



VERITAS

ST DOMINIC'S SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

A vertical photograph of a branch with several blue hyacinth flowers, running along the right side of the cover.

SPRING 2025


Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider

EDITORIAL FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to the Spring edition of our in-house College magazine, Veritas. It has been a really busy term for us here at St. Dominic's, starting immediately after the Christmas vacation with our Ofsted Inspection! As most of you reading this will be aware, we were visited by a team of five inspectors for four days during the week of January 13th and, when all was said and done, we were very pleased to hear that, once again, the team judged St. Dominic's to be a 'grade 1, outstanding' Sixth Form College. Ofsted and the Government decided to retain the single word judgements for Post 16 and FE providers which means that our latest report will continue to have 'outstanding' on it until such times as we are re-inspected. This will likely be in 2031 – a long time in the future!

At the time of writing this editorial we are in the middle of Lent for Catholics who mark this season with fasting, prayer and almsgiving. At the College we welcomed Bishop James Curry to celebrate Mass for us on Ash Wednesday marking our formal start to the Lenten season. He reminded us in his homily of the power of love in our lives – that Christ showed us the ultimate love by surrendering himself to death on a cross and that in our lives all of us should remember the power of loving generously and giving of ourselves to those in need of food or drink, of shelter or a place to call home or of those who need a friend or someone to connect with. His words were powerful and resonated with the 300 students and staff in the congregation. It was a special and beautiful Mass and we were grateful to Bishop James Curry for giving up his time to be with us.

Each year at the end of the Spring term we have a whole College Lenten Liturgy. These liturgies are important reminders of our Catholic faith and foundation and allow our entire community to learn and to understand the journey that we Catholics are on at this time. The theme for this year's liturgy was the 'Women at the Cross' - those women who accompanied Jesus on his final journey, carrying his Cross to Golgotha, the place where he was crucified and eventually died. We focused particularly on Mary, Jesus' mother and the heartbreak she experienced in those moments before her only son was to be crucified. The liturgies, presented by students and staff highlighted the love his mother and her friends Mary Magdalene and Veronica had for Jesus and brought the reality of that final journey very much to life. The text for these liturgies is included in this edition for you to reflect upon as a family, should you wish to do so.



Andrew Parkin • Principal

EDITORIAL FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Our week-long series of events to mark International Women's Day was, this year, our biggest event to date, a wonderful celebration of women from so many different walks of life and was a really busy five days for our new Student Executive! We welcomed women from the worlds of business, economics, journalism, medicine, health and fitness, science, construction, sustainability, education, banking, politics, law, religious ministry, bee keeping and human resources! Over five days we hosted over 30 guests, with each one being looked after by members of the Executive who took it in turns to say a few words thanking our guests for joining us at our College and presenting each with a jar of St. Dominic's Honey from our hives in the grounds. The final event was a talk by Baroness Rosa Monckton who shared with us the four most influential women in her life. She touched the hearts of all those present in the Chapel that Friday morning as she detailed those who had had the most profound impact upon her over her lifetime including P.D. James, Elsa Peretti and Diana, Princess of Wales. It was a most powerful moment and moved many of us by her words. Rosa stayed for luncheon which was enjoyed by all our guests and the female staff of the College. It was a truly joyous five days that will be remembered by our students for a long time to come.

I have said many times over my 13 years as Principal at St. Dominic's that it is our students who make the place what it is. They are committed, engaged, enthusiastic and for the most part hard working. They bring us their kindness, good nature, sense of fun, baking skills and most importantly their inspirational academic and creative talents. We saw their musical creativity at our annual Jazz and Rock Café in February where over 100 of our students performed to a packed house. It was a fantastic event and, as Craig McDonagh, Assistant Principal, rightly pointed out during the vote of thanks, the backbone of the concert seemed to be given by our physicists and mathematicians! There is of course, a correlation between maths and music and we certainly experienced that on this special February night. Our sporting successes have continued this term too with wins for our teams in basketball, badminton, table tennis, volleyball, men's and women's football and netball. We will be bringing home some silverware before we close for this academic year and a full report on what we win will be given in the summer edition of Veritas. The Student Lecture programme was a new initiative this year. These have been really popular and well attended by students and staff. Subjects covered thus far have included history, biology, geography, PE, English, classics, Core RE, physics, sociology and chemistry with psychology, art and philosophy remaining. Thank you to all students and staff who have been involved in this new initiative.



EDITORIAL FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I have said many times over my 13 years as Principal at St. Dominic's that it is our students who make the place what it is. They are committed, engaged, enthusiastic and for the most part hard working. They bring us their kindness, good nature, sense of fun, baking skills and most importantly their inspirational academic and creative talents. We saw their musical creativity at our annual Jazz and Rock Café in February where over 100 of our students performed to a packed house. It was a fantastic event and, as Craig McDonagh, Assistant Principal, rightly pointed out during the vote of thanks, the backbone of the concert seemed to be given by our physicists and mathematicians! There is of course, a correlation between maths and music and we certainly experienced that on this special February night. Our sporting successes have continued this term too with wins for our teams in basketball, badminton, table tennis, volleyball, men's and women's football and netball. We will be bringing home some silverware before we close for this academic year and a full report on what we win will be given in the summer edition of Veritas. The Student Lecture programme was a new initiative this year. These have been really popular and well attended by students and staff. Subjects covered thus far have included history, biology, geography, PE, English, classics, Core RE, physics, sociology and chemistry with psychology, art and philosophy remaining. Thank you to all students and staff who have been involved in this new initiative.

Finally I am really pleased to report that our 20 Confirmation candidates from Year 1 and Year 2 will be receiving the Sacrament here at the College on Saturday May 24th in a special Mass celebrated by Bishop John Sherrington. This is the first time in many years that the College has had so many candidates and it is testament to the great work of our Chaplain, Clare Castell, that so many of our students have presented themselves for this special moment in their faith journey. Please remember these young women and men in your prayers and thoughts at this time. A full report will be in the next edition of Veritas.

Thank you for all your support from near or far for us here at St. Dominic's and I wish you and your families a very Happy Easter.



Principal

LENTEN LITURGY TRANSCRIPT

Welcome

Welcome to this Lenten Liturgy, preceding Holy Week in the Christian faith around the world. During the month of March we have celebrated International Women's Day and here in College we were fortunate to hear from a diverse range of successful women in their respective fields and specialisms. We marked Mother's Day thanking God for all that our mothers have done and do for us and today, for our Lenten liturgies, we will focus on the women accompanying Jesus at the cross. Taking a moment to remember the bravery and faithfulness of these women who stood by Jesus in His darkest hour.

In my life my mam and gran had a significant influence over me that is still prevalent with me in my heart and mind today. When I was growing up my dad travelled a lot for work and I therefore spent a lot of time with my mam and maternal grandmother who now, looking back, took great care to bring me up in a loving, supportive and Catholic household. And whilst last Sunday I no longer have my mam or gran, I thanked God for their lives and all that they gave me to be the person I am today.

So in the midst of our busy lives we pause to pray as we reflect on the suffering journey of Christ. Whatever our faith, we can understand and appreciate the pain, anguish and suffering that Jesus experienced in the final hours of His life. As we accompany Jesus on His journey to Calvary, let us take a moment to remember how difficult that journey was. He carried His cross through the narrow-crowded streets of Jerusalem. It was Passover time and so the city was full of people, many of whom mocked, jostled and took pleasure in watching as He struggled with His heavy burden. The way was often steep. The journey that Jesus made on that day remains a symbol of Christianity in the world, as it struggles with its own crosses and failures, and the challenges of modern life.

Station 4 - Jesus meets His mother

This moment must have been incredibly painful for Mary. She likely didn't fully understand why her Son had to go through so much suffering. But even in the middle of all the pain, she never left His side. She kept believing in him and loving him.

Think about the people you care about most - your parents, siblings, or closest friends. You wouldn't want to see them hurting, and you'd never want to be the cause of their pain. Jesus couldn't change what was happening, and He knew how much it hurt His mother to see him suffer. But even in that heartbreaking moment, just being together gave them both some comfort.



LENTEN LITURGY TRANSCRIPT

Mary's love shows what true strength and perseverance look like. She never gave up on Jesus, no matter how hard things got. In the same way, the strongest relationships in our lives - whether with family or friends - are built on love that stays steady, even in the toughest moments.

