to build up their list of credentials for future university applications.

Year 13 students have been hard at work this year with a number of students applying for business or business related degree



courses, including accounting, finance, economics and marketing to name a few. The business and economics departments worked in collaboration to organise a very successful trip to the Bank of England Museum where students were able to learn about the origin of money and the wider role of money in the economy. Students were especially interested in the safe cracking challenge and the presentation from the bank staff which included fascinating stories about the gold in the vaults of the bank.

Overall Business is as busy as ever and our fantastic students are pushing themselves all the way to exam success. Keep up the great work!



Culture Club

In this year's Culture Club for students of Year 9 started exploring traditions from culture from all around the world. We started off by making "Schultüten" which is a German tradition where students on their first day of primary school receive a special cone filled with sweets and stationary to help eliminate the nerves that go with such profound change.

Students also enjoyed learning how to write their names in Japanese script and they learned more about the language and culture of the Maori people of New Zealand. Recently, we have



looked at cultures closer to home and explored myths, legends and traditions from Scotland and Wales. The students even got to design their own tartan (traditional fabric for making kilts).

Grace - Year 12

Grace from Year 12 kindly offered her time and support to help teach French to a new arrival to the school. In the few lessons that she has met with the Year 8 student, she has already had a massive impact on the student's confidence in her spoken French. Grace who achieved a fantastic grade in her GCSE French class and speaks French at home is also one of the kindest students you will ever meet. Thank you so much Grace!



GERMAN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Kulthum - Year 13

Kulthum won the very prestigious German Scholarship Programme. Only ten students from the entire United Kingdom managed to succeed in their applications. This allowed her to spend four weeks exploring Germany in the summer of 2023. This is how Kulthum describes her stay:

"I had an unforgettable experience, I visited four cities, Bonn, Ravensburg, Munich and Berlin with many people from all around the world that are learning German like me. My favourite activity from the four weeks was taking part in festivals in school and in the town when I was in Ravensburg. It was so much fun and different from anything else I have ever seen. I also really enjoyed being able to speak German with native speakers as it meant that I could greatly improve my German."



Elaina - Year 13

Elaina's hard work paid off and she managed to secure a place in the highly prestigious German Pupil Programme which allowed her to visit Germany in the summer. Elaina describes her visit like this: "In my summer holidays, I had the amazing opportunity to go to Bremerhaven from August to September, where I got to stay with a host family for two weeks. The experience was brand new and it was exciting to finally experience what life was like in Germany. I also had the unique experience of going on a "Wattwanderung" (this is walking in the sands left behind at low tide) in Bremen. We also got lots of opportunities to play volleyball, which was a really fun, positive experience with my group and the other host siblings". Elaina's already impressive spoken German has improved noticeably since her return from Germany.

Berlin Trip

We are delighted that post Covid we are back to being able to offer trips abroad to our KS4 and 5 students. We hope that they have a meaningful learning experience in January!



Year 11 trip to UCL

Year 11 really enjoyed attending a Languages Day run by UCL. Not only did they gain a deeper appreciation of how important it is to be bilingual but they also got a chance to learn a little Serbo-Croat!

Year 10 Christmas Competition.

Congratulations to the three winners of the MFL Year 10 Languages Competition who were able to find answers to our many obscure questions about Christmas traditions around the world. Did you know for example that people in Japan celebrate Christmas by eating KFC!



International Day Of Languages 2023



Art

GCSE and A-level Art Trip to the National Portrait Gallery

"On Tuesday 3rd October, Year 11 art students visited the newly reopened National Portrait Gallery to explore the permanent exhibition and take inspiration for our coursework. We were able to observe a variety of works (including paintings, photographs, death-mask casts and sculptures) from the 15th century to the present day. The collection shows the evolution of the portrait and how artists have recorded people through time, using portraiture to indicate power, status and wealth. For example, portraits from the Tudor period mainly depicted royalty, adorned in intricate jewels and regal fabrics. I was interested in how artists use different mediums and styles to emphasise the individuality of their technique as well as the work of photographers who also had their work displayed at the gallery; this encouraged us to consider the stylistic choices we could make in our own portrait developments. After exploring the galleries, we were able to make our own recordings, sketching directly from the artworks as we began to prepare for our practical mock exam." (Chyna - Year 11)

"On October 3rd, I was fortunate to visit the National Gallery. The trip was organised for the Year 13 A Level Art students as an opportunity to explore important art works first hand and develop our knowledge in connection with our written study. My personal theme for investigation is "The changing portrayal of women through art history" and I am researching artworks from the 13th century through to contemporary art. As well as exploring works in connection with my study, I was able to admire a large collection of paintings which was a remarkable experience. The piece that captured my interest most was the exquisite large-scale depiction of 'The Execution of Lady Jane Grey' by Paul Delaroche. This 19th-century oil painting illustrates the tragic story of the 17-year-old Lady Jane Grey prior to her execution, led by Sir John Brydges. Grey wears an almost illuminated white dress which represents her innocence. The exaggerated distress of her wailing ladies in waiting combined with their body language and pose reinforces their despair. The large scale work creates the illusion of the muses being lifesize and consequently manipulate the viewer into believing they are present at the execution itself. A skill I noticed in this painting by Delaroche was his use of soft and blended brushstrokes, which is something you can only observe when you see the painting first hand. Visiting the National Gallery was an amazing experience. The trip was very enjoyable and also helped provide me with a deeper understanding of how an artist can create drama and impact within a painting." (Ruby Mai - Year 13)



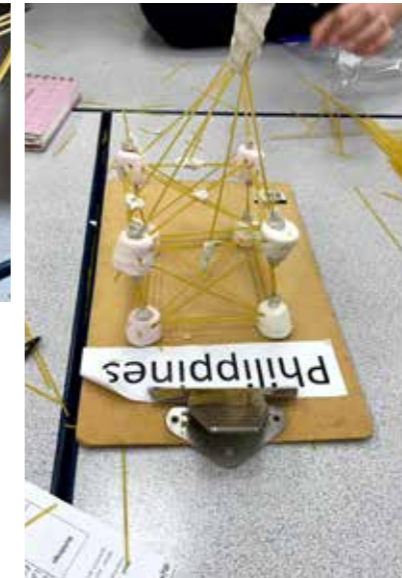
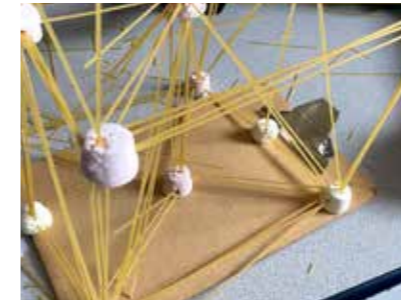
Geography

Year 7 spent their first term developing their location knowledge through the book 'Prisoners of Geography- Our World Explained in 12 Simple Maps'. They concluded this topic with some fantastic projects; learning a language from one region/country they had studied, making a model of a landmark, cooking cakes or dinner inspired by a country, research posters and even designing a Minecraft world.

