



VERITAS

ST DOMINIC'S SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



AUTUMN 2024

EDITORIAL FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The end of an era at St. Dominic's December 2024

2024 has been a year of significant political change with the axis of power changing hands in many countries around the world. Climate change, economic stability or lack of it in various countries and wars that are raging in many parts of our world, still dominate the headlines and are a cause of pre-occupation globally. However, closer to home, 'stability' is our 'watch word' and ensuring, year on year, as best we can, our College community remains on a steady course is important to all of us working and studying at St. Dominic's.

However this year, we have a significant change about to happen with the departure to Headship at The Sacred Heart Language College, of our Vice Principal, Nicola Walsh. This is most definitely the end of an era. Nicola joined St. Dominic's back in September 2013 and has served here as VP for almost 12 years. Over that time, she has made a 'sustained and outstanding' contribution to the growth, development and success of St. Dominic's. Her contribution both at a macro and a micro level have been outstanding, culminating in our Grade 1 Ofsted judgement back in 2022. Her leadership as the Nominee of the College (the lead for all aspects of inspection and quality assurance) has been analytical and forensic, challenging and supportive in equal measure and always with an eye on developing individuals as leaders and practitioners. She has made a difference to the ethos, the Mission, the Catholic life and the community aspect of St. Dominic's Sixth Form College and will be a tremendous loss to our organisation. It will be with a heavy heart that we say farewell to her but thankfully she is going to our partner school which will strengthen our relationship in the years to come. I know everyone associated with St. Dominic's will wish her all the very best.

We are always really lucky to have such lovely students with us at St. Dominic's. They are hard-working, active learners and fun to have around. This term has seen so many great examples of their involvement and participation starting back in September with the Macmillan Bake Sale which raised over £1000, our fantastic EDI committee who have arranged an array of different activities and events, the hundreds who turned out for our Open Day on October 12th, all those involved in the Mozart Requiem Concert in November and of course those who commit to our variety of sporting activities and are members of the various teams that we support week by week. It is a delight to get to know them all each year and they bring life and vibrancy to our community.



Andrew Parkin • Principal

EDITORIAL FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It has been a busy and successful Autumn Term. The summer results now seem a long time ago and it was good to welcome back our Class of 2024 to their reunion event in early December. It is always most satisfying to hear of their successes this first term away from St. Dominic's and learn how they are faring in the world of work or at University. Additionally, this term we hosted our first major Degree Apprenticeship event with 12 former students returning to speak to our current cohort who are looking at different options for when they move on from St. Dominic's. We welcomed former students who are currently working for Rolls Royce, JP Morgan and Alstom to name but three and this will hopefully be a regular feature in our CEIAG programme.

Inducting students into Year 1 is a significant task and it is always worth reminding ourselves of the challenge this poses for staff as they begin teaching at the commencement of each year. Around 800 students from over 130 different secondary schools and academies across Greater London and the Home Counties places demands on all our teaching staff but they are experienced and manage the process admirably. Establishing our routines and expectations early on is very important and something we do really well and our new intake settled very quickly into the 'College way'. Throughout this term students have been focused on their academic programmes but also involved themselves in a range of other curriculum opportunities such as Core RE, The Veritas Programme, The Tutorial Programme and our Wednesday afternoon enrichment offer. All provide a range of 'additionality' that enhance our students' experience here at St. Dominic's.

The faith life of our College remains strong and central to what we are about as a College. Our Mission, to educate academically to a high standard supported by good pastoral and spiritual care, is integral to life at St. Dominic's and this has continued throughout the past year. In 2025 the global Catholic Church will celebrate the Year of Jubilee. The Holy Father, Pope Francis has declared 2025 as a special year for Catholics around the world, encouraging us to reach out and offer love and hope to those around us. Catholics are encouraged to journey alongside one another, spiritually and physically and in the year ahead we will plan a number of events for our students to engage with as well as opportunities to support the Social Teaching aspect of our Catholic faith.



EDITORIAL FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The Friday lunchtime Mass cycle has been very well attended this term and we have welcomed a variety of deanery and Diocesan priests to the College. For some, it has been their first visit to the College and they have enjoyed the time spent visiting us. Parents and friends of St. Dominic's are always welcome to join us at our Friday Mass – simply call ahead to the College to let us know you are coming along.

At the time of writing, we are in the process of recruiting a new Head Girl and Head Boy and Student Executive. The outgoing team of Zoya, Ben, Hyderia, Manav, Toby, Hiya, Kate and Thomas have been superb and a most reliable and hard-working team. I am most grateful to them all for their support and for being first-rate ambassadors of St. Dominic's. The interviews for the new team take place on December 12th.

So, to conclude, another year comes to a close and with 1470 students on roll, the College remains one of the most popular places to study for A levels in the Capital. This places us in a strong position going into 2025. Thank you to all who support our College, near and far and I wish you and your families a very happy, peaceful Christmas.

Andrew Parkin
Principal



HEAD GIRL - FAREWELL

As the term of office comes to a close for our Student Executive, our Head Girl reflects on her time in post:

As my role as Head Girl draws to a close, I have had a chance to reflect on my time in office. It has been both an honour and a pleasure to work alongside Andrew, the lovely College Governors, Ben and the Executive as a whole. Over the course of the year, I have made what I hope to be some life-long friendships and partook in a whole range of experiences I hope never to forget. Whether it was one of our wonderful charity events or another one of the various opportunities I have had to be an ambassador for this incredible College, I have loved every minute of it.

Coming here just over a year and a half ago was a somewhat daunting experience, but one that was worth all the anticipation. As Head Girl, I have had the chance to see St. Dominic's to be more than an educational institution; I have experienced it be a home-away-from-home and a close-knit community, despite its size, where the teachers are unerringly supportive and are some of our biggest cheerleaders in such an important and pressurized 18 months.

I cannot hope to begin to articulate what this role has meant to me and the impact I am so glad to have been able to have through our social justice projects, so instead I would hope to be able to convey how grateful I am for the chance to be a part of this College and how saddened I am to know that my time as a student here is almost up. As stressful as A-Levels can be, St. Dominic's has made it a joy to come and learn each day, which is truly a testament to our teaching staff and SLT.

I wish all the best to the next Head Boy and Girl who will follow myself and Ben in these roles, I hope it will be as wonderful for you as it has been for me.

farewell



ZOYA HORAN – HEAD GIRL



LIFE AS A FIRST YEAR 2024

As the Autumn term nears its end, some of our first year students discuss their first term here at St. Dominic's Sixth Form College:

Adam Ahdouch

My name is Adam Ahdouch and I am current Year 1 student that is studying Business, Politics and Psychology. The minute I entered St. Dominic's, the College has been nothing but supportive and ambitious for me to engage in the community. It has provided support with everything and encourages all students to excel academically, socially and physically.

The biggest difference that I have experienced from secondary school is the freedom at College and I would advise that you use this to your advantage – plan to study and revise when you can as the jump to A Levels is surreal. It sometimes can be challenging - keeping up with the work rate and flow; but the way to overcome that is to attend every lesson and if you do not know anything just ask the teachers; they are nothing but helpful.



Farhiya Hassan

When I joined St. Dominic's my first impression was it was massive and I was initially worried I would never get to know anyone in my year group...however, I could not have been more wrong! The College has such a welcoming and friendly atmosphere, and within no time, I started to connect with people and build new friendships. The teachers and staff were incredibly helpful.

One of the things I have enjoyed the most is the amount of opportunities I have had. The College also has a wide range of extracurricular activities, which has been a great way for me to get involved and meet new people. I joined the EDI committee, which has been such a positive experience – it has allowed me to become more confident and to contribute to events around the College that help charities that we, as a student body, support.

MEET OUR NEW COLLEAGUES: FARHANAZ, LUKE, MARISSA AND ANNA

This year, we welcomed a number of new colleagues to the College. See what just some of them had to say out their first term with us:

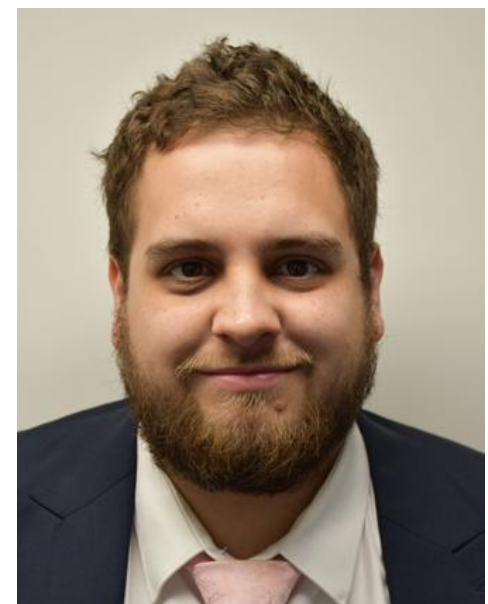
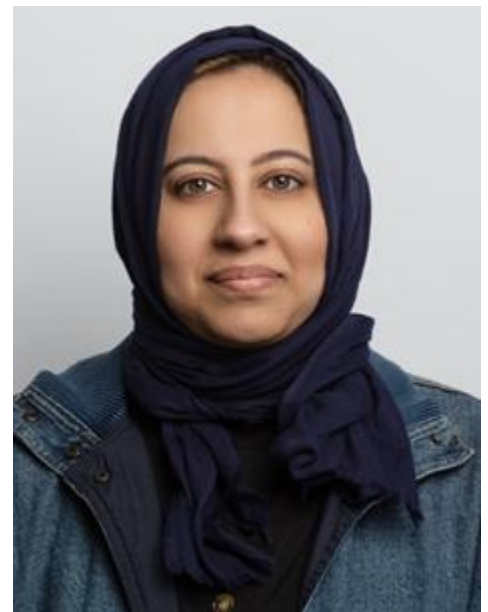
I feel very blessed to have joined the St. Dominic's community and the beautiful grounds here on the hill. My colleagues have been very supportive and inspiring in the work they do to support the students in every way during their academic journey and it is lovely to work with them as a team. With a background in Wellbeing, I have embraced my role as personal tutor and have loved getting to know all my tutees in our individual meetings. In just one term, it has been wonderful to watch the new cohort acclimatise and begin their journeys.

The second-year students are making good progress and working hard for next Summer. Academic success is paramount and therefore their pastoral care is of vital importance. With four children of my own, I am able to empathise and understand the challenges faced by the students during A-levels along with the UCAS application process. I am looking forward to seeing the students thrive and successfully move on to the next phase of their lives with confidence and resilience for the future.

Farhanaz Merali, Personal Tutor

I joined St. Dominic's this summer from Queens' School. The transition was quite intense as I have never worked at an exclusively post-16 establishment before. I even had one week less of the summer holidays. The Physics Department were great at making me feel welcome and getting to grips with the day-to-day life. I feel privileged to be leading such a strong department. The students have been phenomenal, I really enjoy teaching here and feel that a lot of them really want to reach their full potential. I find that at St. Dominic's we provide them with the right platform to succeed, not only academically but as well-rounded young adults when they leave. I look forward to continuing working here for the next few years.