Reflection

We all go through stressful and difficult moments - whether it's social media, friendships, relationships, or exams. When life feels overwhelming, who do you turn to for comfort? Do you let your parents or loved ones support you, or do you keep your feelings to yourself? Maybe you don't have that kind of connection with your family, and instead, you withdraw. But opening up to the people who genuinely care about you can bring real comfort and strength when things get tough.

Prayer

Let us pray,

May we be grateful for those who take care of us, who love us. Help us to build strong trusting relationships with them and to find time to talk with and listen to them. Amen



Station 6 – Veronica wipes Jesus' face

In the midst of the crowd lining the road, a woman named Veronica stepped forward. With a simple towel, she gently wiped the dust, sweat, and blood from Jesus' face. It was an act of incredible bravery - helping someone publicly condemned, despite the risks. In full view of the soldiers and the jeering crowd, she didn't hesitate.

Veronica was a volunteer. No one asked her to help; she acted out of pure kindness. It's good to give when someone asks, but even more powerful to give without being asked - simply because we understand the need. Why did she do it? Because she was courageous and compassionate. She couldn't just stand by when she knew she could help.

There's a tradition that says the image of Jesus' face remained on her towel. We can't know for sure. But what we do know is that in that moment, she carried the true face of Jesus with her. Every act of compassion, no matter how small, reveals His presence. At the heart of life, nothing is more important than showing kindness to another human being.

LENTEN LITURGY TRANSCRIPT

Reflection

The things we do for someone in pain may seem small to us - a kind word, a note of encouragement, a small gift, baking something, or simply stopping by. But we should never overlook or underestimate these acts of kindness.

Even something as simple as a cup of cold water can mean survival for someone in the desert. In the same way, a small gesture of care can make a world of difference to someone who is struggling.

Prayer

Let us pray,

Help us to see how a simple gesture transcends itself and takes on an importance far beyond its actual value. Foster in each one of us a compassionate heart, brave enough to share another's pain, humble enough to shed a tear, big enough to shelter their hopes, ready, always, to care.
Amen

Station 8 – Some Women of Jerusalem weep for Jesus

The women did not hide their sympathy behind emotionless faces. They were not afraid to let Jesus know that they cared. If we care about others we should not be afraid to let them know this. Jesus accepted their compassion and, in return, gave them His. In the midst of His own pain and humiliation He reached out to them and offered them comfort.

Reflection

Caring deeply for others means little if we hide it behind a wall of indifference or cold professionalism. If people don't know we care, they may feel unseen, misunderstood, or even rejected.

Some see tears as a weakness, but they are actually a sign of strength. Tears show that we feel, that we care, and that we can be moved by compassion. In the end, having a heart is one of the greatest gifts we can offer - because the heart of one person holds endless riches for another.



LENTEN LITURGY TRANSCRIPT

Prayer

Let us pray,

Lord, help us to show your face of compassion and love to those around us. Let us be people that others can come to in their hour of need, trusting that we will treat them with gentleness, kindness and understanding. Amen

Music – sung by the College Choir

Come Back To Me

Come back to me with all your heart
Don't let fear keep us apart.
Trees do bend, tho' straight and tall;
So must we to others' call.

Long have I waited for your coming
home to me
And living deeply our new lives

The wilderness will lead you
To your heart where I will speak
Integrity and justice
With tenderness that you shall know.

Long have I waited for your coming
home to me
And living deeply our new lives



Final thought and reflection - Pope Francis

"Jesus, to His final hour, is surrounded by a world of mothers, daughters and sisters. Standing at His side...a long line of women bearing witness before an arid and pitiless world to the gift of tenderness and compassion, even as they did for the Son of Mary on that late morning in Jerusalem. They teach us the beauty of emotions: that we should not be ashamed when our heart is moved by compassion, when tears sometimes come to our eyes, when we feel the need of a caress and comforting words."

Concluding prayer

May the God who loves us so generously keep us from all harm and bless us with every good gift.
May the Word of God be in our hearts and fill us with lasting joy.
May we walk with God in His ways, always knowing what is right and good.
May He give us courage to fight the good fight and grace to suffice through all things.
We go in peace taking courage and Hope for a new Spring ahead.
Through Christ our Lord

Amen

POLITICS TRIP

CITY HALL

In a beautifully crafted glass house, the trip to City Hall contained pockets of surprise. In mentioning the architecture, the first thing one notices about the building itself is the stunning irregularity of it, being largely powered by renewable resources, yet minimalist in aesthetic.

A highlight for most was the privilege of seeing scrutiny in action. The students had the opportunity to witness the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, being questioned by the members of his board, from Conservatives to Labour to Greens. The topics ranged from policing to tackling homelessness, from nightlife to free school meals. However, whilst the practicality of Mayoral Question Time was witnessed, so was entertainment. The members often held nothing back, not being afraid to express their views, often at times not supportive, of what Khan has achieved in London. For example, following a question on the nightlife budget, Khan talked about night buses and trains, yet failed to directly answer the question asked on whether or not there were any incentives for business owners (like nightclubs and bars) in his plan, infuriating the member of the Chair who had asked the question. In another question, about policing, the 'debate' got heated with a member of the Chair claiming that "if you voted for this man, you voted to be poor as a Londoner".



Following this interesting experience, the students were taken on a trip through time, learning the history of London, from the 1500s and John Hetherington's controversial invention of the top hat, to London today. Finally, they were briefed on Khan's priorities as mayor, which ranged from health, housing, transport and policing, to arts and culture, regeneration and the youth.

To round up an already insightful day, the students were taken on a trip in the Cable Cars, from the Royal Victoria docks to the O2, a day well-spent.

Olive Arthur-Uchendu - Y2 Student

POLITICS TRIP CITY HALL

There comes a sense of surrealness when you happen to see someone who you have gazed upon TV screens for close to ten years. That is what I felt yesterday. The experience of seeing the man responsible for the development of our glorious city, debating on the very issues which could affect us tomorrow, what an unreal feeling that was. Seeing figures that had emblazoned TV Screens, ones I had even campaigned for in the previous year, all in the flesh, it was slightly unnerving to say the least. The debates were rigorous, cathartic and at times, ruthless.

The building elicited similar thoughts, a giant glass structure innovative as it was on the outside as it was on the inside, boasting an impressive use of renewable energy accentuated by the use of rainwater as a generator, innovative, progressive, the representation of what London had become since its emergence in 62CE, from its first Parliament in 1265 to the opening of the London Underground in 1863.

The Cable Car, albeit slow and trundling, brought us to new heights, representing what London could be, still represented what London could become. Gazing over the vast infrastructure, the schools of red trains which made up the DLR, London had been better than it was ever before, and if the song for the 1997 Labour Election Campaign was anything to go by it was that "Things could only get better".

Overall, a thoroughly engaging and insightful trip which intertwined History (Everyone remember when the GLC was closed?) and allowed us to think more constructively of devolution (which I believe has become an everyday word for me) for Politics. It allowed us to be in the very hub which would affect our very lives.

Dillon Wickramarachchi - Y2 Student



POLITICS WORKSHOP

AFGHANISTAN & CENTRAL ASIAN ASSOCIATION

On the 11th of March, the Politics Department were fortunate enough to welcome some members from the Afghanistan and Central Asian Association who ran a workshop on voting in elections and participation in democracy. It was a great opportunity to further learn about the process of getting involved in voting as a lot of us are approaching an age where we will be able to vote which many students found very helpful.

Furthermore, learning about some regions and places where voting is not a right really made us appreciate how fortunate we are to have the right to vote. We were also enlightened with some interesting facts and requirements you must meet in order to vote.

The facilitators were knowledgeable and engaging, using real-world examples to illustrate key points which further helped us walk away more educated on how to vote. Additionally, we were also told about other forms of active participation in local democracy and how it could help in other ways than voting. Overall, the workshop was not only informative but also inspired attendees to become more involved in advocating for voting rights and social justice.

Armaan Rattu - Y2 Student





POLITICS WORKSHOP

AFGHANISTAN & CENTRAL ASIAN ASSOCIATION

Recently, my class and I took part in a workshop by the Afghanistan & Central Asian Association where Malak and her team spoke about why voting is important and how young people can get involved in democracy.

They explained that voting affects health, education, jobs, security, and other important issues. They also said that laws and policies are made by those who vote, so if people do not vote, their opinions will not be represented encouraging us to register early and have a say in issues that affect us like high tuition fees and even international political stances.