To finish the term they focused on key maps skills that will support their learning in KS3. We are looking forward to their hard work in their next topic of 'Coasts'.

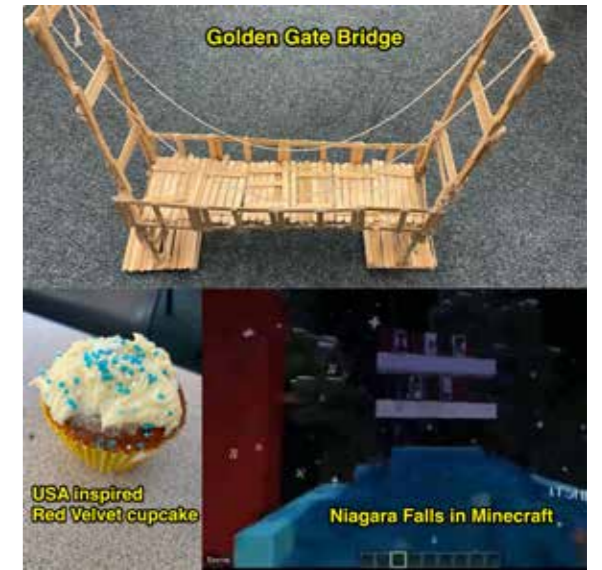
Year 8 started with 'Development' then moved onto 'Climate Challenges'. 'Development' involves looking at the ways countries are categorised based on more than just wealth. This required practising key skills of using and applying data about countries as well as introducing a wide range of new vocabulary. The very topical 'Climate Challenges' involved the greenhouse effect as well as looking at past and present causes, then finishing with global impacts. With COP28, it was an opportunity to discuss solutions, activism and global agreements.

Year 9 began with 'Tectonic Hazards'. Students learnt the physical processes then examined case studies of contrasting locations to assess factors that affect the scale of disasters. They had an opportunity to design our own Earthquake Proof buildings.



They then looked at 'Global Fashion', focusing on the globalisation of the fashion industry. The Trading Game enabled them to think deeply about the unfair nature of global trading and the exploitation of resources.

They examined the negative impacts of fast fashion focusing on working conditions, then pollution and waste due to the globalised industry. We will finish this topic next term by looking at solutions.



Year 10 focused on Hazards, with sub-topics on earthquake, volcanoes, tropical storms, extreme weather events and Climate Change. They have been practising their application of case study knowledge to write 'assess' 9 mark questions. Year 11 completed 'Living World' examining ecosystems, rainforests and hot deserts. Embedding a range of exam practice questions throughout the topic has really supported the students with their approach to all the types of exam questions to thoroughly prepare them for their mocks. We are proud of all their perseverance and resilience.

The Year 12 students have had a very busy start of the year. In Hazards students have examined seismic and volcanic case studies to assess the contributing factors to the severity of the disasters. They have had opportunities to practise statistical and data analysis as well as developing their exam techniques gradually throughout the term. In Changing Places, students have explored the meaning of place - what does a sense of place actually mean? Students have studied Detroit focusing on deindustrialisation and current efforts of Detroit's regeneration project.

Year 13 have completed their Independent Investigations which are worth 30% of their A Level. They designed their own investigation on an area of their choosing, collected fieldwork and produced their report with sophisticated data presentation, analysis and evaluation. This highly valued piece of work will support them in their university and career pathways.

History

This term Year 7 students have been examining the Norman invasion of Britain creating a range of storyboards to summarise the key events. To challenge students, the History Department organised for the National Archives to run a workshop on Norman sources which really helped students develop a greater appreciation of the significance of the Norman invasion and we were really impressed by their developing source skills.



Year 8 students have been exploring the introduction of the Reformation. It has been great to hear the students debate who they think had the biggest impact on religion. Furthermore, students explored the work of Miranda Kaufmann who investigated the lives of 'Black Tudors' which highlighted that the black community played an important role in Tudor England including being employed as trumpeters in the Court of Henry VIII and sea divers.



Year 9 students have been exploring the legacy of the British Empire with a focus on the Caribbean and India as case studies. In order to support their understanding, students visited the Maritime Museum in Greenwich where students explored the link between migration and the British Empire.



Year 9 girls who have been attending History Club at lunchtime on a Wednesday explored the significance of the arrival of SS Windrush in 1948 by exploring accounts of people who arrived in Britain from Collin Grant's 'Homecoming: Voices of Windrush'.

Year 10 students have started their journey for GCSE History by examining changing crimes over time in Britain. Whilst Year 11 students have been focusing on the growth of the Nazi Party in Year 11. We are very proud of their hard work and dedication!

Year 12 students have been examining how Britain has transformed since 1918 with lots of links being made to the current cost of living crisis and the implications for Britain based on the experience of Britain in the 1970s. Students in Year 12 also visited Tate Britain to explore the 'Women in Revolt' exhibition and participated in a workshop run by the Museum of Youth focusing on different youth sub-groups of the 1950s - 70s.



Finally, Year 13 has been exploring the causes of the American War of Independence and the importance of Martin Luther King Jr for the Civil Rights Movement. In preparation for their coursework, students visited the National Archives in Kew to examine British sources on the movement and had an opportunity to see an original copy of the American Declaration of Independence.



Finally, the department welcomed Mr Belemy, Mr Doherty and Ms Wood to the department and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their hard work this term.

Holocaust Education Trust Workshops

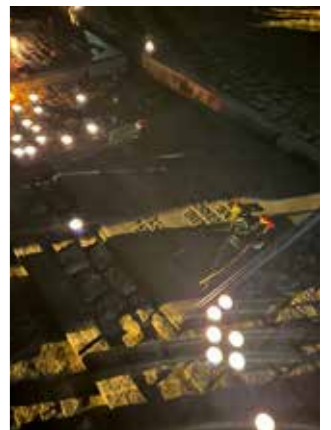
This year we had the opportunity to participate in the Holocaust Education Trust's Lessons from Auschwitz project which helps students to understand the Holocaust in more detail.