Luke Ray, Head of Physics



MEET OUR NEW COLLEAGUES: FARHANAZ, LUKE, MARISSA AND ANNA



My first term as a teacher at St. Dominic's has been an incredibly rewarding experience. I have been fortunate to work with a motivated and enthusiastic group of students who are eager to learn and grow. The supportive and collaborative environment among staff has made my transition into the College smooth and enjoyable. I have had the opportunity to develop my teaching methods, create engaging lessons, and witness students' academic progress, which has been deeply fulfilling. The College's commitment to both academic excellence and personal development has inspired me, and I am excited to continue contributing to the students' educational journeys in the future.

Marissa Rule, Head of Philosophy



Joining at the start of the year was exciting, knowing I was joining a community and a department that pushes students to excel, but maintains an extreme level of care and compassion for each student as an individual. However, throughout the term, and with meeting the students showed just how special this College is. The students embody the ethos, working hard and truly wanting to achieve the best outcomes for them. It has been a pleasure working at St. Dominic's and I cannot wait for what is yet to come.

***Anna Simonova,
Teacher of Psychology***



EDUCATIONAL VISIT TO ICELAND

OCTOBER 2024

Our Iceland adventure began at the crack of dawn, with a 4 a.m. meeting time that felt less "early" and more "middle of the night." After navigating some boarding pass delays, we took off on a comfy flight, bracing for the icy wonders ahead. First stop: the Bridge Between Continents, where the freezing air gave us a lovely wake-up. A flurry of group photos ensured we would never forget our Arctic introduction - our red faces rivalling the lava fields in vibrance. Then came a drive through eerie volcano towns, complete with tales of evacuations and ash-coated landscapes. The desolation was haunting but undeniably cool - like stepping into a sci-fi film.

Once we arrived in Reykjavik, we explored the city centre, walking along the Rainbow Road and watching locals stroll by in light jackets while we huddled in layers like walking duvets. Lunch was an overpriced Italian meal (delicious but wallet-draining), followed by overpriced thrift stores which made window shopping the only viable option. The Whale Museum brought a mix of marine education and nostalgia as we stayed till closing colouring whilst some of us lounged in a whale-shaped play area and of course marvelled at the impact of human activity on marine life. The FlyOver Iceland ride followed, with mist and motion bringing Iceland's beauty to life, it brought us soaring (sort of) over waterfalls and glaciers. Finally, an Icelandic Domino's pizza and a rainy trek back to the hotel wrapped up the day - some falling asleep a lot earlier than others.



EDUCATIONAL VISIT TO ICELAND

OCTOBER 2024

Day two was an early kick off which started with a trip to a geothermal power plant, where we learned about the harnessing of energy via heated underground reservoirs (where the smell ensured no one lingered too long). Next, the Secret Lagoon, which became an instant favourite as we soaked in naturally heated waters, an hour of bliss marred only by awkward changing rooms. Next Iceland's famous geysers that we could not take our eyes off but subsequently covered us in a not so pleasant smelling mist, before our stop at Gullfoss Waterfall which left us awestruck by its sheer power. Dinner at Hard Rock Café was memorable - some more so than others, with some comedic confusion over extras that will live on in infamy. A nighttime stroll past the beautifully lit Harpa music centre as well as the Icelandic docks, capped the day perfectly.

Day three was packed with sights: Seljalandsfoss, where we ventured behind the waterfall (some dry, others thoroughly soaked); followed by another imposing waterfall whose height left us speechless; and the infamous Black Beach, with waves the deadliest waves in Iceland, the monochromatic experience was one not to be missed. That evening, a mesmerizing lava show in Vik and a final pizza feast ended our adventure on a high note, as the ghostly quiet of the town after dark added an extra layer of charm.

Our final day began far too early, with a sleepy drive to the airport and a bittersweet farewell to Iceland.

We owe it all to incredible teachers and meticulous planning, which gave us memories to last a lifetime - and a newfound respect for the cold. Iceland wasn't just beautiful; it was surreal, exhilarating, and undeniably magical.

Sami Rahman - Year 2



CHAPLAINCY – A TERM OF FAITH, SERVICE AND COMMUNITY

As the Autumn leaves began to crisp, the Chaplaincy at St. Dominic's Sixth Form College became a lively space for charity and community activity.

Welcoming Students

The year began with some wonderful informal pizza lunches and donut breaktimes for our new students who came to St. Dominic's on their own (without friends from their previous schools). The lunches were crowded clusters of students meeting one another, with many new friendships formed. Realising others were in a similar position and not everyone was part of a big group of friends helped our new students to settle and find their way.

Mary's Meals Walk

The start of the academic year brings with it our very first fundraiser for all Year 1 students: Mary's Meals Sponsored Walk. Mary's Meals' vision is that every child receives one daily meal in their place of education and that all those who have more than they need, share with those who lack even the most basic things. Mary's Meals are served in some of the world's poorest countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. Over £1,000 was raised on the day, with this money going directly to Kaporikabefu School in Zambia. It costs just £19.15 to feed two children for a whole school year and our donation was matched so we were able to give double the amount raised this year!

<https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/>



UPDATES FROM THE CHAPLAINCY TEAM – A WALK FOR A CAUSE



UPDATES FROM THE CHAPLAINCY TEAM

Macmillan Bake Sale

September always brings a special highlight to our academic year with our annual bake sale in support of Macmillan.

Many cakes rivalled those seen on the Great British Bake-off; a big thank you to everyone for your generosity in making it such a successful event!

This year, we raised an impressive £1,186, thanks to the delicious cakes and treats baked by our students and staff.



UPDATES FROM THE CHAPLAINCY TEAM

Sunday Youth Masses

A Youth Mass is being celebrated once a month at St. Thomas Moore parish church in Eastcote and St. Dominic's were invited to support the Mass with our students offering to read, sing in the choir or simply attend.

After the Mass, Fr. Martin offered drinks and hot dogs to everyone attending, which added to the relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. The students really enjoyed the mass, and it is clear there is an interest in continuing this monthly tradition. The next Mass is scheduled for the 5th January at 6pm and all are welcome to attend.

Charities Tutor Group Representatives

A total of seventy students have volunteered to be Charity Representatives this year, and they have truly made the role their own. They have been excellent at reminding their tutor groups about upcoming events, providing valuable feedback, and coming forward with creative ideas for future initiatives. Thanks to their support all the events have raised a significant contribution to a number of charities and are a witness to our commitment at St. Dominic's to serve and help others.

Community Clothing Bank

On 5th October, students joined me at the Community Clothing Bank in South Harrow to help distribute clothing to those in need. Prior to the event, we had collected a generous amount of high-quality preloved clothes here at St. Dominic's, thanks to the kindness and support of our community. The day itself was busy and hands-on, with students and teachers sorting and organising items to ensure they were ready for distribution. I was incredibly impressed by the enthusiasm, dedication, and commitment shown by the students who attended, making a real difference in the lives of those in need.



UPDATES FROM THE CHAPLAINCY TEAM

Confirmation Group

In May 2025, nineteen students will take a significant step in their spiritual journey by receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. Preparations for this sacrament began with a Mass of Commitment on the 22nd November, celebrated by Fr. Perry Sykes. During this Mass, the students made a pledge to deepen their faith and commitment to the journey ahead. We ask for your prayers for our candidates during this time of preparation.

Liz Rodriguez, Zuzanna Kryczkowska, Jessina Di-Ntimansiemi, Nikola Florek, Olivia Sarratt, Abbisha Thomas, Adrian Kelati, Ilana McGrath-Loaiza, Keliene Diasivi, Gianluca Safahe, Annalisa Fernandes, Anastasia Fernandes, Jasmine Lomba Da Costa, Eva Rubin, Alexander Taplin, Ardeshir Saffar, Oskar Zygmunt, Emilia Jopek, Ithel Guddah



Family Fast Day Lunch

On the 4th October, we observed CAFOD's Family Fast Day at St. Dominic's, coming together as a community to raise awareness and funds for those in need.

We offered a simple vegetable soup lunch on-site, encouraging students and staff to reflect on the importance of solidarity and sharing. It was a meaningful day, and we appreciate everyone who participated in supporting this vital cause. Over £150 was raised on the day.

CAFOD
Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development



UPDATES FROM THE CHAPLAINCY TEAM – LIVE SIMPLY AWARD

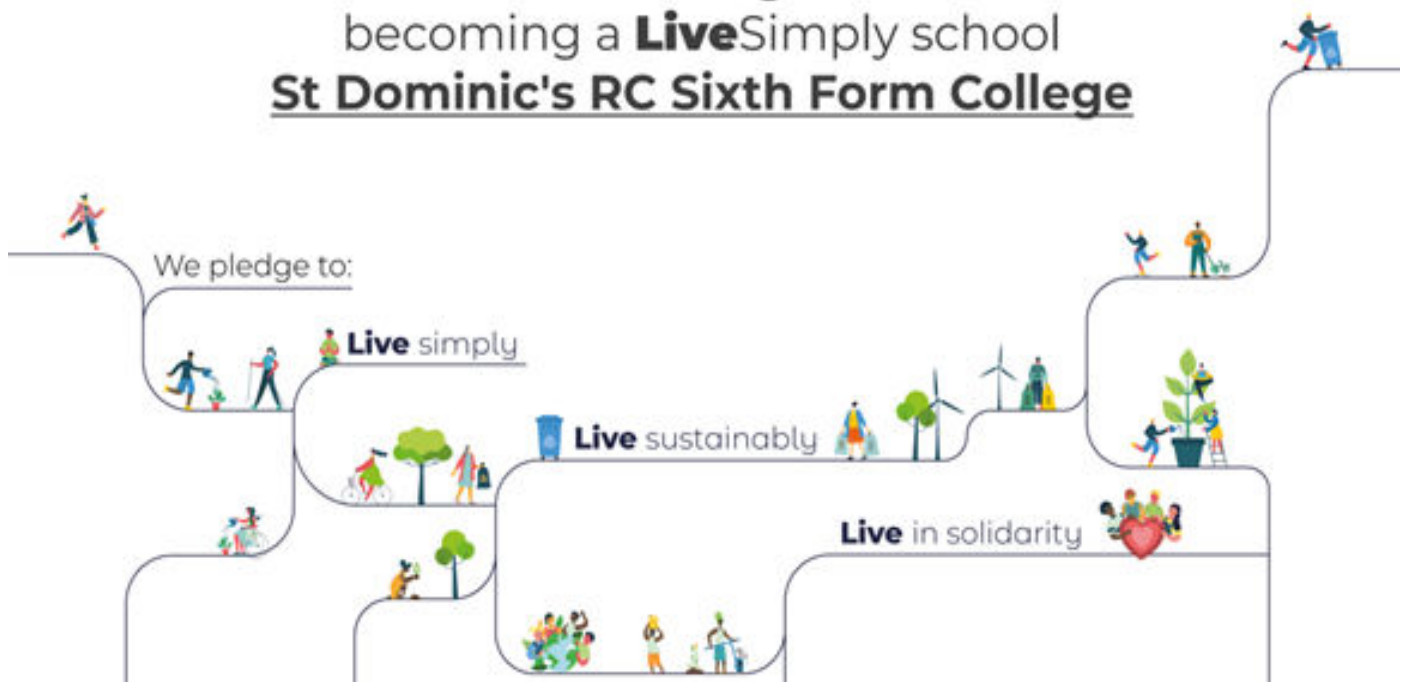
**“What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us,
to children who are now growing up?”**

Pope Francis

St. Dominic's is proud to be applying for the Live Simply Award, an award that celebrates schools and communities committed to living out Catholic Social Teaching – living simply, sustainably with creation and in solidarity with people living in poverty. Through initiatives such as supporting charities and reducing our environmental impact, St. Dominic's is dedicated to making a positive difference. We are excited to take this step towards living more sustainably and justly, and we look forward to the journey ahead.