The presenters talked about who can vote, including age and nationality requirements. Furthermore, they also explained the different ways to vote which includes, in person at a polling station, or by post if someone is away or busy, or, a way that was not known to many of us, by proxy if they need someone else to vote for them.

They also spoke about photo ID, which is now needed to vote, and how to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate if someone does not have the right ID.

During the workshop, we also worked in pairs to discuss why some young people do not vote. One person was given the task to share reasons why they might not want to vote, while the other person tried to convince them why voting is important. This helped us understand different views and how to encourage others to take part in democracy.

The workshop also included us recognising the politicians that are linked to our borough and city and try discussing political issues we know about and have opinions on.

At the end of the session, the presenters also offered us the chance to become Student Ambassadors. This is a great opportunity for us politics students to get involved in politics, learn more about the democratic process, and help encourage other young people to vote.

Overall, the workshop helped us understand why voting matters and how we can take part in shaping our future.

Anastasia Fernandes - Y1 Student

POLITICS WORKSHOP

AFGHANISTAN & CENTRAL ASIAN ASSOCIATION

On 11th March, the Afghanistan and Central Asian Association visited the Politics Department to run their workshop on democratic participation. The workshop made for a particularly engaging and enjoyable lesson combined with some valuable revision. The visitors made it clear the importance of voting for young people as they emphasized the slogan "Don't vote? Can't complain" as they developed the idea of voting being a civic duty that we are privileged to have. This was made especially clear when they displayed the figure that 37% of young people voted in the last election in comparison to 73% of people above the age of 40. This left a resonating message that we are fortunate to live within a democratic society where we are actively encouraged to exercise our right to vote. They also encouraged us to hold politicians accountable through our votes as they used particularly poignant and relevant examples of when this would be necessary. Moreover, the workshop included important pieces of information on how to vote which solidified our own knowledge on the topic and ultimately left us all confident about how to register to vote and the process of voting on election day. Ultimately, the workshop left us all eager to engage in politics and vote at the next opportunity.

Hannah Burke - Y2 Student

aca Afghanistan & Central Asian Association

WE ARE HIRING!

Do you live in Hounslow, Harrow, Hillingdon, Ealing, or Brent?
Join us as a

DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT AMBASSADORS

and make a real difference in your community!

Make a difference today!

Your chance to gain **leadership skills**, **connect** with others, and help **spread awareness** about voter ID requirements and registration.

You'll be trained to advocate for change, share project info with friends and family, and represent our mission at your university, schools and community including at a Voter ID clinic.

To apply, write a short paragraph explaining why you'd be a great fit for this role and send it along with your resume to electoral@afghanistan-central-asian.org.uk.

GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK IN DORSET

In February, Year 2 Geography students visited Dorset for a three-day trip to learn more about the content covered in class. Despite having to face depressing weather conditions, we conducted valuable fieldwork, deepening our understanding of the processes involved in the formation and morphology of coastlines.

The trip began with an early departure from College at 7.10am. The three-hour coach journey was quiet, with students making the most of the opportunity to sleep. After our arrival at our accommodation, we had a lesson on the factors shaping Dorset's coastline, before heading to Swanage Bay to conduct some data collection on beach profiles. The weather was nothing short of horrendous – the torrential rain and strong winds made data collection challenging, and our morale took a hit as we struggled to write down readings with frozen fingers. However, after completing the fieldwork, we had time to explore Swanage, where we eagerly sought out much-needed hot chocolates and woolly gloves to brace the days ahead. The evening consisted of dinner, another lesson, and some well-deserved free time, which some spent playing table tennis and foosball, whilst others took reviving showers.



GEOGRAPHY

FIELDWORK IN DORSET

Day two was packed with more data collection, starting at Chesil Beach, where we looked at the beach profile and the sediment on the beach. The winds were no longer hitting us, making the work a bit more bearable. Later, we visited another site along the Purbeck Heritage Coast, where we got to see and learn about awe-inspiring geological formations such as the Lulworth Crumple and Durdle Door, although the biting cold was back. Seeing these features in person reinforced the things we had studied in College, making the case studies feel much more tangible. After returning to the accommodation for showers, dinner and an evening lesson, we had some free time; a thrilling game of Monopoly became one of the highlights of the trip for those involved. Tensions peaked as deals were made, making for an intense but entertaining end to the day.

On the final morning, we travelled to Studland Bay (carefully avoiding the naturist beach) to learn about sand dunes. Our knowledge of sand dune succession was reinforced by our guide, and we then looked how the features of the dunes varied with distance from the fore dunes by gathering data, further helping us understand the processes at work. The chilling winds persisted, but by now, we had come to accept it as part of the experience.

With our final excursion complete, we boarded the coach back to College, relieved to escape the harsh weather but grateful for the experiences. As we said goodbye to Dorset, we reflected on everything we had learned and the memories we had made.

Harman Bhamra - Year 2 student



GEOGRAPHY

HYDE PARK FIELD TRIP

Our recent A-Level Geography field trip to Hyde Park provided an exciting opportunity to step out of the classroom and apply our skills in a real-world setting. The focus of our investigation was to measure tree characteristics and assess soil infiltration rates, both of which play an important role in understanding urban environments.

To collect data on infiltration, we used infiltration rings, measuring cylinders, and stopwatches. Random coordinates were selected using a number generator, and at each site, we pressed a metal ring into the soil to create a controlled testing area. A set amount of water was poured in, and we timed how long it took to fully absorb. This allowed us to compare how different areas of the park managed water drainage, which has key implications for flood risk and soil health.

For tree measurements, we recorded the height and circumference of trees. One person was assigned to measure the girth of each tree at a consistent shoulder height, while another used a tape measure and angle measurements to estimate tree height. This data helped us explore variations in tree growth and how urban green spaces contribute to carbon storage.

Despite the occasional challenges - like ensuring our infiltration rings were properly sealed or dealing with uneven ground - the experience was a fantastic way to develop fieldwork skills. The trip highlighted how geography is deeply connected to our everyday surroundings and reinforced the importance of green spaces in urban environments.

This fieldwork has also been great preparation for our Non-Examined Assessment (NEA), which we will be conducting in the summer. By practising data collection techniques and refining our approach to field investigations, we have gained valuable experience that will help us design and carry out our own independent research projects with greater confidence and accuracy.

Shivenn Hindocha - Year 1 Geography



UPDATES FROM THE CHAPLAINCY TEAM



Jubilee Podcast with Fr Derek

We were privileged to welcome Fr Derek, who delivered an inspiring podcast to all our students about the significance of the Jubilee Year – Pilgrims of Hope. He explained how this sacred time, rooted in Catholic tradition, is a call for renewal, mercy, and pilgrimage. His words encouraged us to reflect on our faith and the spiritual opportunities the Jubilee offers.

Ministries Team

Our Ministries Team at St. Dominic's continues to flourish! Several students are currently preparing to become Eucharistic Ministers, deepening their commitment to serving the College community. Additionally, we are launching a Music Group to enrich our liturgical celebrations. If you are interested in joining, please contact Abi, our Director of Music.

Roses for Bakhita House – Valentine's Day

In the lead-up to Valentine's Day, the Chaplaincy Group, led by Savia Fernandes, organised a fundraiser selling 500 roses, raising vital funds for Bakhita House. This remarkable initiative supports women escaping human trafficking, providing them with shelter, care, and a fresh start in London. A heartfelt thank you to all who contributed!



UPDATES FROM THE CHAPLAINCY TEAM: LENT

Interfaith Group

Iftar at Cardinal Newman Catholic College

As part of our ongoing commitment to interfaith dialogue, members of our Interfaith Group attended an Iftar at Cardinal Newman Catholic College. The evening was an experience of unity, as we learned about the significance of fasting in Christianity, Islam and Judaism from James Holland, Coordinator of Westminster Interfaith. The highlight of the evening was breaking the fast together. A huge thank you to Cardinal Newman Catholic College for their hospitality on the evening.

Rosary Group during Lent

Every Wednesday lunchtime throughout Lent the rosary was prayed in our Chapel. It was a beautiful time of spiritual community, and we thank all who participated in making this a meaningful part of our Lenten journey. We hope these moments of prayer brought peace and growth to your faith during this holy season.



The Big Lent Walk – Stepping Up for CAFOD!

This year, a group of St. Dominic's students took on an exciting Lenten challenge - the Big Lent Walk! With the enthusiastic and encouraging Bobby Hodge leading the way, an incredible 30 students committed to walking and tracking their steps throughout Lent, raising money for CAFOD. Bobby's energy and motivation kept everyone going, inspiring students to push themselves further each day.