"As part of the project we had the opportunity to visit Poland which entailed visiting both Auschwitz I and Auschwitz II-Birkenau. After a tour of Oświęcim, the Polish town where both camps are located, we were able to understand the pre-war context of the racial tensions in the area which ultimately led to the Holocaust. Visiting Auschwitz I, we were guided through the camp, seeing that most of the buildings had been preserved for educational purposes and were able to truly understand the scale of the genocide that took place. In each building, all of which had previously been used to house the prisoners of the camp, a specific relic of the Holocaust was explained and displayed, including clothing, crockery and luggage. Being able to walk through the camp and the barracks was a truly overwhelming experience, but very important when understanding the Holocaust in full.

The engaging yet devastating visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau was followed by a seminar in which we had the opportunity to speak to the Holocaust survivor, Manfred Goldberg. Whilst the trip to Auschwitz provided eye-opening insight and depth nothing compared to hearing Manfred's testimony. With great dejection he revealed the

more intimate details of his experience, how he managed to survive by lying about his age upon arrival and how his mother was sent with a group who were destined for the gas chambers but managed to escape and hide amongst his group and was fortunately never caught. Although some would describe both these experiences as luck, it is impossible to ignore the horrifying situation Manfred was in; how one would have struggled to feel any sort of 'luck' in such an environment. Manfred went on to describe the dreadful experiences he faced after this; the death marches, the starvation and the death of his younger brother at the age of 9. And whilst we all felt sheer relief as he detailed his eventual liberation, it was dampened when he described the deaths of some following the liberation as they had not eaten in so long that their bodies could not handle the food given to them by the British soldiers. Manfred's testimony enabled us to view the victims as more than one group; they weren't just the figure '6 million', they were all people with lives who had individual, terrifying experiences. Manfred left us with the message that we should, "Live life with an open mind... because if good people stay silent, you're giving evil a chance to triumph. Silence never helps the oppressed and when you witness injustice speak up."

Aimee and Reece - Year 12



Science

KS3

Year 9 students have been completing the Mary Seacole and Marie Curie topics. The students have been looking at the amazing lives of both women and have focused on topics that were brought into focus by their extraordinary lives and scientific discoveries. Students have been using microscopes to prepare slides and have mastered the art of documenting their findings and creating some outstanding scientific drawings based on their own findings.

KS4

Two of our Year 10 students have been invited to take part in the Southern Challenge Final, at the university of Greenwich. The two students have been asked to attend, as they have already won the preliminary heats. It will involve programming lego mindstorm robots to navigate around a 3-D maze. We wish them the best of luck in this challenge!



On Monday 10th October, the Year 10 Triple Science class were able to enjoy a visit to the New Scientist Live Exhibition at the Edexcel centre where students got to unleash their inner scientist by getting interactive with everything from a pop-up planetarium to the operating theatre of the future. They also got the opportunity to speak to the scientists and engineers from world leading institutions alongside up and coming researchers who are tackling some of humanity's greatest challenges.



Here is a snapshot of what one student thought of the experience.

"We were able to explore interactive booths, conduct hands-on experiments as well as gaining insights into what the future may hold for our generations and beyond. The day was filled with curiosity, discovery and enthusiastic learning as we engaged with real world applications of our classroom knowledge." Aniela, Year 10 student

Year 11 have been working on GCSE chemistry focusing on chemical analysis. They have been working on chromatography to identify unknown substances and to look at the components of different mixtures. Here they are doing their core practical where they used their results to calculate the Rf values of the different inks.

Psychology



Our new Year 10 psychologists have made a wonderful start to the academic year! In lessons they have been learning about the importance of sleep and dreaming. When asked how she is adapting to the new GCSE course, Mary said, "Psychology is quite a hard subject because the context of it is all new but it's also interesting as we learn about different topics like the sleep cycle which I didn't even know existed! I am enjoying the topic of dreaming as I have learnt about two different theories and I think psychology has improved my thinking skills as I have to do some hard and challenging questions that have improved my reasoning." Aimee added, "Psychology is challenging but it still is my favourite subject. We get to learn about topics like ethics and I have practised exam

questions which is very beneficial to other subjects as well."

Year 11 have learnt about criminal behaviour this term, debating questions such as 'Are we born bad?' They have evaluated two opposing theories which aim to explain behaviour as a result of either our environmental learning or biological make up. The department wants to congratulate Year 11 on the focus and determination that they have shown in the run up to and throughout their mock examination period! Keep up the hard work all, you've done so well!

For many of our new Year 12 students, psychology is a brand new subject, so we have been focusing on building a sound foundation of knowledge. More recently, students have learnt about the structure of their memories which should aid them

in their revision ahead of the January mock examinations. Good luck Year 12!

Our Year 13 students have had an amazing start to the year learning about relationship dynamics and forensic psychology! We are so proud of how well you have settled into the second year of the A Level course and how seriously you have taken your mock examinations. We have a huge number of Year 13 students applying to study psychology at university this year and cannot wait to start seeing those offers come in!

Last but not least, we have taken some Year 11 and 13 students to the theatre to see Dear England as a post-mocks treat and the show was enjoyed by all.



Timbers, Metals & Plastics and Product Design

Educational Visit to the "New Designers Exhibition"

The Year 12 Product Design and Year 10 Design and Technology GCSE Students attended the New Designers Exhibition in July at the Business Design Centre in Islington.



"On 7th of July, I had the opportunity to attend the Design & Technology trip to Islington. I really enjoyed it as it allowed me to explore more pathways and reassess what I want to do as I get older. Areas that stood out to me the most were the art exhibitions, sculptures and new product innovations, by the universities that were presenting there. Seeing and talking to them gave me the ability to consider taking an art / technology based career path." Adiva, Year 11

"We really enjoyed attending the New designers exhibition as we saw very unique and innovative designs from young designers which we gained inspiration from to incorporate it into our A-Level coursework. There were so many different products

to look at ranging from electronics to interior design based projects. This enabled us to see beyond the A-Level specification and encouraged us to pursue a STEM and design based career. Peace (Year 13)

New STEM club team

This Autumn term a new Year 8 & 9 STEM Club has been meeting every Thursday lunchtime to explore all things STEM! They have designed and manufactured their own badge, explored 3D printing possibilities, and are currently designing custom made christmas decorations. They will look to explore some new electronic kits and learn "Marquetry Skills" to build a takeoff / landing pad for the school drone.