We are working towards
becoming a **LiveSimply** school
St Dominic's RC Sixth Form College



UPDATES FROM THE CHAPLAINCY TEAM

Day of Prayer for Peace

In response to Pope Francis' call for a Day of Prayer and Fasting, St. Dominic's chapel was a space for quiet reflection and prayer on 7th October. Students were invited to light a candle and gather in the Chapel to pray together. The event was a beautiful opportunity for our college community to engage in solidarity and spiritual reflection.

Peace throughout the World

Watch over the people
who have been forced to flee their homes
and face violence and fear.
Lead them to a place of safety,
comfort those who grieve
and bring healing to those in pain.

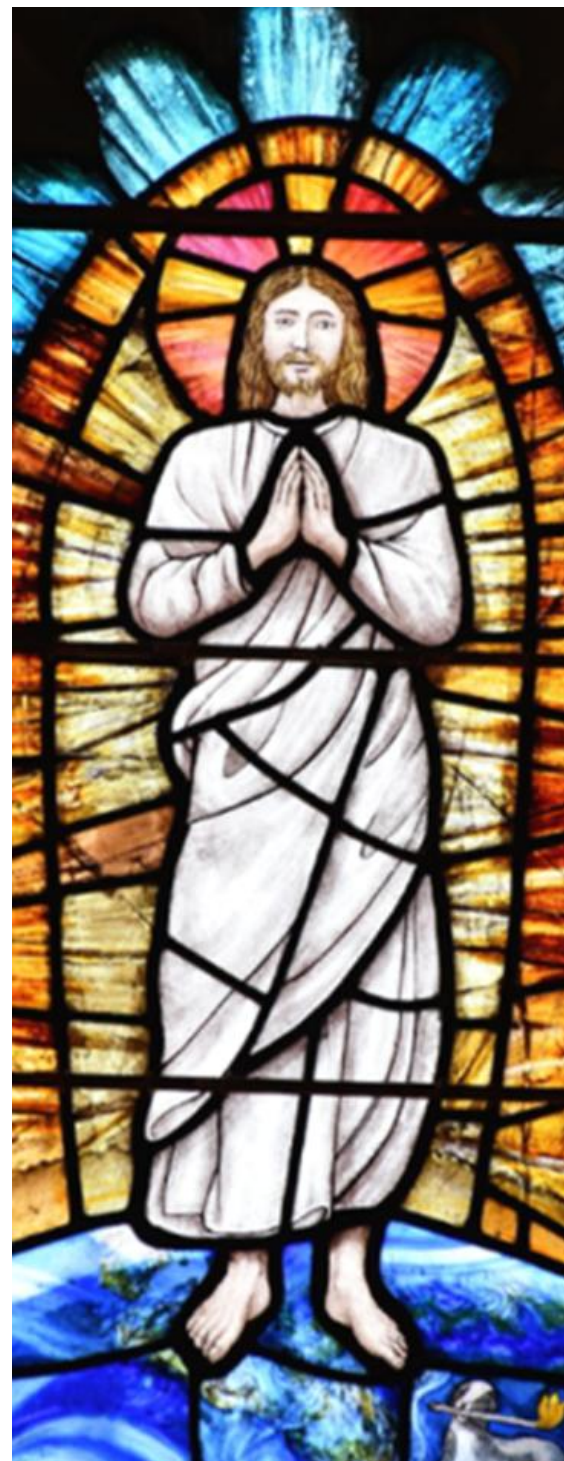
Lord, send us the gift of peace.

Convert the hearts of those
who commit violence and wage war.
Turn them away from persecution towards peace.
Turn hatred to understanding,
and anger to compassion.
Through your love,
transform horror into hope.

Lord, send us the gift of peace.

And fill us all with your Spirit
so that with one voice, throughout the world,
we may cry out:

Lord, send us the gift of peace.



UPDATE FROM THE CHAPLAINCY TEAM



Wear It Pink

In support of Cancer Research, the national 'Wear It Pink Day' came to St. Dominic's turning the campus into a vibrant sea of pink clothes, hair, and even face paints. The shack was transformed into our very own pink beauty salon where students had the option of getting their nails painted or their faces glittered up. Students and staff came together to raise both funds and awareness for this important cause. The sale of pink ribbons - worn on lanyards - served as a meaningful reminder of the personal connections many of us have to the fight against cancer. Thanks to everyone's generosity, we raised a total of £432 for this vital cause.



UPDATES FROM THE CHAPLAINCY TEAM

Remembrance Day – Poppy Appeal

This year Remembrance Day was marked throughout the College in our Core RE lectures and lessons. The Chaplaincy Team led by Zuzanna Swiatek, also created a wonderful Poppy Garden outside the Hume Building made from recycled bottles spray painted red which became a very visual and moving representation of the lives lost at war.

On the 11th November a short service of remembrance was held in the Chapel where we gathered to observe the two minutes silence and Andrew spoke movingly about the importance of honouring the memory of those who sacrificed their lives fighting for our country and for the democracy we all enjoy today. Over £450 was raised through the selling of the Royal British Legion poppies.



UPDATES FROM THE CHAPLAINCY TEAM

Dominican visitors

We were delighted to welcome our Dominican Sister Karen and her group of postulants to the Chaplaincy room recently. They spent time with our team, learning about life at St. Dominic's and the various activities that take place within our College community.

It was a wonderful opportunity for the postulants to connect with our students and staff, gaining insight into college life while sharing in meaningful conversation and reflection. We were grateful for their visit and look forward to future opportunities to engage with them.



Candy Canes

Ho ho ho! Our Candy Cane sale has brought a joyful festive spirit to the College site. This beloved tradition allows students to send a candy cane and a message to their friends, adding a sweet touch to our weekly tutor sessions.

With over 298 candy canes sold, the uplifting messages brought a smile to students and staff. Over £314 was raised over the two weeks. A special thanks to our team of Candy Cane sellers led by Savia Fernandes.



ADVENT: BLESSING OF THE CRIB



Blessing of the crib

On 29th November, we were honoured to have Fr. Roger Taylor visit St. Dominic's to bless our Christmas crib during our weekly Friday Mass. The celebration began with a beautiful blessing outside, followed by a procession into the chapel as we sang *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*. It was a meaningful moment that marked the beginning of the Advent season, bringing our College community together in prayer and anticipation for the Christmas celebration. We are grateful to Fr. Roger for leading this special moment of reflection and blessing.



CAROL SERVICE

The Advent Carol Service this year, held on a mild December evening, of "Nine Lessons and Carols," is a format steeped in history and beloved by many. The Chapel was full of students, families and honoured guests including some of our Dominican Sisters who were delighted to be joining us from their convent in Bushey. We were fortunate enough to have Bishop John Sherrington to lead us together in prayer and reflections throughout the evening. The candles were lit and the Chapel was aglow as the service commenced with the choir processing through the Chapel, led by our accomplished Director of Music, Abigail Gorton, singing 'Once in Royal David's City'.

These Nine readings, delivered by staff and students of St. Dominic's took us on a beautiful journey of hope through the story of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Between each lesson, the air was filled with the harmonious voices of the choir, performing traditional carols. Each carol was chosen to reflect the theme of the preceding lesson, creating a seamless blend of word and song.

The choir's performance was nothing short of mesmerising, their voices rising and falling in perfect harmony, accompanied by the resonant chords of the organ played by Keith Brown. The students excelled themselves with Ruby Garvey, Laura English and Qaiz Rodrigues learning challenging Bach solos which echoed through the rafters. A jubilant performance of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," which had the congregation joining in with gusto. What made the evening truly special was the sense of community.

At the end of the concert, there was a retiring collection for Shelter. The Advent Carol Service was not just an event; it was an experience that touched the hearts of all who attended. It was a reminder of the enduring power of tradition, the beauty of communal celebration and the timeless message of Christmas and the birth of Jesus.



SANTA DASH 2024

Santa Dash 15th December 2024

On 15th December 2024, we held our annual Santa Dash in support of St. Luke's, our local hospice that provides compassionate care for the terminally ill. This year's event was particularly meaningful as we remembered our colleague, Amrat, who was a great supporter of this charity. The walk saw a wonderful turnout, with many four-legged friends joining in alongside our students and staff. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make this event a success!



UPDATE FROM CORE RE

There has, as always, been plenty of variety this term in the Year 2 programme of lectures. While they are billed as lectures, there are plenty of opportunities for students to share their views with the people sitting on either side of them and to ask the speakers questions both during the talks and afterwards.

In October we had the privilege of welcoming for the first time Padre Dave Skillen. Having served as a chaplain for over a decade, Padre Dave brought a wealth of experience and insight into the challenges and rewards of his role in the military.

His journey into military chaplaincy was not straightforward, he said. He started his career, not in a church but in the police force, where he spent five years working with people facing difficult circumstances. During this time, he found himself drawn to the deeper questions of life, ones that arose when he interacted with people in moments of vulnerability. He talked about the priest who had showed him compassion and given him guidance when he was just eighteen - a time when he was grieving the loss of his best friend in a car crash. That encounter planted a seed of faith in him that would later grow into his calling.

Music, he explained, has always been a significant part of his life. It has enriched his faith and helped him to connect with people in ways words sometimes cannot. After leaving the police, he taught Religious Education at a Catholic Sixth Form College, where he felt the "niggle of ordination" tugging at him. A suggestion from his parish priest set him on a path that would eventually lead him to be ordained as a deacon and to become a military chaplain - a role that combines his passion for faith, service, and compassionate listening.

Padre Dave explained that military chaplaincy has roots that go back to the early days of Christianity and remains a ministry of compassion and presence. He shared the story with students of Martin de Tours, a Roman soldier who, upon encountering a shivering beggar, cut his own cloak in half to clothe him. That night, Martin had a vision of Christ, who thanked him for his compassion. Martin converted to Christianity and eventually became one of the most beloved saints in Christian tradition.