Every step taken was a step towards change, raising vital funds to support CAFOD's life-changing work in communities around the world. A huge thank you to Bobby and all who participated – your dedication is making a real difference!

Feeling inspired? There's always room for more walkers next year!



UPDATES FROM THE CHAPLAINCY TEAM: LENT

On Wednesday 12th March during lunchtime, students had the opportunity to participate in a special Fairtrade awareness event in the College canteen. The event was designed to highlight the importance of Fairtrade and give students a chance to sample Fairtrade products firsthand.

As part of the event, free samples of Clipper Fairtrade hot chocolate were handed out, allowing participants to enjoy a delicious, ethically sourced treat. The response was overwhelmingly positive, with many students and staff commenting on the rich and smooth taste of the hot chocolate.

Informational materials were available, explaining how Fairtrade ensures better prices, decent working conditions, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in developing countries. Discussions took place on how choosing Fairtrade products can make a real difference in supporting sustainable farming practices and improving the livelihoods of producers worldwide.

The event successfully raised awareness about the Fairtrade movement and encouraged students and staff to consider Fairtrade options when making purchasing decisions. As a Fairtrade College we offer fairtrade products for sale in the canteen and shack. By choosing Fairtrade, we contribute to a fairer and more sustainable global trade system.

Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make the event a success!



**BE THE
CHANGE**
Buy Fairtrade today



PLANTING FOR THE FUTURE A GREENER CAMPUS

The BTEC Business students worked in partnership with the Climate Action Society to plant 120 trees donated by the Woodland Trust. Through working with this conservation charity, St Dominic's has funded over 30,500 trees. This is part of our College's commitment to sustainability. By acting, we are not only enhancing our College's green spaces but also providing habitat for wildlife, reducing carbon emission, improving air quality and preventing climate change. The students at St. Dominic's have increasing concerns about urban pollution and climate change, we believe it is essential for UK institutions to contribute to a greener future. With approximately 3 billion trees in the UK everyone has 47 trees per person, the lowest rate, when compared to other countries in Europe.

With support from our College's Groundsman Dominic Kelly, and the donation from the Woodland Trust, we were able to plant a variety of 120 saplings, including apple and cherry. Dominic marked out where we should dig and plant the saplings. Despite the mud the entire BTEC class participated alongside the Climate Action Society volunteers, with the aim of making our spaces a healthier place for both humans and animals. This tree planting initiative marks the continued effort that St. Dominic's makes towards a greener and more sustainable environment for our students. As 30% of our Earth's oxygen comes from trees, it is crucial for those who can, to make a change for the better. St. Dominic's students were involved in a similar tree planting initiative three years ago and we are now enjoying and appreciating the growth of those trees.

We look forward to seeing these saplings we have planted mature as we continue to make a positive impact on our community.

Hannah O'Connor and Sara Campean - BTEC Business students



UPDATES FROM THE CHAPLAINCY TEAM



Stations of the Cross

On Monday afternoons throughout Lent, at 3:30pm, staff and students gathered to reflect on the Stations of the Cross, led by Principal Andrew Parkin. It provided an opportunity for members of the College community to come together in faith, walking with Christ through His Passion. The solemn journey was a powerful reminder of the meaning of Lent, inviting all to pause, reflect, and deepen their spiritual connection during this holy season.

A Special Visit to the Jubilee Doors

While in Rome for the Classics and History of Art trip, a few students and I managed to make a quick but meaningful visit to the Vatican. As part of the Jubilee Year celebrations, we had the privilege of walking through the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica - a powerful symbol of renewal and mercy. Though brief, this experience was deeply moving, offering us a moment of reflection and connection to our faith in one of the most sacred places in the world.



ASSOCIATE DOMINICANS



On the 11th of March myself, Alex Matusescu, Savia Fernandes, Isabella Durrani and Harita Choukaria met with a group from the Dominican Associates to reflect on the time of Lent. The Dominican ethos of study and service made the group excited to learn more and each member shared on how Lent affected them as young people. Whether it was the unique role of women with Veronica's and Mary's care for Jesus in his final moments, or the responsibility of individuals to fight against peer pressure or become like Pilate and risk losing their connection with God, the reflection brought out how aspects of the Lenten story apply to our modern lives and motivate us to connect more deeply with God and sacrifice self for the good of others. The students are looking forward to learning more about the Dominicans when they visit the Sisters in Bushey.

Toby Agerbak – Year 2 Student

CONFIRMATION/RECONCILIATION

Confirmation Retreat Day: A Day of Reflection and Renewal

The Confirmation group at St. Dominic's recently had the opportunity to take part in a retreat day at Our Lady & St Thomas of Canterbury in Harrow, led by Paul Higginson. The day was designed to help the students deepen their understanding of their faith, strengthen their connection to God, and prepare their hearts for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Throughout the day, Paul guided the students in reflection, prayer, and discussion, encouraging them to explore their faith together. The retreat offered a peaceful and supportive environment, giving the students the space to reflect on their spiritual journey and their upcoming commitment to the Church. It was a day filled with prayer, fellowship, and growth - a truly special experience for all involved.

This retreat has served as an important moment for the students to reflect on the powerful impact of the sacrament and the role of the Holy Spirit in their lives. We are excited to see the growth in faith that will continue to unfold in the coming months.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation: A Gift of Grace During Lent

This Lent, Fr. Stuart Seaton and Fr. Martin Plunkett kindly visited St. Dominic's to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation to our students and staff. Their presence provided a meaningful opportunity for reflection, forgiveness, and spiritual renewal during this holy season.

Lent is a time for repentance, self-examination, and preparation for Easter. It is the perfect opportunity to draw closer to God, seek His mercy, and make room for His grace in our lives. The Sacrament of Reconciliation serves as a reminder that God's love and forgiveness are always available to us, no matter where we are on our spiritual journey.

We are grateful to Fr. Stuart and Fr. Martin for offering this precious gift to our school community, helping us embrace the call to repentance and renewal as we prepare for the joy of Easter.



BAKE SALE

As part of our International Women's Week celebrations, St. Dominic's hosted a vibrant and successful bake sale to raise funds for two important causes: Period Poverty and the Kujali Project. The event, which took place on a sunny day, brought together our community with a shared purpose of supporting those in need.

Thanks to the generosity of our students, staff, and families, the bake sale raised over £600! There were an incredible array of baked goods, from delicious cakes and cookies to pastries and treats. The energy and enthusiasm were contagious, making it a fun and meaningful event that not only supported vital causes but also celebrated the spirit of giving and solidarity during International Women's Week.

The funds raised will go towards addressing the needs of those facing period poverty and supporting the incredible work of the Kujali Project, which works to empower and uplift marginalised communities.



ASH WEDNESDAY

We welcomed Bishop James Curry, who celebrated a solemn yet incredibly uplifting Ash Wednesday Mass, offering a powerful and thought-provoking homily for students, staff, and parents at St. Dominic's as we began our Lenten journey.

Bishop Curry began by addressing the wars and conflicts raging across the world, particularly highlighting the suffering in Ukraine and other troubled regions. He reminded us that war always falls heaviest on the most vulnerable - women and children - who bear the brunt of displacement, loss, and hardship. Bishop Curry challenged us to imagine a world where nations sought peace instead of war, where the vast sums spent on weapons and destruction were instead used for healthcare, education, and human flourishing "What a better world that would be," he said, urging us to pray and work for peace.

Marking the approach of International Women's Day, Bishop Curry reflected on the role of women in both society and the Church. He reminded us that the Church is enriched by women's leadership, faith, and service, and that their voices must continue to be heard and valued. He referenced St. Augustine, who spoke of the transformative power of love, and echoed the words of modern-day singer-songwriter Taylor Swift in her pop song Daylight, quoting "You are what you love." He encouraged us to reflect on what truly holds our hearts - whether it is love, kindness, and justice or things that pull us away from God's path.



ASH WEDNESDAY



Turning to the season of Lent, Bishop Curry spoke about the importance of perseverance. He reminded us that sin is not simply about failing or doing wrong - it is about failing to get back up. Lent is a time for renewal. When we fall, God calls us to rise again, to keep moving forward with faith and our lives.

The Mass was both reverent and inspiring, capturing the essence of Lent - a season of reflection and repentance, yet also one of hope and spiritual renewal.