New Project for 2024 - Year 8



Year 13 Work Experience Placements

"I attended the Queen Mary's Women In Engineering event where I witnessed the testing of the Young's modulus of various polymers including, PMMA and LDPE. I was able to identify variables which affect the tensile strength of different materials such as temperature and strain rate allowing me to consider these factors when designing a Bluetooth speaker in product design." Sarah, Year 13

"During work experience at AFK Studios, I gained hands-on experience as an interior designer. I redesigned the office reception, creating a versatile space for both formal and informal work. I conducted research using Pinterest and AI software MidJourney, studied the studio's current and past projects, and visited local sites for inspiration. I interviewed staff to understand their requirements, took site measurements, and honed hand sketching skills for floor plan elevations. I improved my CAD skills, creating a detailed floor plan and realistic design. I shadowed various meetings with suppliers, collaborators, and internal progress and problem-solving discussions, exposing me to the dynamics of the collaborative and managerial aspects of the profession." Vaishnavi, Year 13

Textiles

Knitting & Stitching Show

On Friday 6th October, the Textiles department took 90 year 9 students to the Knitting and Stitching Show at Alexandra Palace. Here students were able to explore a huge array of exhibits, discovering everything from crochet flowers, batik fabrics, hand embroidered artworks and avant garde fashion creations! As ever, students highly enjoyed themselves, many leaving with big shopping bags full of future craft projects!



Poppy Remembrance Day Dress

As part of Remembrance Day this year, the Textiles department created a beautiful poppy dress that was displayed at our 6th form entrance. Every student from Year 7 to 13 was invited to design their own poppy, either with a name, message, poem or design. These were then transformed into a dress inspired by the poem 'In Flanders Fields' by John McCrae.

Crochet Club

Every Friday lunch in the TLC we have students from all year groups join Ms Bacon and Ms Walsh for crochet club. We cater for the full range of abilities, from complete beginners, learning how to create a chain, to highly talented experts, bringing in their own projects from home and teaching the adults a few new skills! We will be continuing the crochet club next term if you'd like to join!



Fruit Fashion

"In Year 9 textiles we learnt how to make a t-shirt inspired by fruits. We learned about the technique batik, where we had to draw our designs on with wax and then paint it using cold water dyes. What I like about the project is that everyone's shirts are different and unique to represent their personality!" - Anupriya



Sociology



Our Year 13 sociologists have had a fantastic start to the new academic year exploring the topics of globalisation and crime. A selection of the Year 13 cohort were lucky enough to attend a trip to The Royal Courts of Justice and The Old Bailey in October. The trip was designed to provoke interesting discussions regarding whether incarceration is an effective punishment to deter individuals from committing crime as well as offering effective rehabilitation. Our students were taken on a tour by an experienced criminal journalist covering both the Royal Courts of Justice and the Old Bailey followed by a wander through the secret alleys and courtyards of the nearby Inns of Court, in the footsteps of some of the country's most renowned legal minds. Our students were given a printed guide with details of the most interesting cases being heard that day compiled with the information from the guide's contacts



at the court. They then had the chance to watch any cases of interest in the public galleries at The Old Bailey. Our students found the whole experience absolutely fascinating, especially those who are intending to study Law at university.

Year 12 sociologists have had a busy term getting to grips with the demands of their A Level studies. This term they have explored the different aspects of identity; for example how we are socialised into class and gender identities and how they are changing. In addition students have been examining the process of sociological research by assessing the usefulness of a range of research methods.

This term our Year 11 sociologists have been learning about crime and deviance as well as preparing for their December mock exams. They have explored definitions of

crime and deviance and how theories like Marxism, functionalism and feminism explain crime and deviance. A group of Year 11 students attended a trip to The London Dungeons in September. The visit was organised to enrich their understanding of the relative nature of crime and deviance in Britain over the years. As well as being somewhat terrified by the actors throughout the immersive exhibition, the trip sparked some very interesting discussions regarding the changes to law and punishment in Britain over the years.

Our Year 10 sociologists have made a fantastic start to their GCSE Sociology course! This term they have explored a range of sociological theories as well as key debates such as nature versus nurture. In addition to this they have been examining the research process such as sampling and operationalisation. Keep up the hard work Year 10!



Media Studies

Year 13

Our Year 13 cohort has been hard at work producing their NEA coursework. The brief is to produce a narrative music video and accompanying website for a new artist for the indie label Beggars Group. This is an ongoing production which will be completed by February. The students have already produced some excellent raw footage for their videos and some innovative photography for their websites.



Year 12

The Year 12 cohort have made an excellent start to the year. This term they have studied the media language and representational aspects across a number of media sectors including magazines, advertising and music videos. The cohort have just begun the in depth study of newspapers in preparation for the January exams.



Year 11

In September the Year 11 cohort were taken to the world famous Madame Tussaud's museum in Baker Street London as a reward for all their hard work in Year 10. The students in attendance thoroughly enjoyed themselves with lots of photographs taken with world famous celebrities. The group are currently working on the production stage of their Unit 2 work, planning and producing work in a number of media sectors including fashion magazines, film posters and film trailers.

Year 10

Our Year 10 group have begun the course with excellent levels of enthusiasm and hard work. At present the girls are developing their understanding of the technical language of filmmaking, including the skills necessary to use a DSLR camera. A great start to GCSE learning.

THE URSULA SUITE

Alternative Pathways

Some of our students have been working really hard on their ASDAN qualification. They have been looking into Environmental Awareness and to tie this in with our school ethos, we have been looking at Christianity and the Environment. This focussed on how we as Christians can have a positive impact on the environment by caring for and looking after God's creations. Ms Murphy is especially proud of the girls as the coursework has been called as an exemplary example of teaching and learning. This work will be showcased across the country by ASDAN to model to other schools what the standard of the work should look like. Needless to say, Ms. Murphy and the girls are very proud!



Congratulations to the "Reading Club" on achieving their AQA certificate for their achievements and progress in studying "A Christmas Carol"



PEER MENTORS 2023-24



'Pupils develop an extremely strong sense of community here. Older pupils support the personal and academic development of those younger than them. Pupils in Year 10 and Year 11 take on the role of Peer Mentors for pupils in Year 7 and 8 when they first join the school. There is a generous culture of celebrating pupils' successes and rewarding those who try hard.' This is the opening line of St Angela's Ursuline School's Outstanding Ofsted report. If this isn't testament to the exceptional work the Peer Mentors do, we don't know what is! Our Peer Mentors are so proud (as they should be!) to have the Peer Mentor Programme held in such regard by the Ofsted Inspectors and the school. Miss Brown, Inclusion 2ic and Senior Learning Mentor, who oversees the provision is equally proud of the progress that is evident from this additional support given to students who need that 'big sister' guidance. Students undergo a rigorous application, interview and training process to ensure they are fully confident and safe in the work they do with younger students. A true, shining example of Serviam!