UPDATE FROM CORE RE

During his talk he showed a painting from World War I. The artwork ("The Last General Absolution" by the Italian war artist Fortunino Matania) depicts the Munster Fusiliers receiving absolution from a priest before heading into battle. The priest sits on horseback, delivering God's forgiveness and comfort to those facing imminent danger. The painting, he said, is a powerful reminder of the chaplain's role in providing solace in the darkest times. The painting is all the more haunting because most of the battalion died the next day.

Padre Dave concluded his talk with a reflection on Remembrance Day, highlighting its significance for the military and for the nation. He showed a slide of the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey and explained its history. It was a way to honour all those who had fought in World War I, and the soldiers who were never identified, a symbol for grieving families across the UK and a place where they could mourn the sons, brothers, and fathers who have no known grave. The tomb has since become a site of national remembrance and a powerful reminder of the cost of war and the value of peace.

Padre Dave's talk was both moving and thought-provoking. It left our students with a deeper understanding of the work of the military chaplains, who continue to walk alongside those in need, offering a compassionate ear, a reassuring presence, and a steadfast reminder of the enduring power of faith.

Helena Shaw, Head of Core RE



HISTORY OF ART

CAREERS WEEK: TALK AT HARROW SCHOOL

On Tuesday 5th November, both Year 1s and Year 2s had the opportunity to attend the Careers Talk by Lord Poltimore and Alina Davey from Sotheby's at Harrow School, which was also open to boys from the school and members of the public. Lord Poltimore was very engaging and friendly, keeping us intrigued throughout the whole talk. We learnt about the way the art market works through the Primary Market, which is the artist selling through a gallery, then the Secondary Market, which is sales through the auction house, illustrating how many jobs really are available in the art world today, even if it is very competitive.

The role of the auction house is to understand the client and to be open to art so you can cater to individuals' tastes. We were told about how the art market is changing and shifting away from Old Masters, so it is more about the contemporary market and 'luxuries' e.g. whiskey, wine, clothing and sneakers! The context of the art or object is key to the worth of it, and this is best seen through who owns the objects going on the market. For example, an ordinary radio going for £5 was sold for thousands because it was owned by David Bowie.



HISTORY OF ART

CAREERS WEEK: TALK AT HARROW SCHOOL

Lord Poltimore also talked about his experience working in the Russian market alongside Alina. Being Russian, she knew the collectors, so this arrangement was really good for Sotheby's, with many live auctions due to the competitive nature of the collectors. However, the Russian market has dried up because of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the freezing of business interactions.

During the talk, we recreated a live auction, and we were given paddles so we could 'bid' on a Picasso and a Ferrari. During this exercise Lord Poltimore emphasised the need for Maths during biddings as you must calculate 10% increments during each sale. The Harrow boys were happy to outbid each other and we could see how the frenzy of an auction house can drive up the bidding.

The Middle Eastern market was also discussed, and he suggested that the museums that were built in Doha, Dubai and Abu Dhabi should not be made up of a lot of western art, but more art that represents those regions as that would attract many more visitors. This is a topical issue as many museums include art that has been stolen from colonised countries. For example, we learnt about the Benin Plaque, which is now exhibited in the British Museum, that was stolen from Benin City in West Africa, and it is a controversial debate whether they should be returned or not.

Finally, we were given advice about essential skills in the art world: you need to be open to the broad range of art so you can cater to collectors' tastes, as well as having the will to experiment in the new fields of art that are emerging at a rapid pace. Most importantly, be passionate about the pieces as that will transfer to the buyer and seller. Overall, it was a very interesting evening seeing how the pupils have the privilege to access these kinds of talks and how it will enable them and now us to use the information and advice wisely in the future, from people with a lot of experience in the art world.



Hanna Woolford – Year 2

HISTORY OF ART

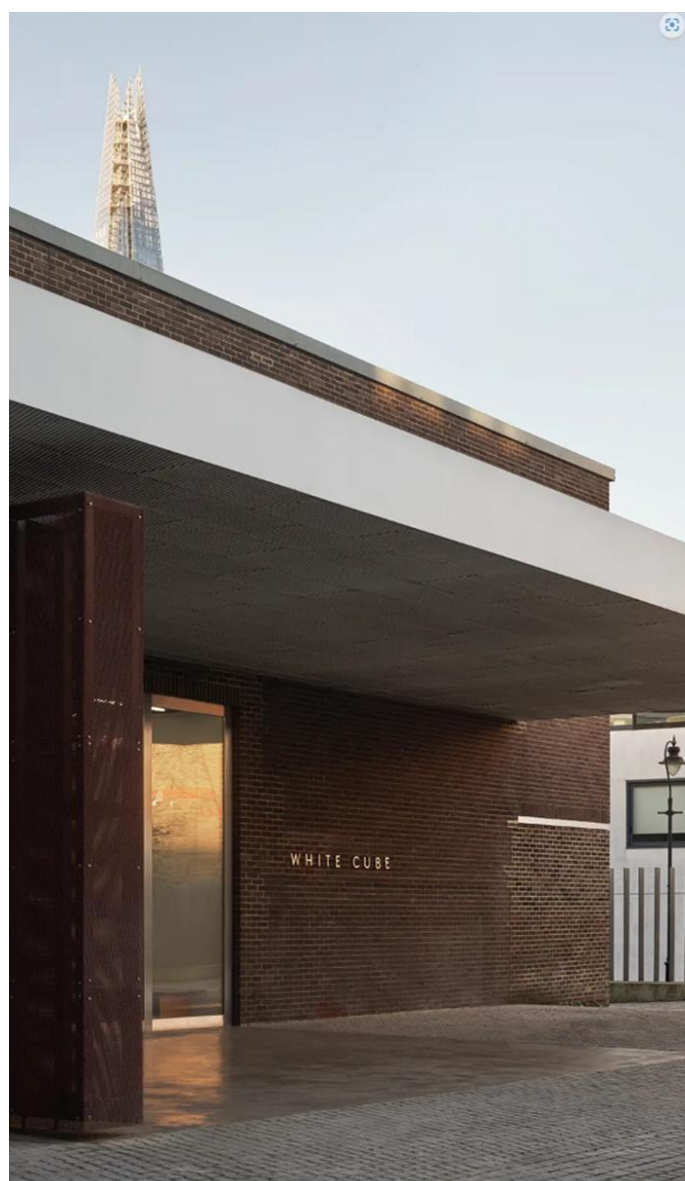
CAREERS WEEK: VISIT TO WHITE CUBE GALLERY

On Thursday 19th September our History of Art students visited the White Cube Gallery in Bermondsey to see the latest Tracey Emin exhibition. We were very lucky to be shown around by the curators of the exhibition, Andrew Gwilliams and Emily Ehrman who had worked closely with the artist, so they were able to give us a really good insight into what it is like to set up the show. For example, in response to one of our students, they told us how the walls in the White Cube can be moved or altered depending on what the artist wants. So there was a very large space in the centre of the exhibition for a large sculpture, whilst some walls had been moved to create a path towards it. Also, they are able to cut doorways in the walls so that views into the spaces might entice the visitor to take a certain direction around the gallery, guided by the works that catch their eye through the openings.

We were also taken round behind the scenes to the workshop where we were shown works that were waiting to be packed up and sent to buyers around the world. As the White Cube handles certain artists, they are able to exhibit their work and then, for the works that don't sell, they will continue to hold them for the future. We were shown this smaller private gallery that was created to show buyers some of these works. We also saw their restoration rooms, where they fix works that might have been damaged in transit.

The students have mixed feelings about Emin's work, although many of them appreciated the scale and rawness of the images, but everyone agreed that the day had given them really good insight into working in a gallery.

Angela Inglese – Head of History of Art



DRAMA DEPARTMENT UPDATE

A SEASON OF GROWTH AND ENRICHMENT

The Drama Department has had an exciting and productive start to the 2024/25 academic year, with students participating in a range of activities designed to inspire, challenge, and develop their skills. Here's a detailed look at our recent accomplishments and upcoming plans.

'Take the Lead' Workshop at The Old Vic

Our students had the unique opportunity to participate in *The Old Vic's Take the Lead* programme, an employability initiative aimed at 16–18-year-olds. This workshop series uses theatre-based activities to develop essential life and career skills, including teamwork, communication, self-management, self-belief, and problem-solving.

Through hands-on activities led by industry professionals, students honed their creative and collaborative abilities in a world-class theatre setting. Feedback from the session highlighted how much students gained from the experience, with many commenting on how it boosted their confidence and inspired them to think more deeply about their aspirations in the performing arts.

The first practical workshop 'Learn Your Part' saw nearly thirty Year 1 and Year 2 students engaged in creating elevator pitches, practising drama exercises, and exploring self-reflection and coping mechanisms. They built confidence, identified their core strengths, and learned tools to support their mental health and future goals. As part of a 3-part program, the session emphasised active engagement, practical exercises, and self-awareness to prepare participants for future challenges and opportunities.



DRAMA DEPARTMENT UPDATE

THEATRE VISIT: *A CHRISTMAS CAROL*

In November, Year 1 and Year 2 students attended a production of *A Christmas Carol* at the Aylesbury Waterside Theatre, presented by the Dickens Theatre Company. This adaptation of Charles Dickens' timeless tale offered a modern, innovative take on a classic story, incorporating elements that made it both engaging and relevant to contemporary audiences.

Students were captivated by the performance's dynamic staging, creative use of lighting, and compelling acting. This visit provided an excellent opportunity to analyse professional production techniques and consider how traditional stories can be reimagined for new audiences. After the show, students got an opportunity to talk with the actor and discover more about how to stage a touring production. And you can't ask more than that!



DRAMA DEPARTMENT UPDATE

THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG

The Play That Goes Wrong

We recently attended *The Play That Goes Wrong* at the Duchess Theatre in London, and it was an unforgettable experience. Now in its 10th year, the production delivered a flawless blend of slapstick comedy, impeccable timing, and astonishing physical theatre. The cast's ability to execute deliberate "mistakes" with precision and consistency was both hilarious and awe-inspiring, showcasing their expertise in comedic acting.

The set design was a highlight, with its intentional chaos adding layers to the humour. Watching furniture collapse and props go awry, all perfectly choreographed, kept the audience in fits of laughter throughout. The performers' commitment to their roles, even during deliberate pandemonium, was a testament to their skill and discipline.

For students, this production was a masterclass in the art of comedic performance, particularly in the areas of pacing, physicality, and ensemble work. It provided invaluable lessons on how to use "failure" as a comedic tool, turning mishaps into an art form. Beyond its educational value, it was a thoroughly entertaining evening that left both students and staff laughing long after the curtain fell.

THE LONGEST RUNNING COMEDY IN THE WEST END

THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG



DUCHESS THEATRE



Progress Checks: Celebrating Student Achievement

Progress checks this term showcased the dedication and talent of our students. Year 1 students presented a performance for evaluation, demonstrating technical and creative skills. Year 2 took on their first two and a half hour written paper, displaying their impressive range of knowledge and ability to apply their practical and theoretical based knowledge into effective responses to their two set texts – *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* by Dario Fo and *Woyzeck* by Georg Buchner.