The liturgy was made even more special by the beautiful music of the choir, led by our Director of Music, Abigail Gorton. Their voices filled the Chapel with reverence and emotion as they sang throughout the Mass. The highlight of their performance came at the very end with "In Paradisum" from Fauré's Requiem. Their singing created an atmosphere of deep reflection and spiritual beauty.

ASH WEDNESDAY



As the Mass drew to a close, Head Girl Keira O'Malley stepped forward to present Bishop James Curry with a gift from the College - a heartfelt gesture of gratitude for his presence and inspiring words, as well as a way to mark his new role as Bishop.

As we received the ashes on our foreheads, Bishop Curry left us with a challenge – to seek peace, to love wholeheartedly, and to rise again, no matter how many times we fall.

CHAPLAINCY TEAM UPDATE

Arts and Crafts collection for Jack's Place, Northwick Park Hospital

Throughout Lent we have arranged an Art and Craft collection to support the Children's Ward, Jack's Place, at Northwick Park Hospital, led by Keira O'Malley and George Procter. The collection aimed to gather crafting materials for nurses and staff to use with their young patients, keeping them occupied and offering them a creative outlet during their hospital stay.

We are grateful to everyone who donated supplies, from colouring books and paints to craft kits and markers. Your generosity will help bring comfort and joy to children in need, providing them with a much-needed distraction and a chance to express themselves through art. Thank you to Keira, George, and our entire College community for making this initiative a success and supporting such a meaningful cause.



Lent Family Fast Day



On Family Fast Day, St. Dominic's came together to support the work of CAFOD, raising awareness and funds for those in need around the world. In the spirit of solidarity, we hosted a simple yet meaningful lunch of soup and a roll in the canteen, inviting staff and students to reflect on the significance of fasting and giving during Lent. Thank you to everyone who participated in this important event, making a difference through both fasting and giving.

Clare Castell – Chaplain

THOUGHTS FROM YEAR 2 CORE RE



At the end of February students were invited to think back over all the talks they had attended so far. They were asked which were the ones that had stuck most in their minds. *"To be honest, all of them did"* was obviously a pleasing response! So, too, was the fact that many students said *why* a particular talk had made an impact on them. For example, the student who said the Holocaust Talk was especially memorable explained, *"It gave me a new perspective on history"*. Andrew's talk about three schools he had visited in India struck a chord with many students because of its emphasis on kindness and because as one student explained, *"It made me reflect on the life that I have and how lucky I am"*. The different talks which were singled out give an idea of the variety of the Y2 programme (the "official" title of each talk in the programme is given in brackets):

- "The talk by the nun" (Sister Karen: Dominican Tradition)
- "The talk about Life after death" (Can these Bones Live?)
- "The one about the Good Samaritan" (Never off Duty)
- "The one on stress and revision" (Enjoying and Achieving)
- "The RAF talk" (Military Chaplaincy)
- "The talk about HIV" (Positive Voice)
- "The talk on what faith is really all about" (Believing is Doing)
- "The one on artwork" (Religion and Art)
- "The one about war" (November Remembrance)
- "The one about sharing food" (Supper at Emmaus)

Following the "Never off Duty" talk, Year 2 students completed an assessment. They were to say how the painting of "The Good Samaritan" by Van Gogh speaks to them, as an individual.

There were lots of lovely pieces of work, including the following two pieces.

THOUGHTS FROM YEAR 2 CORE RE

Victoria Gawron: The first time I looked at Van Gogh's painting of the Good Samaritan, the stream of water in the background was certainly the first thing to grab my attention. It felt almost overwhelming, as if its purpose was to focus the watcher's eyes on its distinctly compelling nature. It is strangely comforting in a story that centres around neglect and violence.

I like to think that Van Gogh was trying to focus on love and compassion, the Samaritan's ability to show kindness when nobody else did. Despite having read the parable of the Good Samaritan before, it felt equally shocking and disappointing to hear how the man, who was robbed, was neglected by both a Priest and Levite. Surely, these are people who one would assume would be there for them at any time but, even more especially, during a time of desperate need!

I think this makes Van Gogh's celebration of the Samaritan so much more special. He's an ordinary man, a charitable and caring person who saved the life of a man who had been robbed. It almost inspires confidence in the watcher of the painting, as the parable serves a reminder of the altruism that we are all capable of.



The way the robbery victim desperately clings onto the Samaritan's shirt, and the way his leg hangs freely over the side of the horse emphasises his depression and exhaustion. He is relying wholly on the Samaritan's help. Perhaps, had it not been for this support, the man would not have survived. It's interesting to also consider that the figure in the background may have been another passer-by. Either one of those mentioned in the parable, or a different careless and disinterested human. The way his back is turned away, and the greyish hues with which he is painted, compared to that of the beaten man and the Samaritan, almost makes me think that he is shown to have turned his back on God. For a person who shows love to another is showing love to God, and the person who shows hatred to another is showing hatred for God. It may be presumptuous of me to say this, but might Van Gogh be saying there are consequences for taking the dry and stone path? It is not the path to heaven. We are meant to embody love and virtue, not hatred or indifference. This makes me feel like the painting is more than just an appreciation of the Samaritan's heroism and selflessness, it is an instruction for us to act as he did, because to love and serve people is to love and serve the Lord.

THOUGHTS FROM YEAR 2 CORE RE

Yasmin Oraee Yazdi: The painting of the Good Samaritan shows me the nobility and morality of those who help others even when it causes them difficulty. In the painting, we can clearly see the effort that it takes for the Samaritan to heave the victim onto his horse. But we can also see the dependency that the victim has on the Samaritan. This elicits sympathy towards the victim but also pride towards the Samaritan who shoulders this difficulty. There is no apparent benefit that the Samaritan gains from the difficulty. He only helps the victim out of a sense of duty and morality.

This to me makes his act more noble, since it is not done out of selfish intent, and he does not gain anything. In the parable, the Samaritan actually loses money rather than gains anything. Yet he still helps the victim even though helping is to his own detriment.

The painting shows a person walking away in the distance, presumably the priest from the parable. This speaks to me as it shows that being religious is not necessarily in your status or appearance, rather the Samaritan is acting more religiously in this instance since his faith is apparent through his actions instead of his words. The Samaritan's simple clothes and the simple background of nature in the picture further speak to me about the simplicity of being kind and doing good acts. Acting morally does not always need to be extravagant.

Overall, the most important message of this painting to me is the importance of fulfilling our duty and acting morally even when nobody else chooses to, and even when doing good does not benefit you and instead causes you difficulty. This is a character trait often emphasised in modern philosophy, such as in Kantian ethics, but also in my own faith of Islam where we are taught to do good in private and tell nobody to ensure that our intentions are noble and not meant to make ourselves appear better in society. To do good when nobody is watching and when it causes you harm is true moral character, and this painting illustrates that to me.

Wishing you a Happy Easter
Helena Shaw - Head of Core RE



SPANISH DEPARTMENT BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE

On the 9th of January, students, including myself, from both Spanish classes in Year 12 were given the opportunity to attend a screening of the film “Volver” by Pedro Almodóvar at the British Film Institute. As this film is a part of our A Level studies, this viewing and further discussions provided us with a useful introduction to the world of Almodóvar - making it a very beneficial trip to enhance our knowledge as well as appreciate the cultural depth of the film. Alongside this, we fortunately got the chance to listen to lectures in Spanish given by Professor Sarah Wright from Royal Holloway and Dr Miguel García from the University of Bristol, whom both specialise in Hispanic studies and provided us with much more information about the films of Almodóvar and his unique filmmaking. Overall, the trip was an enriching experience, for all students, in strengthening our Spanish skills and receiving an insight about the film we will be studying for the next few months.

Karolina Izba – Year 1 Student



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2025

St. Dominic's Sixth Form College proudly marked International Women's Week 2025 with a week-long celebration of the achievements, contributions, and resilience of women across various fields. This year's theme, *Accelerate Action*, provided a powerful foundation for an engaging series of talks and events that highlighted the importance of gender equality and representation.

The week featured a diverse range of inspirational talks, all of which were exceptionally well attended by students and staff alike. A particular highlight was the keynote address by Baroness Rosa Monckton MBE, who shared her profound insights on advocacy and leadership. Equally inspiring was the talk from St. Dominic's alumna, Uma Kumaran MP (representing Stratford and Bow), who spoke passionately about the role of women in politics and the importance of representation in public office.