**We've got the whole world in our hands!
One of God's greatest gifts to us is our Planet!**



Congratulations to our amazing Year 10 achieving their AQA certificate for their achievements in studying "Christianity and the Environment"



Study Zone

The Study Zone in the Ursula Suite is a quiet space to work for any student who is not able to stay in the lesson. We have students come up to work in the Study Zone for many different reasons - sometimes for one lesson, sometimes for the day. We are very pleased with how students use the space to regulate and reflect before heading back into lessons. We work hard to keep the space a quiet, calm and safe space for all our students.

RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS



Recycling at Christmas

We want to encourage everyone to help our environment over the festive season! It is really easy to throw rubbish into a large black bin liner during the holiday season. We are asking you to be mindful of all the packaging, cards and boxes discarded on December 25th as it just takes a little bit of an effort to be green! Recycling tips for Christmas from Year 10 ASDAN students....

- 📄 Why not send an E-Christmas card - save paper
- 💡 Switch off your Christmas lights when not in use - to save valuable energy
- 📦 Avoid shiny wrapping. ... You can't recycle this product!

- 🌟 Did you know, real Christmas trees are collected for free by your local council - they are then recycled
- 🗑️ Avoid Christmas crackers with small pieces of plastic - these often end up in a sea, choking sea animals and fish
- 🗑️ Discarded wrapping paper, envelopes, cards, plastic bottles, as well as clean food tins and cans in your recycling bin - they can be recycled and made into something new
- 🗑️ Make sure that you dispose of your rubbish responsibly, break up large packaging so you can get more into your recycling bin!



REWARDS



This term we have completed the Commendations Assemblies with Year 7-10 and Year 12. The Year 11 and 13 Assemblies will happen in January as they have been completing their Mock Examinations.

Each of the assemblies have 6 main foci- Merits, 100% Attendance, Progress, effort, Ursuline Virtues and Head of Year Awards.

It is wonderful to celebrate the achievements of nominated students and for the peers to actively engage with their success.

Parents and carers of the winners have all been notified, certificates awarded and SIMs points added



PE Theatre Trip to Disney's Newsies

"Newsies" is an absolutely captivating and exhilarating musical that takes audiences on an unforgettable journey. The production beautifully combines an inspiring story, incredible choreography, and outstanding performances. The talented cast brings the characters to life with their exceptional singing and acting abilities, leaving the audience completely immersed in their world. The catchy and uplifting musical numbers, coupled with the energetic dance sequences create such a lively atmosphere. The lighting, choreography and singing was incredible.



"Newsies" is a thrilling and heartwarming theatrical experience and I am so glad I had the opportunity to watch the musical. In my opinion, I would watch the musical over and over again. The workshop the next day was extremely engaging and enjoyable. We all thoroughly enjoyed participating in the workshop. It was an incredible experience that allowed everyone to explore their creativity and allowed everyone to see what it would be like to delve into the world of performing arts. The workshop provided a nurturing environment where we could learn from the instructor and collaborate with others who shared the same

"The Musical 'Newsies' was instantly atmospheric, engaging and immersive with an interactive structure, stunning lighting and ambitious choreography that really showcased the various extensive talents of all the actors and dancers. It had heartfelt story telling and incredibly likeable characters that really made it a musical to remember. The workshop we participated in afterwards also gave me further insight into performing arts and the type of skills and discipline required for such an industry. Overall it was a wonderful experience I'm glad to have been a part of." *Philemora*



passion and enthusiasm. Engaging in various dance techniques and acting exercises challenged me to step outside my comfort zone, hone my skills, and discover some new facets of my abilities- *Christina*

Step Live Festival

Dancers who had been attending the weekly Step into Dance classes, created a piece called Mind The Gap with dance artist Jasmine Hall and were selected to perform at Cadogan Hall for the Step Live Festival! On route to the venue the dancers were able to spend some time at the Saatchi Gallery viewing Hidden Visions, a solo exhibition by British artist Andrew Millar. The work was inspired by qualities in nature which are constantly in flux, the works represent moments of stillness and rhythmic movement which invited the viewer to interact with the living element of the exhibition. The dancers really enjoyed the exhibition and could see a relationship between art and dance.

Arriving at Cadogan Hall the dancers got ready for the tech run and were also able to watch the other schools who had been invited to perform. It was a very prestigious event and the variety and quality of the dancers and dancing was fabulous. It was so uplifting to see the St Angela's dancers perform in such a wonderful venue and be supported by their parents and family members. Ms Jarvis, Jasmine and the parents were so proud of the dancers. Congratulations to Luiza, Micaela, Janelle, Kay, Carla, Rocher, Angel, Monae, Lena, Naomi, Myah, Milana and Keisha.

Photos: Marble & Sky Photography



British Rowing Talent Identification

Six students from Year 10 -13 were selected to participate in the British Rowing Talent ID programme. Initially they were selected as females must be at least 175cm and males 186cm tall.

The students took part in a series of tests which have identified athletes who have trained to become World and Olympic Champions. The students height, weight and arm span were taken as different body types favour different sports. Rowers require a combination of strength and endurance so at school their strength was tested. The students had to undertake three exercises which measured leg press, arm press and arm pull to



gain an understanding of their general body strength. They will go forward to test their endurance looking at their maximum oxygen uptake (VO2 max). Congratulations to Joshua and Ethan who were selected to participate in the next round of the British Rowing Talent ID programme. We wish them well in the next testing stage.

GB Rowing Performance Development Academy: Daniela's Experience



Daniela has been part of the GB Rowing Performance Development Academy since October 2022 and here she updates us on her experience:

'I have felt and seen massive progress during my journey, including being part of NJIRC (National Junior Indoor Rowing Competition) where I placed 3rd winning a bronze medal and also competed at LYG rowing placing 2nd. I aim to place first in March 2024 in both of these competitions. As well as this, I attended my first on-water sculling regatta in Reading in June where I also placed 2nd place in Womens J15 500m, and took part in Head race at the Docks in November. Here I competed in two races, a distance of 3km, placing first in the U16s single scull boat, and first again in my double scull rowing boat with another athlete in the U18s category.

At the Rowing Academy we train at compulsory monthly camps at Nottingham Watersports Centre, where we can be promoted into higher groups. This is dependent on our correct water speed (starting at 75% of an Olympic gold champion rowers speed), land assessments and water drills and skills.



The recent goal set for me by my coach is to be competing nationally in the summer of 2024. I hope to be representing the Great Britain Rowing team against France, as he sees great potential in my training over an eight week period. This has been an amazing opportunity and I've loved every second of it. I'm very much looking forward to trying to achieve this goal!