DRAMA DEPARTMENT UPDATE

LOOKING AHEAD

Introducing the *Jazz Café*

We are excited to announce the *Jazz Café*, scheduled for February 2025. This event will be an intimate showcase of student talent, featuring a mix of music, poetry, and theatrical performances.

The *Jazz Café* offers students a platform to experiment with different styles of performance and engage with audiences in a more interactive setting. Rehearsals are well underway, and we are confident this event will be a fantastic celebration of our students' creativity and hard work.

Looking Ahead

The Drama Department remains dedicated to providing students with enriching experiences that combine practical learning with inspiration from professional theatre. From the workshops at The Old Vic to live productions like *A Christmas Carol* and *The Play That Goes Wrong*, these opportunities are invaluable in helping our students develop as performers and individuals.

We look forward to seeing their continued progress and sharing their talents with the wider College community. Thank you to everyone for your ongoing support of our programme.

Stephen Leib – Head of Theatre Studies



POLITICS

TRIP TO THE SENEDD

On Thursday 14th November, a group of Year 1 Politics students, including myself, were fortunate enough to visit the Senedd in Cardiff Bay, Wales. Once we arrived, we were immediately greeted by Richard, who was our tour guide for the day. Firstly, we were taken to the “Old Chamber”, where we were taught about the history of the Senedd, how devolution works in the context of Wales and the Welsh Youth Parliament (which is a personal interest of mine) and the ways in which it differs to the UK Youth Parliament.

The most exciting part of this day was unexpectedly meeting Vaughan Gething, who was the former First Minister of Wales. He spoke to us about his journey into politics which started from being President of the Student Union at University. From his highly inspirational talk, there were two main takeaways, which were to be as well experienced as possible in the field that you aspire to work in and to always make sure that friends or the people you surround yourself with are willing to tell you what you need to hear but also support you when you are at your best and your worst.

After this, we went to the main building where we were able to get a glimpse of an Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee meeting which gave us a brief insight into the role of the members of the Senedd.

Finally, we were able to look at the “New Chamber” where the 60 elected representatives are regularly seated for debates. We were also able to learn about the architecture of the building, the thought process behind it and above all the art centrepiece created by the Swansea-based artist Alexander Beleschenko, which was inspired by the brief ‘the Assembly at the heart of Wales’. Overall, it was a truly insightful day that inspired all the students that attended the trip.

Kenechi Ezeajughi – Year 1 Student



POLITICS

VISIT BY BOB BLACKMAN MP

On 21st October, MP Bob Blackman returned to the College to speak to us about his life as an MP, particularly as Chairman of the Conservative Party Leadership race and the 1922 Committee.

Bob provided us with an invaluable insight into Parliament's decision-making process - he spoke about the Homelessness Reduction Act, which was a Private Members' Bill that he put forward that ensured that local governments had a duty to protect single individuals from homelessness. This was particularly interesting, as Bob took us through the process of proposing the bill up to getting it passed.

Following on, we also had the opportunity to ask Bob some questions of our own through a very PMQs style Q&A. The questions posed ranged from current political affairs to views on leadership. Personally, I felt that this part of the session was a highlight as it encouraged thoughtful discussion and for us students to continue to be politically aware of current issues.

Overall, the talk was not only informative, but also motivating, as Bob offered a real insight into the complexities and responsibilities of being an MP. Hearing from someone that is actively involved in the heart of British Politics was a real privilege and acted as a reminder that we can all get involved in the political process.

Thank you to Kingsley for organising this event!

Mhikaella Renee Narciso, Year 2 Student



POLITICS

VISIT BY GARETH THOMAS MP

On Thursday 3rd October, Gareth Thomas the Labour and Co-Operative MP for Harrow West and Minister for the Post Office visited St. Dominic's and answered questions from A Level Politics students in the College Chapel. Gareth answered a series of questions from the Winter Fuel Allowance to his proudest moments in his political career and commended the students afterwards for their interesting range of questions as well as their enthusiasm.

I would like to personally thank Gareth and his staff for taking the time to come to the College, the students for their inciteful questions and our IT team for arranging the equipment in the Chapel and reception staff for greeting Gareth and his team.

Kingsley Jolowicz, Head of Politics



SPORTS REPORT UPDATE

It has been a great start to the academic year for sport at St. Dominic's. Gym memberships have grown substantially with the help of our new Sports Assistant Bobby Hodge. The lunchtime sports have been as popular as ever with pickleball on Fridays in particular, drawing a high attendance.

This season started with trials being very oversubscribed with six different sports teams needing to be selected. In total we had over 400 students' trial for the teams which included: Men's Football, Netball, Basketball, Badminton and the two new sports teams, Women's Football and Volleyball. This year St Dominic's have been entered into the Association of Colleges (AoC) leagues for all six teams as well as entering the mixed Badminton and Men's Football teams into the county cups, due to their league successes last season.

Throughout the academic year St. Dominic's students will also take part in intra College sport events. The first intra-College tournament of the year was Pickleball as it is such a popular lunchtime activity. 12 pairs entered the tournament which was closely contested but eventually won by Charlie Cadman and Aravindha Gunaratne (see figure 2). We also entered our students into our very first cross-country event at Harrow School, with 11 students taking part. Congratulations to our highest finishers Zak Atek and Sian Wright (see figure 4).

As a department, we would like to thank our Sports Ambassadors for their work in helping support us run the lunchtime sport activities (see figure 1). In additional news, due to the growing number of sports teams at St. Dominic's, the College has acquired a new minibus to take students to and from the fixtures (see figure 3). This will help us continue to grow our department and ensure sport is prominent at St. Dominic's.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

SPORTS REPORT

MEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM

Football has again proven popular with 86 students trialling for just one squad of 30 students. This year the football team moved up three divisions after winning the AoC London Regional League A to the AoC London Premiership League A. The start of the season has had its ups and downs, with the first fixture resulting in a 13-0 win against Harrow College First team. The next two games were losses, and we unfortunately got knocked out of the cup in the third round. Captain Kornel Debicki and the team are looking forward to the rest of the season as they have two must win games coming up against Barnet and Southgate College and Lambeth College to stay in contention to lift the trophy again.



TEAM	PLD	W	D	L	+	-	+/-	PTS
Oaklands College PM U19's	4	3	0	1	22	11	11	9
Capital City College Group (CCCG Hornchurch Academy)	4	3	0	0	16	9	7	9
Lambeth College Mens Football	3	2	0	0	9	2	7	6
St Dominics Roman Catholic Sixth Form College ST Dom's Football 1STS	3	1	0	2	18	11	7	3
Barnet and Southgate College Team 2	3	1	0	2	12	10	2	3
Harrow College 1st	5	0	0	5	9	43	-34	0

SPORTS REPORT

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM

The Women's Football Team were a new team at St. Dominic's, and we have a squad of 36 players. The girls have started the season off well with captain Ashleigh Kinsey hoping to guide the team to their first ever league win. The girls are currently in second position in the AoC Women's 9 a side London League. They played three games, won two and lost one. The girls football team are really looking forward to the rest of the season and hoping to get the right results to hopefully win the league, with a must win game against league leaders Saint Francis Xavier, to be in with a chance at winning the league.



SPORTS REPORT

BADMINTON

The Badminton trials were held during the first week of the academic year and a staggering 108 students trialled for the mixed badminton team with only 25 spaces available. The start of the season has been incredible with three games being played in the AoC Mixed Badminton League concluding with two wins and one loss.

The badminton team has also played three games in the national knockout cup, with three impressive wins and can now play anywhere in the country for their next fixture in the cup. The students are really looking forward to this upcoming fixture and hope to go the distance.

The team has been very committed to training and that has been reflected in the first three fixtures. Our toughest opponents have once again been Hills Road Sixth Form College, who beat us 7-3 in the first fixture.

The team are determined to give Hills Road a tough reverse fixture when they make the journey down to St. Dominic's at the end of January 2025.

We can also see with the results that the Year 1 students have integrated perfectly into the team and the future is looking bright for St. Dominic's Badminton team.



TEAM	PLD	W	D	L	+	-	PTS
Leyton Sixth Form College	4	2	0	2	25	15	6
St Dominics Roman Catholic Sixth Form College Badminton 1STS	3	2	0	1	20	10	6
Hills Road 6th Form College Hills Road Badminton Team	2	2	0	0	14	6	6
Newham 6th Form College NewVic Knights Badminton Team	1	0	0	1	0	10	0
Capital City College Group capital city college group (CCCG)	2	0	0	2	1	19	0

SPORTS REPORT

NETBALL

The Netball team is flourishing at St. Dominic's with 55 students attending trials at the start of the year for 11 places to make it into the squad and join the Year 2 students continuing from last season. Netball training occurs weekly on Monday evenings after College with Ky Lewis from England Men's Netball team leading the session. To help improve our team performance this season, strength and conditioning sessions have been put on for the students. These are attended with fantastic effort and attitude. We have only played two fixtures, but we have won the first one and came very close to winning the second fixture, losing by 8 points 39-47, against Berkshire College of Agriculture who are an academy netball team. The group have a fantastic team spirit and captained by Ireoluwa Sangosanya, are hopeful for a great season ahead.



TEAM	PLD	W	D	L	PF	PA	PD	PTS
Berkshire College Of Agriculture BCA Netball	2	2	0	0	106	70	36	6
St Dominics Roman Catholic Sixth Form College ST Dom's Netball 1STS!	2	1	0	1	68	70	-2	3
Havering Colleges New City College Group NCC Havering VII	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capital City College Group capital city college group (CCCG Enfield) 1	1	0	0	1	23	29	-6	0
USP College (Seevic) USP Palmers Campus Netball	1	0	0	1	31	59	-28	0

SPORTS REPORT

VOLLEYBALL TEAM



Due to the successes of the College’s intra-college volleyball tournaments, another new team was added to our fixture lists for this season. There were 82 students who trialled for a team of 20 places which demonstrates the sports’ popularity. The Volleyball team could not have started their season off better with captain Toby Agerbak guiding his team to the College’s first ever volleyball league victory in straight sets, 3 - 0, against Haringey Sixth Form College. The Volleyball team are looking forward to the rest of the season with more fixtures to come, including the next fixture against Barnet and Southgate College, in January 2025.

TEAM	P	W	L	SF	SA	PF	PA	PQ	SQ	PTS
Leyton Sixth Form College Mixed Volleyball	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	MAX	3
St Dominics Roman Catholic Sixth Form College ST Doms Mixed Volleyball Team 2024-2025	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	MAX	0
Barnet and Southgate College Mixed Cup Team	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Haringey Sixth Form College Haringey Sixth form College	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Newham 6th Form College NewVic Mixed Volleyball team	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0

SPORTS REPORT

COLLEGE GYM

The gym now has over 80 members and is in use every day by students. We have 27 female members up from five last year. The students have really embraced the kit on offer, some of whom have already hit some amazing milestones, such as one student doing her first ever pull up. We have worked hard to foster a culture of collegiality and it is a great pleasure to see students motivating and helping each other whilst working out. Several students have commented on how welcoming and friendly the space is and that is very good to hear. The space is also used by the sports squads who receive sport specific strength and conditioning sessions to help them minimise their injury risk and perform strongly in their given sport. We have exciting new kit additions such as boxing gloves and a hex bar for squat jumps which are being enjoyed by the students.