Other thought-provoking sessions included discussions on *Women in Law*, *Women in Public Office*, *Women in Journalism*, and *Women in a Green World*, each offering unique perspectives on the challenges and successes faced by women in these fields. Students were particularly engaged in the *Women in Medicine* and *Women in Physics* talks, which encouraged them to consider careers in traditionally male-dominated industries.

The week also saw the success of our Visual and Performing Arts Higher Education and Careers Evening, which showcased opportunities for aspiring creatives. Additionally, a charity bake sale raised an outstanding amount in support of Period Poverty.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all speakers and participants who made this celebration so impactful.

Bryan Johnston – Assistant Principal



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



REFLECTIONS FROM THE HEAD BOY AND HEAD GIRL

Over my, albeit short, time as Head Boy so far, I must say the role has exceeded my expectations. The opportunities I have had so far are invaluable to the growth of myself as, not only a student, but holistically as an individual, from chances to meet incredible guests such as Baroness Rosa Monckton and Head of Admissions at Cambridge University Mike Nicholson, to responsibilities such as designating new society heads, my experiences so far have nothing but surpassed all I could have hoped to find at St. Dominic's. I am proud of the way our entire Student Executive has grown into the roles, and I look forward to the many new moments I will have the fortune of spending as Head Boy of St. Dominic's.

Looking back on my first term as Head Girl, I can honestly say it's been an incredibly exciting and memorable experience. From day one, I've loved being more involved in the College community, whether it's helping to organise fundraisers, hosting visitors, or representing the College at events. It's given me the chance to meet some truly inspiring people - both from inside and outside the College - and has made me even prouder to be part of such a supportive environment. It's been amazing to collaborate with such a committed and enthusiastic team and I'm looking forward to what the rest of the year brings.

GEORGE PROCTER – HEAD BOY



KEIRA O'MALLEY – HEAD GIRL



HISTORY OF ART ALUMNI TALK

On Thursday 16th January, two of our ex-students came to visit us before they returned to university. Jen Mak is in her final year at Lincoln University studying Conservation. She has worked on a number of live projects including a Michelangelo cartoon and a Chinese scroll, both at the British Museum, and more recently on a fresco painting at Stowe House, believed to be by a Venetian artist. She told us about some of the techniques she uses and what her plans are for next year.



Sanaer Madden is in her second year at Cambridge studying History of Art. She has been studying specialisms this year including Imperial Patronage in Early Modern China and Paris from 1715-1815 studying the changes across the city. She explained the course programme and the opportunities for studying abroad.

They answered lots of questions from Year 1 and 2 students from the amount of studying required each week to the city night life. We are so lucky to have students who are happy to keep in touch and return to inspire the students of the future.



SPORTS REPORT UPDATE

It has been an exciting year for sport at St. Dominic's, with more sport on offer than ever before. We now have 10 different sports on offer, including cross country. Gym memberships have grown substantially to 99 members with the help of Bobby Hodge, who has brought his years of experience working at David Lloyd into the College.

This season our two new sports that participated in leagues were Women's Football and Volleyball. These teams have done so well, with Women's Football finishing 2nd and the Volleyball team with one more match to play is currently undefeated and in 1st place. Table Tennis this year also took off with St. Dominic's entering a team of 5 students for the Jack Petchey Table Tennis Tournament. We went on to win the London Regionals Quarter Final that was held in London. The Table Tennis team then went onto the Semi Finals in Grantham, Lincolnshire, which was a great day with some incredible Table Tennis being played. We came 3rd overall meaning that they would narrowly miss qualifying for the final by 1 point, as the top two teams went through to the final. We have competed in the leagues for Badminton, Basketball, Men's Football, Women's Football, Netball and Volleyball. We played in the cup for Men's Football, and we are going to the national semifinals for Badminton in April 2025.

Throughout the academic year, St. Dominic's students will also take part in intra college sport events from all the chosen sports above. We have completed the Pickleball intra-college tournament, where Aravindha Gunaratne and Charles Cadman were crowned champions. We will also be hosting the intra-college volleyball tournament on the 2nd of April 2025. Finally, we will be hosting our annual staff vs students cricket fixture toward the end of the academic year.



SPORTS REPORT UPDATE

A big thank you to our year two sports ambassadors Ashleigh Kinsey, Natalia Krauz, Kareena Jalan, Ireoluwa Sangosanya, Aravindha Gunaratne, Kornel Debicki, Ronit Puspasen and Rian Chotai. They have been a great help supporting the sports department during lunchtime and after-school sporting activities and other extracurricular events. So many students have benefitted from the sports provision with over 100 students regularly attending lunchtime sports sessions, with Pickleball being particularly popular.

On the 3rd of July 2025, we will be hosting our annual sports day at St. Dominic's Park. We will be sending out entries for the various events after the UPE exams to see which tutor group will reign supreme and lift the Sports Day Cup. We will be looking for volunteers as well as participants, so we hope you will all make the sports day as great an event as it has been in previous years.

We will be attending an Athletics meet at Lee Valley on Wednesday 14th May with students competing in a number of events ranging from 100m sprint to the Discus. This is part of the expansion of our sporting provision, and the introduction of summer sports. With the Sports Hall being taken up for exams after Easter, we will be using the sports field at the back of the College to keep lunchtime sports going with a variety of summer sports such as rounders.



SPORTS REPORT

MEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM

Football this year was a lot more challenging with the team being placed two leagues higher from the AOC regional league to the AOC London's Championship league. We also entered the team into the AOC London Cup Competitions. Unfortunately, we got knocked out in the quarter finals stage. Our students played nine games, winning three games and losing five games, with a goal difference of 32 goals scored and 35 goals conceded. We ended the season in 4th place. This is an incredible achievement considering moving up two leagues with a new team joining St. Dominic's at the beginning of the academic year. We are looking forward to competing in the league and cup competitions in the next academic year.



FIXTURES

RESULTS

TABLE

MATRIX VIEW

FORM

TEAM	PLD	W	D	L	+	-	+/-	PTS
Oaklands College PM U19's	9	5	0	1	39	14	25	15
Barnet and Southgate College Team 2	10	5	0	3	36	15	21	15
Capital City College Group (CCCG Hornchurch Academy)	10	5	0	1	24	14	10	15
St Dominics Roman Catholic Sixth Form College ST Dom's Football 1STS	9	3	0	5	32	35	-3	9
Lambeth College Mens Football	7	2	0	3	13	18	-5	6
Harrow College 1st	9	1	0	8	17	65	-48	3

SPORTS REPORT

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM

The Women's Football Team were a new team at St. Dominic's this academic year. We entered the team into the AOC London Women's league. It was a nail-biting first game in the league with the girls unfortunately losing 2-1 to St. Francis Xavier College. The girls played exceptionally well for the rest of the season. We are beyond proud of the girls and to finish 2nd in the league is a phenomenal achievement. The girls are definitely looking forward to the new season in the next academic year.



FIXTURES

RESULTS

TABLE

MATRIX VIEW

FORM

TEAM	PLD	W	D	L	+	-	+/-	PTS
Saint Francis Xavier College Womens Team	7	6	1	0	15	3	12	19
St Dominics Roman Catholic Sixth Form College St Doms Girls Football team 2024- 2025	7	1	2	1	6	5	1	5
Barnet and Southgate College Team 2	4	1	0	1	9	11	-2	3
New City College Women's 1	7	0	1	3	10	13	-3	1
Uxbridge College	7	0	0	3	1	9	-8	0

SPORTS REPORT

BADMINTON TEAM



The badminton team's commitment showed throughout the season as these badminton players would travel to Harrow Leisure Centre and latterly Vale Farm for training sessions and some games. This paid off as their resilience and determination to succeed shone brightly with the team winning all their games apart from two losses to Hills Road, which were closely fought battles. We have qualified for the semi-finals of the AOC National Cup and so will be travelling to the University of Birmingham on 30th April to compete for the cup.

FIXTURES

RESULTS

TABLE

MATRIX VIEW

FORM

TEAM	PLD	W	D	L	+	-	PTS
Hills Road 6th Form College Hills Road Badminton Team	6	6	0	0	50	13	18
St Dominics Roman Catholic Sixth Form College Badminton 1STS	5	3	0	2	34	16	9
Leyton Sixth Form College	5	2	0	3	25	28	6
Capital City College Group capital city college group (CCCG)	6	0	0	6	4	56	0

SPORTS REPORT

CROSS COUNTRY/BASKETBALL



As a College we have entered two Cross Country races at Harrow School, one in November and one in March. For the majority of our Cross-Country it was their very first experience of a Cross Country race. It was so good to see their genuine enthusiasm in taking part and despite the muddy conditions, they all said how much they enjoyed the race.