Newham Cross Country Championships

Congratulations to all athletes who competed in the Newham Schools Cross Country Championships. There were some fantastic results in all year groups at the event which took place at Wanstead Flats. A special congratulations to the following runners who have been selected to represent Newham at the London Youth Games as they placed in the top 10:

Mercy	(Yr7)	placed	7th	Daniela	(Yr11)	placed	2nd
Gift	(Yr7)	placed	9th	Belvina	(Yr11)	placed	3rd
Shahazadi	(Yr7)	placed	10th	Nmesomachi	(Yr10)	placed	4th
Salina	(Yr9)	placed	6th	Achsa	(Yr10)	placed	5th
Nicole	(Yr9)	placed	9th	Temi	(Yr11)	placed	6th
Anne	(Yr8)	placed	10th	Hannel	(Yr11)	placed	7th

Overall Team Results:

Year 7 team placed 3rd : Mercy, Gift, Shahazadi, Louise, Kinaat, Guadalupe, Zoey and Rebecca

Year 8/9 team placed 2nd : Salina, Nicole, Anne, Vanessa, Georgia, Michaela, Mia and Sarah

Year 10/11 team placed 1st: Daniella, Belvina, Nmesomachi, Achsa, Temi and Hannel.



Year 7 Netball

Year 7 netball at St Angela's has had an incredible turnout this term! With over 50 students coming to Tuesday lunchtime training sessions, the PE Department has been buzzing with keen athletes. Our netballers range in experience but have all benefited from learning key skills and tactics through our sessions. The Year 7s have been entered into the Newham and Essex Netball league this season and with fixtures lined up in the new year, we look forward to playing all netballers in competitive games. Well done to the Year 7s that made this season's first squad selection this year: Gracie, Omotunmise, Jaeden, Gift, Beverley, Temitope, Moayeh-ANge, Mavis and Briana. We are looking forward to a winning season!

Year 8 Netball

Our Year 8s have shown great enthusiasm this year whilst inspiring the younger netballers. This season, they train with the Year 7s and display their skills and leadership in an admirable manner. Whilst developing their skills, tactics and abilities, they have been able to confidently mix with our Year 9 netballers and create a U14s squad in the Newham and Essex Netball league this season. Well done to our new and committed members that played in their first U14s fixture early this academic year: Abishna, Shiloh, Neha, Leondrea, Rayyan, Angela and Lodreya. We are looking forward to our upcoming fixtures in the new year.



Year 9 Netball

This season, our Year 9 netballers train with the KS4 cohort and have adapted brilliantly! The Year 9s have the largest number of committed members and this shows in their training session and their availability to games. So much so, they have started the season with a great display of teamwork, playing to each other's strengths and coming out victorious against Eastlea School in a 8-6 win! Well done to our netballers that played in this season opening fixture: Salina, Chi Chi, Mia, Daniella, Esther, Kelsie and Isabella. The team look forward to continuing their winning in the new year.



Year 10 Netball

The Year 10 netballers have started this season with a great sense of grit and determination. Playing in the Newham and Essex Netball league this season, their opening fixture was against Brampton Manor. All the players executed the focus points that were practised in our netball training sessions and showed amazing support, drive and happiness. A brilliant performance was displayed by all players involved. The Year 10s have got the biggest number of attendees to training sessions and this has reflected in their ever-developing play. We are hoping for a successful season moving forward and well done to all those involved in the first fixture of the season: Ama, Kishorika, Elsie, Favour, Destiny, Kirztin, Oceane, Ciara, Rhianne, Tara, Reine and the two Sarah Os!



Year 8 Athletics Team

The Year 8 athletics team has started how they ended last year with a very strong commitment to the athletics season. The students are continuing to attend Friday lunch club and training is progressing well. Year 8s attended their first indoor Sportshall Athletics competition at Kingsford School where they placed first and will represent Newham at the London Youth Games in January. The students are very excited and are looking forward to some tough competition at the London youth games. Well done to: Valentina, Skye, Alexa, Esther, Dionne, Mesha, Nialise and Chenae.

Year 8 and 9 Athletics Team

It has been a good start to the athletics season for the Year 8 and 9 athletics team. The team travelled to Lee Valley Athletics Centre where they competed against schools all across London with a chance to qualify for the semi final. The team participated very well and qualified for the semi final of the competition with some very strong scores across the board and an outstanding result from the relay team. They qualified in 6th place at the semi final with 12 schools competing that day. The athletics team then attended the semi final where once again they proved they were worthy with some great results across the board and once again having a very strong relay team competing against 22 other schools. Unfortunately the team did not make the finals but are looking very strong for the coming year. Congratulations and well done to: Jessica, Mesha, Ebony, Nicole, Tiana, Thalia, Vanessa, Destiny, Valentina, Chenae and Nialise.

Year 10 & 11 Athletics Team

The Year 10/11 athletics team have had a great start to the year! We began the season by heading over to Lee Valley Athletics centre for the School's Cup Athletics competition. On the day, there was strong competition from schools from various boroughs in both London and Essex, but the talent shown from St Angela's athletes was phenomenal. The athletes had a fantastic result, finishing in 3rd place in the group stages. This led the students to go through to the Group A Finals, where the students finished in 4th place overall out of 37 Schools. A special well done should be mentioned to Eliora for coming 1st place with an astonishing time of 27.76s, and for Alisha also had an amazing race finishing in 2nd place with a time of 8.16s finishing just 0.03s behind 1st place. It was an amazing race to watch! A very big well done to the students that helped us get to the final as well as the students that completed in the final. This is sure to be an exciting and accomplished season! Congratulations to Alisha, Eliora, Whitney, Alisha, Eliora, Sarah, Sami, Angeline and Princess.



Year 7 and 8 Football Newham League

Year 7 and 8 football teams have started the Newham League off extremely well. Year 7 and 8 students have continued to show up in numbers to the after school club. They played their first game against Chobham Academy winning 8-1 with a massive shout out to all the new Year 7s who took part in the match. Our second game was against Eastlea School with the result ending as a 0-0 draw in an extremely tough game where the students had to overcome the tough conditions of the weather and pitch. The students are looking forward to their next fixture which will be against Little Ilford. Congratulations to the following students: Tiana, Thalia, Tapiwa, Skye, Esther, Temitope, Beverley, Jirah, Gracie, Gioella, Kyrah, Mercy, Tamiyah, Zoey, Jowita and Adeola.