THE VERITAS PROGRAMME – AN UPDATE

The Veritas Programme is an integral part of our core curriculum, focusing on preparing our students for life after St. Dominic's. We enhance a set of core skills, as our students transition from education to the workforce. Our aim is to give them work ready skills that employers are seeking such as problem solving, communication and technical proficiency.

The programme consists of 4 strands:

Life Skills – exploring the world we live in, from personal finance, interview skills, digital literacy to political participation and employability.

Wellbeing & Fitness – learning how to look after our wellbeing from the inside out; fitness testing, mindfulness and teambuilding all play an integral part of this stream.

First Aid – from learning how to keep calm in emergency situations, to CPR and defibrillators; saving a life is a key skill we can all benefit from.

Volunteering – promoting the act of selfless giving; equipping young adults with the message that giving up time to help others is one of the most enriching acts of kindness. From supporting their peers to working with local food banks and charities, helping our learners to help those in need.

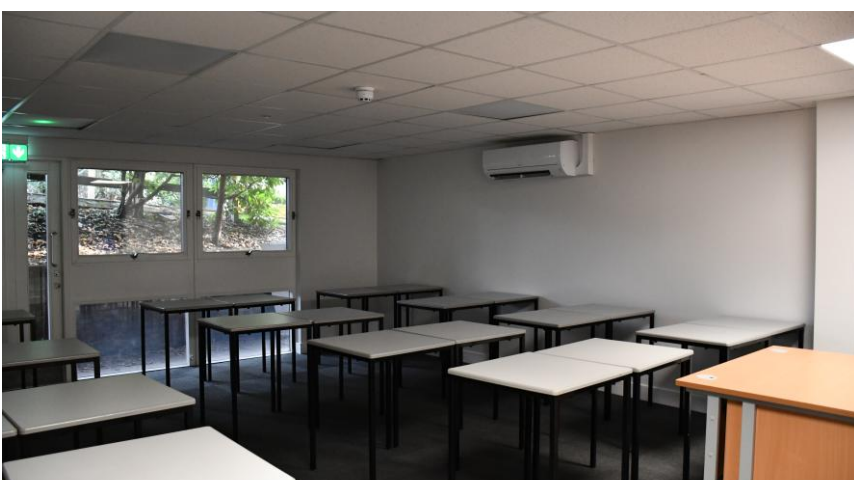
The Veritas Programme curriculum stems directly from our ethos; *personal and spiritual growth of all our members based on Christian values, academic excellence and high-quality pastoral care.*

Alongside Core RE and Tutorial, this exciting new addition is helping enrich the lives of our newest cohort – and helping them to become the leaders of tomorrow. In the words of St. Catherine of Siena, "Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire"; and that continues to sit at the heart of what we do.

Kam Gill-Pancutt – Veritas Coordinator

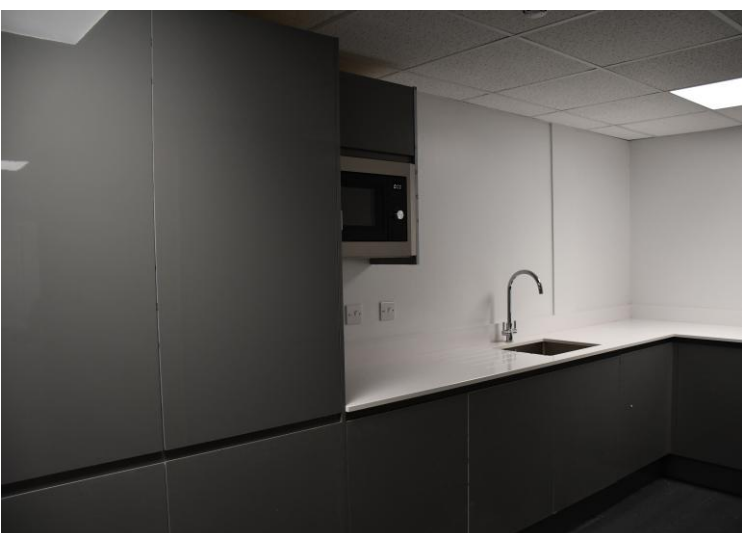


THE REFURBISHMENT OF THE HUME BUILDING



The Humanities Department and students have enjoyed the creation of the exciting new learning spaces on the ground floor of the Hume building. The modernised classrooms updated with the new Promethean whiteboards have helped create a learning environment that is comfortable and conducive to learning. The new atrium space has given students a new social space where they can enjoy a game of giant chess. All in all the refurbishment has been a great success.

Christopher Warren - Head of History



OUR NEW CHESS BOARD



MATHS DEPARTMENT STEM CAREERS EVENT

On Wednesday 6th November, the College hosted an inspiring STEM Careers event that brought together students, industry experts and leading organisations under one roof. The event, held in the Library, welcomed around 50 enthusiastic students eager to learn more about the diverse career paths awaiting them in the professional world.

The event featured an impressive lineup of guest speakers representing a variety of industries including Deloitte, Transport for London (TfL), cybersecurity firms, engineering companies and cutting-edge AI organisations. Each speaker shared invaluable insights into their fields, shedding light on the skills, qualifications, and experiences needed to excel in today's rapidly evolving job market.

The importance of early career planning and exploring opportunities beyond academic studies was emphasised and students were encouraged to engage actively with the speakers and ask questions to gain a deeper understanding of potential career trajectories.

The event was highly interactive, with students actively engaging in Q&A sessions and networking opportunities. Many attendees expressed their appreciation for the chance to speak one-on-one with industry professionals, gaining practical advice about CV building, interview preparation and apprenticeships.



MATHS DEPARTMENT STEM CAREERS EVENT

A number of first year students shared their thoughts after the event: *"I learned that there is a lot of different pathways into the same job that I want to do", "She was very inspirational. She started her own tech startup and she even offered me work experience", "People skills are very important. Communication is really important. Networking is really important".*

We also asked some of the guest speakers to share some insights: *"I recognise that almost all work is about people. Therefore, people skills are the number one skill out there", "Perhaps the second most important skill behind that is skills in problem solving. Put the two together and those skills will get you [far] into a career", "Keep everything open. I always have a backup option. So, even now I have a backup option. Carry that through University as well".*

Whether you are planning to dive into the corporate world, tackle challenges in engineering or revolutionise industries with AI, events like this are a stepping stone to a successful career. For students who missed this year's event, keep an eye out for upcoming opportunities - your future awaits!

Max Burridge - 2i/c Maths



CAREERS DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Careers Education is very much a part of young people's lives if they are to be successful in life. Giving all our students the opportunities to explore their options and future career paths and prepare them for the world of work is our aim, helping them make informed decisions in their 'next steps' and raise their aspirations.

We have provided students in both Year 12 & Year 13 with many career events and opportunities on site - meeting local and national employers, alumni currently in apprenticeships and employment and many other stakeholders and learning providers. This has proved very successful and, listening to our students, we organised Speed Network sessions for STEM (Maths, Physics and Engineering) and Biology (Biomedical Sciences, Research, Pharmacy and many more science related professionals). This gave students the opportunity to meet 10 different professionals at a time to discover new and traditional professions and be given information and advice about how to get into the sector and the qualifications needed to be successful. In the New Year we are planning more Speed Network events for Economics & Business and Humanities subjects. It was also great to invite one of our alumnus, Kush Shah, to speak about his career in the Aviation industry!



Maths/Physics Career??

Speed Networking
Wednesday 1st November

Studying A level Maths and Physics? **3.30pm**
College Library

Unsure what career opportunities exist? **Industry professionals will be here to chat with you about their careers, opportunities, career pathways etc etc**

Thinking of a science degree but don't know which one? **Only 30 places available**

More details ask Max
Register: mdb@stdoms.ac.uk
Starting your reason for wanting to attend

STEM



Careers in the Aviation industry

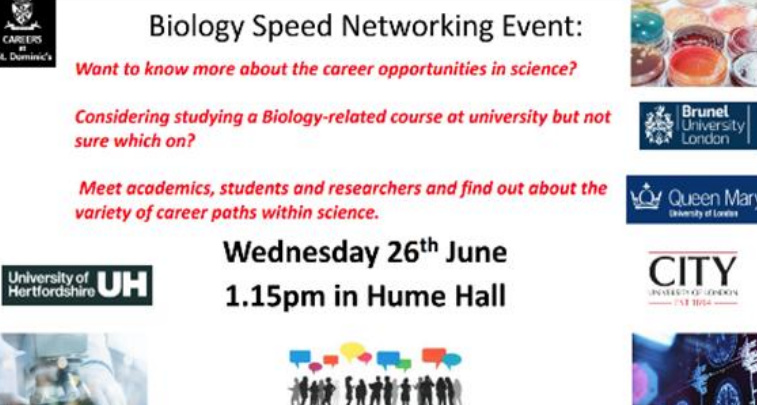
Heathrow

Wednesday 20th March
1.15pm
Hume Hall

Meet our alumnus, Kush Shah, who studied at St. Dominic's from 2015-2017. In 2021, Kush graduated from Coventry University with a first-class honours degree in Aviation Management. He now works as an Airside Safety Investigator for Heathrow Airport.

Find out about the variety of roles available in the aviation industry including apprenticeship schemes.

Heathrow International Airport



Biology Speed Networking Event:

Want to know more about the career opportunities in science?

Considering studying a Biology-related course at university but not sure which on?

Meet academics, students and researchers and find out about the variety of career paths within science.

Wednesday 26th June
1.15pm in Hume Hall

University of Hertfordshire UH

Brunel University London

Queen Mary University of London

CITY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

CAREERS DEPARTMENT UPDATE

We also had a very successful Applying for an Apprenticeship event on 27th November for Year 13 as many students are interested in applying to Higher and Degree Apprenticeships, as an alternative to university and cutting the cost of studying for a degree.

A Higher Apprenticeship offers training and professional qualifications paid for by the employer and the employee earns a wage and training without any fees or loans. A Degree Apprenticeship does the same, but the employer pays the university fees, and the employee earns a wage and gains a degree but has no university debt. Speaking to alumni who are currently on apprenticeships, gave the opportunity to our current students to learn more about companies who offer apprenticeships and how they work. The UCAS link below explains apprenticeships and the live link to Career Finder for those interested in an alternative to full time university:

<https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships>
<https://www.ucas.com/explore/search/apprenticeships?query=>

Next term we have our annual **HE & Future Careers Day – 27th January 2025** one of the most important events of the year! We have again, over 70 universities and employers (local and national companies and training providers) excited to meet our young people. With 40 subject talks from engineering to music production from top professionals, academics, and alumni who are well established in their careers for many years. Students choose two subject talks of their choice and visit the exhibitors in the Siena Sport Hall. We look forward to meeting our visitors and our students networking across many different career pathways.