Year 8 and 9 Football Team

It has been a truly great start to the season for the Year 8 and 9 team so far. The students have been competing in the National Cup with over 500 other schools. The first round saw the team winning 12-1 in the first round with the players showcasing great football and scoring some great goals. The second round saw the footballers winning 5-2 in an extremely tough game for the team and they advanced to the third round meaning they were in the top 100 teams in the country. In the third round the team unfortunately lost to previous winners of the competition. It was a tough loss but the team is looking incredibly strong and they are excited for the upcoming competitions and hopefully winning some silverware in the future. Congratulations to: Ebony, Nicole, Tiana, Thalia, Tapiwa, Skye, Nialise, Esther, Vanessa, Alexia, Noelia, Olivia and Michaela.



Year 9 and 10 Newham Football League

St Angela's kicked off their first Newham League game in style, beating Forest Gate Community School 8-1 on Forest Gate's home turf. This was such an amazing start to the season, and we look forward to a year of great football success. The footballers had great communication skills on and off the pitch, the win honestly came from an excellent whole team effort. Well done to Martina, who had one of the most important roles as goalkeeper and was nominated Player of the Match due to her outstanding performance in goal. Well done to those that managed to play in the first football fixtures this year, and good luck in your upcoming fixtures in the new year. Well done on such a great start to: Keren, Martina, Esther, Ebony, Nicole, Vanessa, Michaela, Angeline, Suriyah, Cindy, Honey and Janet.



Year 10 & 11 Athletics Lee Valley Indoor School's Cup



Congratulations to the Year 10 and 11 team who reached the A Final at the Lee Valley Athletics School' Cup. On the day the team competed well and supported each other demonstrating excellent sporting spirit. Overall the team placed 4th out of 24 schools that competed. Well done one and all!



Individual Results:

60m Hurdles	Sarah	4th	Shot Put	Princess	4th
High Jump	Alisha	3rd	300m	Sami	3rd
60m	Alisha	2nd	4x200m Relay	Sami, Eliora, Sarah, Alisha	3rd
Long Jump	Eliora	4th	800m	Daniela	4th
200m	Eliora	1st			



Associate Schools Programme

St Angela's work closely with Sadler's Wells, to embed arts-inspired activities into the school day. Together, we create more opportunities for students to watch, explore and learn through dance, drawing on Sadler's Wells' diverse artistic programme.

Sadler's Wells Associate School Showcase

Dance students were given a wonderful opportunity to participate in a day at Sadler's Wells. The morning started in the Lilian Baylis Theatre with a warm welcome from all the staff who would be working with the students throughout the day. It included the stage manager, lighting and music technicians, photographer and members of the Learning and Engagement team. The dancers undertook a tour of the building with Sharika and Zeynep. It was very special and they were able to go backstage and speak to one of the technicians and had the wonderful experience of standing on the main stage and looking out towards the 1500 seater auditorium, which was amazing. After the tour they had a dance workshop with Sarah, who had choreographed one of the pieces that the dancers would be performing later. The dancers then had time to tech the two pieces that they would be performing as part of the showcase. It was a lovely experience undertaking a technical rehearsal on the stage with a professional team. The students had a short lunch break and got ready for their performance. They performed the two pieces brilliantly, 'Ravens' and 'Vibrational Vibes' and it was the first time for the majority of the dancers



Everyone had a fabulous time and when they returned to their dressing room they wrote down their thoughts on sticky notes answering three questions.

What have you learnt today? Students said, "confidence is key", "that behind the scenes there is lots going on and it involves a lot of hard work", "never be afraid to learn new things" and "always have energy when you are on stage".

How did it feel to be at Sadler's Wells today? Students commented, "it felt great as I got to express myself", "it feels like an hour to be here at such a young age", "it was so much fun", "it feels amazing having the opportunity to dance", "I was so grateful to be here. Thank you so much for this opportunity" and "inspirational because it could one day be us".

What's been the best bit about today?

Students said, "performing in front of an audience", "I really loved how everyone was supporting each other when performing", "viewing the beautiful stage and having fun", "the performance and the lighting and sound quality was so nice", "dancing and meeting the other dance lovers" and "pretty much everything. I enjoyed the tech run and warm up".



that they had performed at a renowned dance venue. We watched other performances from secondary schools who are also part of the Associate Schools' partnership, which varied in style. The final part of the showcase was a film that had been specially commissioned to celebrate the 10th anniversary of National Youth Dance Company. We were very privileged to be the first audience to watch the film and also celebrate the three ex-St Angela's students who had been in the company; Mariella, Lucia and Hannah.



Message In A Bottle by Zonation: The Kate Prince Dance Company

Dancers who performed brilliantly at the Centenary Mass for the Ursuline Sisters were invited to see Message in a Bottle at the Peacock Theatre. Message In A Bottle was initially inspired by Sting's track Desert Rose and through the narrative, the peaceful village of Bebko is alive with joyous celebrations. Suddenly it comes under attack and everything changes forever.

The three siblings, Leto, Mati and Tana, must embark on perilous journeys in order to survive. Message In A Bottle is an uplifting and poignant tale of humanity and hope that reflects displacement, immigration and survival, using a range of dance styles and breath-taking athleticism. The St. Angela's dancers loved watching the production with some saying "it was the best show they had seen".



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre

Dancers from St Angela's had the opportunity to attend a matinee performance by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater as part of the Sadler's Wells Associate School Programme. The programme was called 'Ailey Classics' and the company performed four ballets that had been created by Alvin Ailey from the 1960s to the 1980s. These works are regarded as masterpieces by audiences and dance critics around the world. The first piece was The River which is a full company work that suggests tumbling rapids and meandering streams on a journey to the sea. Ailey's allegory of birth, life and rebirth using water as his inspiration.

Next Pas de Duke is a modern dance translation of a classical pas de deux, originally created in 1976. The work consists of five solos and duets that showcase the wonderful technical and virtuosity of the dancers. It is playful ballet as the two dancers try to express a game of one-upmanship, all danced to the brilliant music of Duke Ellington.

Cry is Ailey's signature solo and was created as a birthday present for his mother. Alvin Ailey's mother could be considered the archetypal Ailey woman – strong, dignified, generous and loving. Ailey dedicated this piece to "all Black women everywhere – especially our mothers." In this three-section solo, the dancer, clad in a white leotard and long ruffled skirt, brings the audience on a journey of bitter sorrow, brutal hardship and ecstatic joy.

Using African American spirituals, song-sermons, gospel songs and holy blues. Ailey described the memories that inspired Revelations as "blood memories" because they were so strong, he felt they were part of him as much as the blood that ran through his veins. Divided into three sections, it journeys through a mournful "Pilgrim of Sorrow"; the baptismal second section, "Take Me to the Water"; and "Move Members, Move," depicting an uplifting spiritual community.

The dance students thoroughly enjoyed the programme and enjoyed talking about the different dances and dance styles that they saw.

Sadler's Wells Black History Month Associate School Day

Year 10 GCSE and Dance Club members were invited to participate in a Black History Month Day at Sadler's Wells Theatre. The dancers took part in various sessions which celebrated Black Creatives and UK-based artists. At the start of the afternoon Laura, the Learning & Engagement Manager at Sadler's Wells, took the group on a tour backstage at Sadler's Wells Theatre. Here the group learnt about some of the technical aspects involved in the creation of a production. They were able to see the set for English National Ballet, had the opportunity to stand on the main stage and look at the performers view from a proscenium stage. The students then went front of house to see the well which has been on site at the theatre since the 1680s and is still in use today.



The next part of the day was a dance workshop with Sunanda and Issac. The students explored the history of Hip Hop which is celebrating its 50th anniversary. They spoke about the four components of Hip Hop: MC, music, movement and graffiti art. The students were taught an old skool hip hop dance inspired by original Street Dance pioneers The Lockers and Soul Train. They performed movements such as rocksteady, sling, camel walk, and funky chicken. At the end of the dance they performed a stylised handshake. The atmosphere in the Lilian Baylis studio was exceptional as all the students were enjoying themselves through new found movement as for many they were learning a new style of dance. Afterwards, the students took part in a Q&A with Sunanda and Issac. Here they learnt about their experiences as dancers in a professional industry as well as how their heritage had influenced them.

The final part of the day was a Digital Exhibition in The Khan Studio. Four screens were set up for the students to explore a range of dance creatives from the season of Celebrating Black Dance. Year 7s watched Revelations by Alvin Ailey, Speak Volumes by Alexandra Seutin and Negus, A film by Akeim Toussaint Buck. Year 9 and GCSE Dancers watched Patience J, a leader in Afro Dance and Precious Adams a ballet dancer with ENB.



Here are some of the thoughts of the dancers about the day: "Revelations was my favourite as I liked how the dancers expressed themselves throughout the dance".

"I liked Negus, A film by Akeim Toussaint Buck. because of the dance movements and the deep story behind it".

"The dance workshop made me feel empowered and strong".

"I loved the day and would like to do it again".

TLC Scholastic Book Fair

There was much excitement around the school with the arrival of the Scholastic Book Fair. It is always so lovely to see such enthusiasm for books and reading, and the students enjoyed discussing what they were going to buy or making suggestions for additions to the school library.

St Angela's has a fantastic culture of reading and the Scholastic Book Fair plays an important role in this, along with our other reading initiatives such as our World Book Week and Reading Programme.

We are also lucky that we receive commission from the books we sell, which will be ploughed back into buying more reading resources for the school!

Happy reading, everyone!



Morning Reading Programme

Reading for pleasure is transformative for students' academic success and personal wellbeing and it is therefore a priority in St Angela's that every student is able to access the curriculum to enable them to fulfil their full potential.



Following a reading test during their English lesson, students who are identified as benefiting from additional reading support are enrolled into the Reading Programme. Students meet to read as part of a small group with a staff member or trained Sixth Form Reading Mentor and focus on developing reading confidence, fluency and comprehension. This term they have been reading Freeze by Chris Priestley and When Our Worlds Collided by Danielle Jawando, and plans are in hand for both authors to visit and speak to the students in the new year!

Computer Science

Year 7

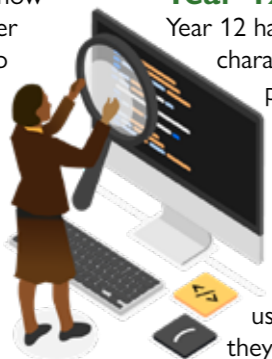
Students began their computer science journey at St Angela's by focusing on e-safety and how they can stay safe online. They have also been looking at their digital footprint and how they can limit the impact of their digital footprint, and how they can keep their digital footprint safe.

Year 8

Year 8 students have been exploring how the CPU (Central Processing Unit) works within a computer system and the components that make up a CPU. Students have been looking at how primary memory and secondary storage work together to increase the performance of computer systems and the characteristics of secondary storage and what they should look for when buying different secondary storage devices.

Year 9

Students have been exploring how data is represented in computer systems and how images, video and sound is stored within a computer system. They have been learning how to convert denary numbers into binary, adding binary numbers together, converting between hexadecimal and binary, as well as hexadecimal to denary.



Year 10

Year 10 have made a fantastic start to the academic year and their GCSE studies exploring the Von Neumann computer systems architecture and the way that computer systems memory and storage works. They have been looking at the different types of hardware and software, the way the computer systems use the different types of primary and secondary memory and how all these work together to increase the performance of the CPU.

Year 11

Year 11 have had another fantastic start to the academic year and have been exploring different programming constructs, sorting and searching algorithms, and how to use a trace table within a program to identify any logical errors. They have been writing some fantastic code.

Year 12

Year 12 have been exploring the characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices and how these could be used to exchange data. They have been at software and software development as well as how databases are designed and used within businesses. Moving on they explored the legal and ethical

issues relating to computer science and how technology can have an impact on culture and social aspects of people's lives.

Year 13

Finally, Year 13 students have been continuing to explore how to problem solve using programming, different types of processors and different sorting and searching algorithms. They have been looking at the more advanced programming method of object oriented programming. The Year 13 have been developing their programming project to include all the skills that they have been learning and the department is delighted with the progress they have made and the solutions that they are coming up with. Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award open to all year groups

The Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award, known as iDEA is an international award-winning programme that helps you develop digital, enterprise and employability skills which is open to all year groups. This allows the students to develop their talents and gain all-important knowledge and information about the digital world. Through a series of online challenges, students can win career-enhancing badges, unlock new opportunities and, ultimately, gain industry-recognised Awards that help you stand out from the crowd.

Hello Yellow - Stand Up to Stand Out

On the 10th October we joined schools all over the UK to show that we support World Mental Health Day. Staff and students got on board by wearing yellow and taking part in form time activities.



Mental Health School Team Workshops

This term we have been supported by Veslie our Education Mental Health Practitioner who has offered coffee mornings on supporting your child's mental health, understanding transition and supporting your child with exams. These coffee mornings will continue in the new year and we hope to see many parents attend these informative sessions.

Veslie has also supported key Year 7s around transitioning to secondary school and the students really enjoyed the workshops. Year 11 had additional sessions on managing exam stress.

Anti Bullying Week

This year the focus was the difference between 'Banter and Bullying'. The Year 10 Peer Mentors presented an insightful and informative whole school assembly. Many of our students showed support by daring to be different on the 13th November!





Loving Father,
Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing
which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake.

Amen.



School returns on Thursday 4th January