CAREERS DEPARTMENT UPDATE

We will also be celebrating **National Apprenticeship Week – 12th February 2025** with an event for Year 12 students to meet employers and Alumni and explore this option.

National Careers Week – 3rd–8th March 2025 will see us celebrating International Women's Day with keynote speakers and the VPA – Visual & Performing Arts – event for students and parents interested in Art, Design, History of Art, Theatre and Music careers.

UCAS 2025 Entry

We are very pleased to report that over 600 of our Year 13 students have applied to university for 2025 entry. We have been very busy providing advice and guidance and assisting them to make successful applications and wish them lots of luck with their offers. We have processed over 130 early applicants to Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science and over 50% of students applying to Russell Group universities.

We wish all our Year 13s all the best with their UCAS applications and those currently applying to employment and apprenticeships for September 2025.

We are looking forward to a busy start of the New Year, with many amazing events and opportunities for every student to engage in meaningful encounters with employers, further and higher education providers, and including experiences of the workplace through our dedicated Careers Portal, providing them with regular invites to their chosen subject choices.

A very Happy Christmas and New Year from us all in the Careers Department!

Anna Scarampi, Lisa Harper, Naomi Ross and Lorna Wilkins



CAREERS DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Apprenticeship Workshop

We were delighted to invite a group of our Alumni back to St. Dominic's to speak about their experiences of doing an apprenticeship. The panel did a Q and A session with a group of Year 2 students who are all interested in applying for an apprenticeship next year and then moved into small groups where they were able to practice interview questions with the students. It was a great opportunity for our students to network and learn about the skills they require if they are planning to apply for an apprenticeship.

Thank you so much to the following Alumni for coming to share their experiences with us:

Sienna Pindoriya - Alstrom Transport
Selina Beckles-Harris - Cisco
Charis Bevan - BNP Paribas
Mouneer Al-Khayat - Deloitte
Gleston Mendonca - Business Consultant
Priyesh Desai - Rolls Royce
Shivalay Kara - BUPA
Syd Upton - Bowmer and Kirkland
Alina Sacarus - Bowmer and Kirkland
Saara Zamre - KPMG



OPEN DAY OCTOBER 2024

We held our annual Open Day event for September 2025 intake on Saturday 12th October 2024. With over 2000 Year 11 students registering on the day accompanied by family and friends, the campus was exceptionally busy with over 5,000 visitors.

Our 350 Student Ambassadors acted as tour guides around the College to ensure prospective students had the opportunity to discuss course options and academic achievements with our experienced A Level Teaching staff. Andrew Parkin, Principal, delivered his talk five times over the day, to packed audiences in Siena Hall.

There were also opportunities to visit our Student Support in StudyPlus, the Library and Learning Centre to meet the Librarians, Personal Tutors and Careers Team and to meet our Chaplaincy Team in the beautiful Chapel.

The feedback from the day was overwhelmingly positive and the College remains immensely proud of our students and staff for making it such a successful occasion.

I thoroughly enjoyed the visit and was very impressed by the students and teachers who took the time to explain the courses and subjects that are available at the advanced level.

All the students who participated at the opening day were very helpful and informative and they gave me a student's point of view about the College. Amazing experience!

The chapel adds such a spiritual element onto the college, and it has such a different environment to usual high school sixth forms.

The students helping out were really friendly and knowledgeable. The signposting and map resources were excellent. The Principal's talk was informative and inspiring. The school and grounds were immaculate and well-presented.

Angela McCormack - Admissions Officer



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT UPDATE

SUMMER LITERATURE ENRICHMENT

Students were tasked with writing extra essays over the summer break, with a choice of two stimuli: either a short piece on Shakespeare from a recent *Financial Times Magazine* feature, or a piece of protest literature of their choice. Lilia and Firdaus both showed their passion for the subject and a great deal of independence in choosing their texts and arguments and producing these pieces. Well done to them and we hope you enjoy!

The English Literature team

Could Lady Macbeth have persuaded Hamlet to act?

What if Hamlet had been married to Lady Macbeth? Could she have persuaded the pathological ditherer to kill Claudius? Or would he have told her to get to a nunnery and behave herself? I would argue that the material has to be right. Macbeth is capable of bypassing his conscience and Hamlet isn't. Not even Lady Macbeth could have worked on him. Incidentally, though, if he had murdered Claudius, Hamlet would probably have bleated that it was all his wife's fault - something Macbeth, for all his faults, never does. - Harriet Walter, The Financial Times

Walter fails to notice the strength of Lady Macbeth's persuasion. One of literature's most well-known manipulators, her argumentative power is flawless and direct, leaving Macbeth no choice but to act: a position she could have reduced Hamlet to as well.

Lady Macbeth is persuasive through her manipulative perpetuation of 17th century fears about masculinity. Ramsey discusses how she is resoundingly negative, calling into question Macbeth's masculinity rather than fantasising about Duncan's throne^[1]. Shakespeare uses a female figure who can demolish the ego of a man: potentially, his own insecurities as a male in society are expressed through her, and the effect of using a woman to convey these ideas only serves to increase the hatred for the couple. She is demonised for doubting his manliness, whilst if another male had done the same, much like he himself does after the disappearance of the ghost of Banquo ('I am a man again'- III.IV.107), the audience response would be wholly different. This develops the notion that Lady Macbeth's persuasiveness is largely centred around her femininity, and she is wrongly demonised by contemporary society, who hold strong perceptions of toxic masculinity that Shakespeare did not share.

^[1] Ramsey, Jarold. "The Perversion of Manliness in Macbeth." *Studies in English Literature, 1500-1900* 13, no. 2 (1973): 285-300. <https://doi.org/10.2307/449740>.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT UPDATE

SUMMER LITERATURE ENRICHMENT

Her questioning of masculinity evidently worked on Macbeth and would likely work on Hamlet but conveniently aids the dislike for the protagonists. For this, Shakespeare can be seen as lazily perpetuating fears of female power and uses the disparaged subversion of stereotypical female characters to progress the plot. Shakespeare further blunders by highlighting Macbeth's insecurity in his own masculinity, and how this, in combination with his immorality, makes him a wildly destructive figure. He never stands up for himself and his masculinity, committing regicide in order to prove himself to his wife. This weak-willed violence appears to be rooted in Macbeth from the start: he 'unseam'd' a man in battle, highlighting his violent disposition and submission to authority. Hamlet, however, does not share these violent instincts, and is more scholarly, suggesting he would be harder to persuade. His descent into madness, and the murder of Polonius, however, undermine this line of thinking. Lady Macbeth's cunning persuasiveness would likely have convinced Hamlet to act earlier, likely through the same perpetuation of 17th century fears.

From her very first entrance to the play, marked by her soliloquy in Act I Scene V, Shakespeare reveals Lady Macbeth's wish for effeminacy in order to become persuasive: with this, he highlights the impossibility of female power over men in the 17th century. She summons 'spirits' (I.V.40) to rid her of her feminine emotions, and this extends past her psyche into her physiology: asking for her 'visitings of nature' (I.V.45) - menstrual cycle - to be ceased, so as not to remind her of the gender she is supposed to conform to. Her amenorrhea permits her 'mental de-feminization'^[1], and empowers her to persuade Macbeth. Shakespeare exposes how the 17th Century stereotypes of women - which would have been similar, if not more pronounced, in the eras of both 'Macbeth' and 'Hamlet' - entirely obscure any potential power. His choice of female antagonist is significantly more interesting because of this; he is apparently incapable of conveying a feminine power through his writing and therefore requires her to be more masculine in order to spur Macbeth. It could be suggested that due to her estrangement from her social position and subsequent role in the crime of regicide, Shakespeare does not need to create as powerful of a character, as a woman even speaking her mind as Lady Macbeth does is shocking enough to convince Macbeth to act. In any sense, just as the witches are feared yet trusted due to their androgyny, fear of her effeminate nature would likely have convinced Hamlet, if not any other man, to commit atrocities.

^[1] La Belle, Jenijoy. "'A Strange Infirmary': Lady Macbeth's Amenorrhea." *Shakespeare Quarterly* 31, no. 3 (1980): 381-86. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2869201>.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT UPDATE

SUMMER LITERATURE ENRICHMENT

Lady Macbeth's gender nonconformity is used as a tool for eliciting her power, as her character is composed of an exploitation of both masculine and feminine. Levin suggests that Lady Macbeth holds a liminal position in the play; unlike all the other women, she is never categorised as 'mother' or 'witch', although both are alluded to^[2]. This allows him to use Lady Macbeth as a scapegoat: she is not conventionally a "woman" in society due to having not fulfilled her role of producing an heir, and not strayed so far from it as to be a complete outsider like the witches, and therefore is an infiltrator into society. Shakespeare doesn't allow for Lady Macbeth to fit into any one of society's recognisable categories, and this liminality makes her persuasive as he has fewer restrictions on her capabilities, and the audience have fewer predisposed assumptions of her character. This is further reflected in her eventual suicide, highlighting how she is driven insane not just by guilt, but by her inability to fulfil the role society has assigned her. As a woman, her ambition is inexpressible: if she suppresses it, she has little way of being content, and if she acts on it, she is, as we see clearly, demonised and eventually suicidal. Shakespeare allows Macbeth the dignity of being killed, standing for what he, rightly or wrongly, believes in. Shakespeare does not allow Lady Macbeth this novelty; her untimely death is seen by many as a victory, but is really a tragedy in the name of feminism. Her power peaks, therefore, towards the start of the play, and in her prime she is functionally a catalyst to Macbeth, rather than a constant force spurring his ambition. Acting as a bridge between good and evil, she may have been a catalyst to Hamlet, however her deteriorating mental state as a result of her actions suggest she would only have been able to give one push: likely, though, enough of a push to kill Claudius.

Lady Macbeth's effeminacy and androgynous liminality is what arguably makes her so powerful, especially in the context of 17th century England. Shakespeare creates such a strong character that she would have persuaded Hamlet himself to 'get [himself] to a nunnery'.

Lilia Annon – Year 1 Student

^[2] Levin, Joanna. "Lady MacBeth and the Daemonologie of Hysteria." *ELH* 69, no. 1 (2002): 21–55. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/30032010>.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT UPDATE

SUMMER LITERATURE ENRICHMENT

Protest Literature reveals the power of the author, and can inspire hope and defiance in its readers.

Sylvia Plath's "The Bell Jar":

The Bell Jar was a piece of protest literature written to critique the societal expectations seen through the journey of the protagonist, Esther Greenwood. Her bizarre and unexpected honesty stuns the reader and delivers a profound message on the grim uncertainty of her future and gender-based expectations and how they impact her life. Plath prompts the audience to change these norms by giving the readers an ambiguous ending which leaves them in suspense of what will happen to Esther in the future.

Through the exposition of the book, where Esther travels to New York for an internship, she is exposed to the luxury of living in New York. Through here we can see a key part of Plath's method of protest; symbolism. We see Esther pondering over her future and comparing it to a fig tree - her future choices and paths are the figs that rot away as she is sitting under deciding which one to pick. This could be a metaphor for the expectations placed upon people and how this paralyses them in fear of making the wrong choice, especially the women in that time who were torn between choosing a career path or a path of domesticity. We can see this fear develop as she continues to feel trapped by her inability to choose a future and as her sense of self deteriorates (leading her to write less which is something she enjoys). This deepens her depression, which is hinted at in the beginning of the book, and leads to Esther attempting suicide.

Esther's suicide attempt and her depressive state allow Plath to raise awareness of the stigma around mental health at that point in time. In 1963, when the book was published, mental health was a taboo topic that was highly underdeveloped and misunderstood. During this time many people with mental health issues were placed in overcrowded institutions like asylums or psychiatric hospitals and treated with ECT - a procedure that was effective at times but led to trauma to the patient, as it was performed without anesthesia and often without consent. There was also a lack of community care of patients after treatment which meant there was a higher chance of relapsing. In *The Bell Jar* we can see Esther going through ECT for her depression and her future after is left ambiguous - perhaps Plath uses this ambiguity to encapsulate the vitality of community to the patient, as Esther's fall into depression in the first place stemmed from keeping her thoughts isolated and not being able to tell anyone how she felt during her depressive episodes. This would have inspired readers to become more aware of mental health and been a hopeful and relatable message to those already experiencing issues in their mental health.

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Plath also speaks about the double standards present between males and females during this time which is shown early on, in Esther's relationship with Buddy Willard. Her envious attitude towards someone she is in a committed relationship with indicates that she feels that it is unfair that Buddy had slept with someone when she had to remain chaste for him based on the expectations placed on her as a woman. This attitude towards the unfair gender expectations placed on women may inspire defiance in the readers and cause them to fight for equality and opportunity for both of those genders.

Overall Plath's novella reflects a lot of the issues that women (and she herself) faced in everyday life. Sylvia Plath published this book under the pseudonym of Victoria Lucas which could perhaps tell us that she was facing the struggle of choosing between her career and domesticity as it was not widely accepted to do both at the time. Plath also had depression and killed herself at the age of 30 which could show that she had experienced the same mental illness as her protagonist Esther, intensifying the message of the book and inspiring readers to make a change to the mental health industry and change their ideas around gender and work.

Firdaus Azam – Year 2 Student



MOZART REQUIEM NOVEMBER 2024

November is traditionally the month of Remembrance in the Catholic Church, so it was a fitting choice to mount our performance of Mozart's wonderful Requiem in this month. With only 10 weeks to learn this substantial work, the students had to be focused and committed. We were fortunate to be joined for this endeavour by some members of Harrow Choral Society and wonderful organist Paul Ayres. Andrew Parkin - our own Principal - conducted the work. Soloists for the event were singers of international renown: Pauls Putnins, Hugh Benson, Alison Wheeler and our own Head of Music Abigail Gorton. Students stepped up to take on the challenging solos in the Tuba Mirum - Toby Agerbak, Qais Rodrigues, Nina Madanayake and Ruby Garvey. The beautiful St. Dominic's Chapel was packed to bursting and was a truly atmospheric setting for this great work.

Being in the choir has made me feel quite happy and I always enjoy my Monday evenings, it has helped my singing for starters, and singing such glorious hymns almost makes you feel a part of something greater than yourself. I enjoy choir a lot and would recommend it to anyone to join.

Amelia Kayumba – Year 1 student



MOZART REQUIEM NOVEMBER 2024



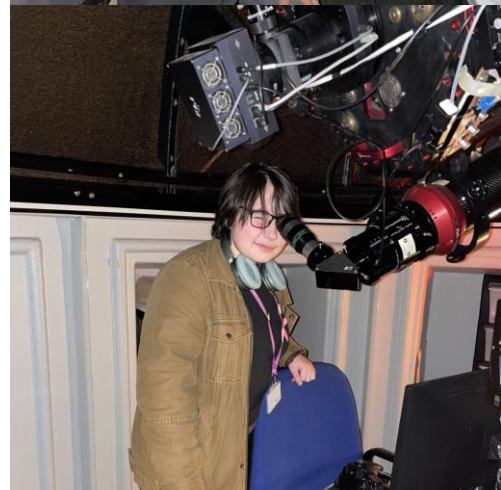
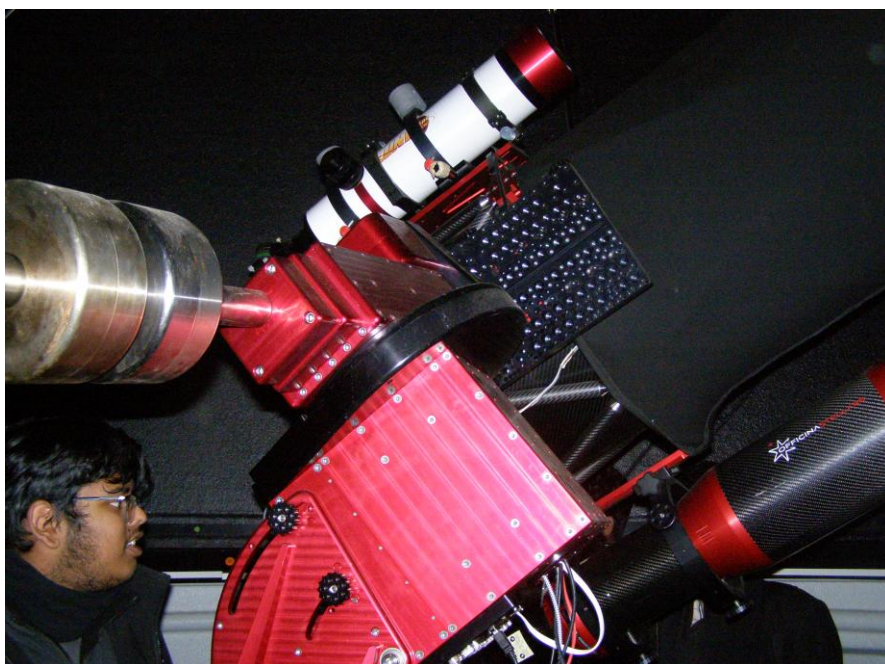
HARROW SCHOOL OBSERVATORY

Twenty-four students visited Harrow School on the evening before December mocks. At Harrow School we were kindly greeted by Dr Chris Crowe who gave the students an insightful lecture on Astronomy. He also talked about his experiences with Astrophysics, being a student at Cambridge, going to Las Vegas and experiencing Zero gravity and working in the same department as Stephen Hawking.

After listening to Dr Crowe, the students were able to visit the observatory and make use of the powerful telescope. A few of them were fortunate enough to see a bright star despite a cloudy night. Dr Crowe also provided a smaller telescope, which students used to view The Shard with Christmas lights and the BT Radio tower.

Dr Crowe was very happy to answer questions from our students regarding applying for Cambridge, and any other Physics or Computing queries that they might have had. This experience was amazing for both students and staff, and we look forward to visiting again in the near future.

Luke Ray - Head of Physics
Eden Gan - Teacher of Physics



ST. DOMINIC'S AWARD-WINNING HONEY

On the 24th October 2024 at the 93rd National Honey Show in Sandown Park, Surrey, Dominic Kelly, our Groundsman, was placed 4th in the Light Honey Class award out of 16 competitors. The annual honey competition is a celebration of the art and science of beekeeping, showcasing the finest honeys from the Middlesex area. This event brings together beekeepers, honey enthusiasts, and experts to recognise excellence in honey production and highlight the diversity of flavours, colours and textures honey can offer.

Many congratulations to Dominic, here's to the sweet anticipation of what's to come!



ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

We are delighted to announce that the following students achieved 100% in both Attendance & Punctuality for this term. This shows a high level of commitment to their studies - well done!

Year 1 Students

Sara Ali
Dorothy Chan
Prasanna Chhetri
Zahra Dhalabhoy
Aaron Edwards
Valeska Fernandes
Ellie Harper
Maryam Ibrahim
Atharva Jain
Natalie Klenert
Ruby Kunjasic
Sophie Lach
Eddie Man
Yazan Marzouk
Zachary McGovern
Dhara Mehta
Aksh Mistri
Nadine Monaghan
Angel Mondal
Deborah Obadiaru
Lilavati Paliha-Wadane Gutierrez
Gabriela Pankiewicz
Alex Popa
Gramin Pravin
Heraj Rahman
Srishiv Ramakumar
Sachin Rathore
Gayan Subasinghe
Kabissa Uthayarajan
Mia Wallis
Manya Yeju

Year 2 Students

Caroline Albuquerque
Mya Benson
Karen Botros
Alex Filip
Leah Goosey
Zara Hachem
Kitty Healy
Amber Moran
Marjan Saifi
Aashna Sinha
Adele Souleimanova
Kausic Subakumar
Dharsika Thangeswaran



**WELL
DONE!**

PARENTPAY AND SID

WHAT IS SID?

SID (Student Information Database) is a secure web based (browser) access to student records, containing:

- Biographical & contact details
- Course enrolments & group memberships
- Timetable
- Attendance
- Qualifications record
- Exams – entries, timetables & results
- Reviews (Progress Check grades)

Students & parents have the same access.

To log into SID

- <https://sid.stdoms.ac.uk>
- Usernames were emailed to parent contacts
- Passwords were sent by SMS
- Best on Windows computers with the Edge web browser
- SID works on other devices and other browsers too, but sometimes with quirks and exceptions
- Safari on Apple IOS devices (prefix username with backslash)
- Bigger screens are easier to navigate than mobile phones
- Username format: e.g. p-23exampler
- Usernames are not case sensitive
- Passwords are case sensitive

We would encourage you to regularly log into SID. Remember your son / daughter uses SID on a regular basis, so should be experts if you need a hand!

If you have problems logging in:

- Try a different browser
- Try a different device
- Try prefixing the username with a backslash: e.g. \p-23exampler
- Send an email to sid@stdoms.ac.uk (including your name & SID username, the student's name and details of the device, browser and problem)
- We will test your login and if there is an account problem we will fix it and ask you to try again
- If you still have difficulties, we will ask that your son/daughter visits us so we can try and provide further support

PARENTPAY

ParentPay is the payment vehicle that enables Staff, Students and Parents to pay monies to the College for College trips, charity collections and the canteen. Payments are made directly through the ParentPay portal.

When the student registers at the College, the parent/guardian will receive an email from ParentPay which will contain a temporary password. The password will need to be updated when logging on for the first time.

When logging onto ParentPay, the parent will be able to view a suite of options specific to their son or daughter. Some payment items, such as a theatre trip, may be limited in numbers in which case the item will only appear for a limited amount of time. Other items such as trips can be paid for in instalments.

Any ParentPay queries should be emailed to parentpay@stdoms.ac.uk

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND GOOD HEALTH AND HAPPINESS IN 2025





St Dominic's
Sixth Form College

MAIN COLLEGE EMAIL stdoms@stdoms.ac.uk

ABSENCE attendance@stdoms.ac.uk

STUDENT SERVICES studentservices@stdoms.ac.uk