Following on from last season in which we did not quite manage to win a game, this season we won all our games apart from the two against Berkshire College of Agriculture (an academy team), which were very close. The team had a great attitude the whole season, they worked very hard and well together and were a pleasure to work with. Other teams said that they were the best team they had played all year. We look forward to improving again next year.



SPORTS REPORT

BASKETBALL TEAM

The Basketball team have really been impressive this season. They are going to finish 4th in a tough league with the three teams above St. Dominic's being academy teams that train and play five days a week. The St. Dominic's boys were still very competitive with every game. They played 10 games and got four wins and four losses with two games that still need to be rescheduled before the end of the season. The boys are looking to win those last two games to stay in the top four of the league. We are proud of the commitment and effort from the basketball players this season.



FIXTURES

RESULTS

TABLE

MATRIX VIEW

FORM

TEAM	PLD	W	D	L	PF	PA	PD	PTS	PCT
United Colleges Group UCG BASKETBALL	12	10	0	2	851	502	349	30	0.833
Ealing Hammersmith And West London College	10	6	0	2	568	408	160	18	0.600
Sedgehill Academy Sedgehill MenTeam B	10	5	0	2	510	222	288	15	0.500
St Dominics Roman Catholic Sixth Form College ST Dom's Basketball 1STS	10	4	0	4	387	379	8	12	0.400
Saint Francis Xavier College Basketball Mens	11	3	0	6	435	572	-137	9	0.273
LIFT Kingsley Academy Mens Basketball	10	2	0	5	231	392	-161	6	0.200
St Charles College AoC Basketball	11	2	0	8	330	747	-417	6	0.182
Harris Lowe Academy Willesden Harris Willesden II	10	0	0	3	133	223	-90	0	0

SPORTS REPORT

VOLLEYBALL TEAM



The volleyball team entered its first official competitive year this year with our debut in the AOC London Mixed League, having an incredibly strong start, going undefeated against three schools so far. The team has progressed significantly from its origins as a lunchtime sport activity. The players now focus on their specialist positions and run a rotation system the professionals use. The team has a clear path for progression to reach higher levels of technical ability and more fun games all around, which will prepare them well for the league and they will be entered into the AOC mixed National cup competition next year.

FIXTURES

RESULTS

TABLE

MATRIX VIEW

FORM

TEAM	P	W	L	SF	SA	PF	PA	PQ	SQ	PTS
St Dominics Roman Catholic Sixth Form College ST Doms Mixed Volleyball Team 2024-2025	3	3	0	7	1	0	0	0	7.000	6
Leyton Sixth Form College Mixed Volleyball	3	2	0	6	1	0	0	0	6.000	4
Barnet and Southgate College Mixed Cup Team	4	2	2	7	7	0	0	0	1.000	4
Haringey Sixth Form College Haringey Sixth form College	3	0	2	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Newham 6th Form College NewVic Mixed Volleyball team	3	0	3	2	8	0	0	0	0.250	0

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE TRIP

On 20th January 2025, 16 A Level PE students undertook a bespoke Sports Science taster day at the University of Hertfordshire. This trip helped breach the gap between theory learnt in the classroom and technological resources that are used as gold standard in high level sports teams.

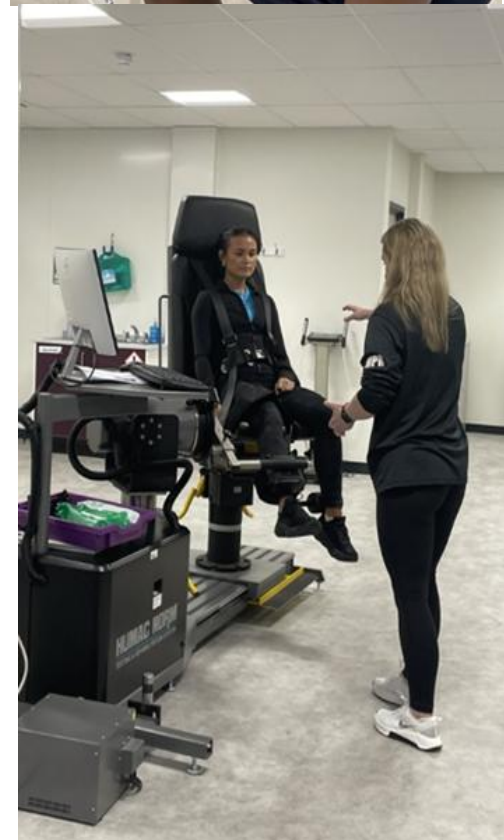
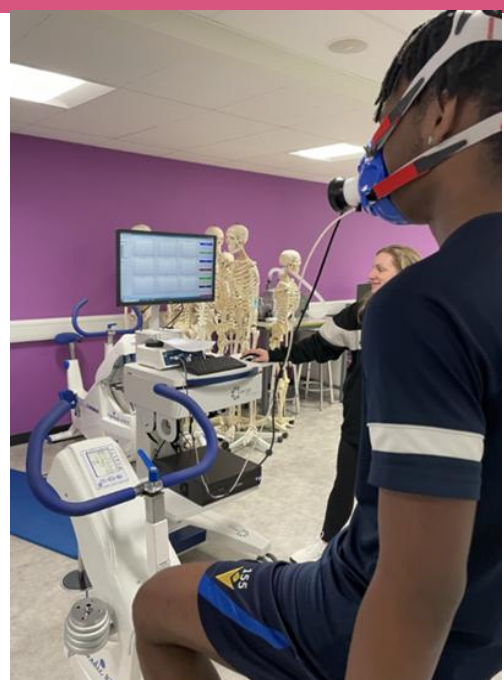
The students undertook a variety of tests such as a VO2 max test assessing aerobic capacity, a Wingate test assessing anaerobic power, as well as having a look at a variety of machines that measured force and power in various muscle groups. Students were also shown the altitude chamber, where the environment is manipulated to simulate what it will be like in high altitude locations. At the end of the day, all students undertook an ankle taping practical which allowed them to get a better insight into the world of a Sports Therapist.

Imogen Day (Year 1 student) had the following to say about the day:

"In January, as part of the PE course, we were given a fantastic opportunity to visit the University of Hertfordshire on a Sports Science taster day. When learning topics such as anatomy and physiology, many tests can only be carried out in labs, which we got to experience, which helped to deepen our understanding."

The trip allowed us to participate in the VO2 max test and the Wingate test for power. Additionally, we got shown an altitude simulator chamber, a power room with specialist equipment such as a deadlift bar and pressure plates and a proprioception test. We learnt how beneficial these tests can be to professional athletes to monitor their progress and adapt their training programs. This trip also allowed us to develop a greater understanding of what to expect when fulfilling a degree in sports science, since many of us are interested in a career along this pathway."

The highlight of the trip for many of us was the taping lesson, due to our class being full of aspiring physiotherapists, and the session allowed us to physically practice these skills. Overall, this trip will help us to apply our knowledge better in exam questions due to us fully understanding the concepts behind these specific tests and also allowed us to develop skills, useful in later university life."



PHYSICAL EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE TRIP



PHYSICAL EDUCATION HARROW SCHOOL TRIP



On Monday 3rd March 2025, all first year A Level PE students went on a trip to Harrow School to complement their knowledge of the way in which private schools have influenced the development of sport. As part of the socio-cultural aspect of A Level PE, students need to gain an understanding of how the history of sport has been affected through the private schools forming NGBs, developing the house system and seeing how the 'old boys' network' help spread sport around the world. In addition, we consider socio-economic factors that affect participation in sport, including resources, facilities, coaching, schooling etc., which can be seen at Harrow School with their incredible range of sporting facilities and opportunities for competition.

Hernan Inyang (Year 1 Student) commented:



"My classmates and I in my Year 1 class visited Harrow School to see the evolution in sport at one of the best private boarding schools in the country. The main objective was to visualize the sports that the public-school boys at Harrow School played in the 19th century and how they are still played to this day as it is in the school's traditional sporting ethos. Since I am an A level PE student, this benefitted me contextually as I can use this experience in my exams for AO2 when I am talking about the middle/upper classes' influences in sport as Harrow School, alongside other top schools like Eton, were seen as a melting pot in the post-industrial era which was significant in the development of the NGBs, by old boys meeting at university. One of the most fascinating parts about the trip was seeing the housing systems set in action via designated buildings as sport in a school has a high emphasis of importance in Harrow which was also seen through the world class football, rugby and golf facilities they have to offer. Towards the end of the trip, we had a chance to play traditional public-school sports like Fives and Rackets, delivered by specialist John Eaton, and this was the cherry on top on a worthwhile experience surrounding sporting history."

BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

EXPLORING BUSINESS AND CULTURE IN BERLIN

Last February, students from the Business and Economics departments embarked on an exciting educational trip to Berlin, immersing themselves in the city's rich history, industry, and culture.

The trip provided an incredible hands-on learning experience. Students explored production methods at the BMW factory, gaining insight into the efficiency and innovation behind automobile manufacturing. A visit to the Spy Museum offered a fascinating look at the world of espionage, uncovering the intriguing role of intelligence operations in history. At the Berlin TV Tower, students enjoyed breathtaking panoramic views of the city, appreciating its architectural beauty and historical significance. To top it off, they had the chance to learn the art of crafting delicious German chocolates - a sweet highlight of the trip!

Beyond enhancing their understanding of Business and Economics, the trip created unforgettable memories, fostering curiosity, teamwork, and a deeper appreciation for learning beyond the classroom.

It was truly an experience to remember!

Rose Painter, Head of Business Studies



BTEC WORK EXPERIENCE

At the beginning of March 2025, our BTEC Business students participated in a work experience initiative in collaboration with the EDT Inspiring Careers Programme. This formed part of their Work Experience in Business coursework and provided them with an invaluable opportunity to gain real-life experience in a professional setting. Alongside developing practical skills, students were able to build important contacts in the world of work, where networking and recommendations are key to future success. Four students were selected to work with SCS, one of the major contractors involved in the HS2 high-speed railway project.

Caroline Albuquerque (Year 2) details her account of this invaluable opportunity below.

Samantha Clarke-Henry, Teacher of Business Studies

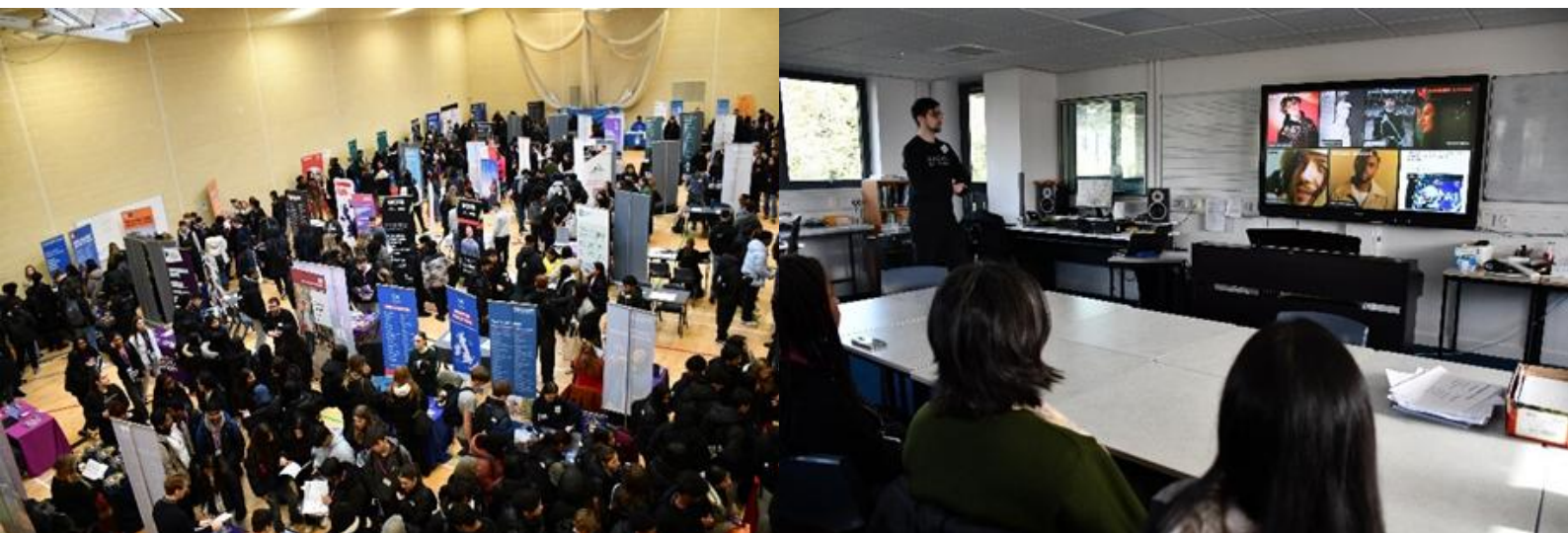
"I had the incredible opportunity to experience life behind the scenes of one of the largest projects in the UK currently, the HS2 train development. My work placement with SCS Railways gave me a good taste of working life, filled with challenges and opportunities.

Each day was full of unique activities which were designed to include me in different aspects of the project.

On Monday I started things off with an induction and hazard school which set the tone for a safe and productive week, so I knew what was going on. Tuesday was a walk and talk session with Kelly where I learned about the impact of the project on local communities, followed by a tour of the security room in the afternoon. Wednesday's highlight was a site visit in the morning led by Joe Reed, where I saw all the progress and it was amazing to see how large scale the project was. Thursday was spent crafting traffic management maps with Hayley and Allison and Friday was all about presenting my experiences. It was an eye-opening week that showcased the many processes, materials and the skills that people had which drove such a huge project.

The experience has opened doors for my future with HS2's longtime line. I can still apply to work with SCS Railways even after university, since the estimated end date for the project is in the 2030s. Additionally, companies like Skanska, Strabag, Costain and SCS Railways offer apprenticeship schemes that could be stepping stones for a career in engineering, construction or perhaps even an office job like finance. My HS2 week was more than a placement. It was a launchpad for building connections, exploring opportunities, and helping me to envision a role in shaping one of the UK's largest projects."

CAREERS DEPARTMENT SPRING 2025



The Careers programme started the Spring term with our annual HE & Future Careers Day. This is a key event in our careers calendar and gives students the opportunity to meet with over 100 employers, universities and apprenticeship providers. Students were able to attend two talks from a choice of over 40 different subjects including new subjects for this year: Real Estate, Physics and Fashion Management. Highlights included a Mechanical Engineer working within Nuclear Safety, a local business owner on the importance of brand marketing and a Cardiologist discussing the variety of healthcare roles in the NHS. At our Careers Fair, students met representatives from universities across the UK as well as local and national employers to find out more about studying at degree level, degree and higher apprenticeships and other qualifications. We were pleased to have our biggest number of apprenticeship providers attend this year including the Metropolitan Police, the Civil Service, TFL and Accenture.



This term, we have welcomed a variety of visitors to help inspire and inform our students about pathways that may have previously been unexplored. On 11th March, Dr Baljinder Mankoo from King's College, London came to talk about studying Natural Sciences and the degree programme that he has developed which embraces the skills and knowledge from Computer Science, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students were able to hear about the double pendulum and how it helps scientists understand chaotic systems such as the weather.

CAREERS DEPARTMENT

SPRING 2025

On 12th March we held our first Economics and Business Speed Networking event designed to help students explore career pathways with these subjects. We welcomed seven visitors from the world of business and finance including five alumni who had studied either Economics or Business A level here at St. Dominic's and are now working within investment banking, actuarial science, technology and finance. Students were able to network with our visitors and ask questions about their career path and job role in this fast-paced, carousel-style event.

On Thursday 20th March we held an online Student Finance talk by Mark Alger from Kingston University. Year 2 students, parents and guardians were able to find out about the application process, fee and maintenance loans and how student loans are repaid. The presentation has been sent out via email if you were unable to attend the meeting.



UCAS

Year 1 students will begin their UCAS journey by signing up to the UCAS hub in tutorial once the new 2026 entry cycle starts on 29th April. Students will be able to research courses, universities and apprenticeships in advance of starting their application in June.



Our Year 2 students have been receiving their offers for university and some have started to finalise their firm and insurance choices. We encourage all students to attend Offer holder days where possible before making their final decision. We have seen an increase in the number of students who have also been getting through to the final stages of some highly competitive higher and degree apprenticeship schemes and are now awaiting the outcome of those interviews.

Careers Ambassadors:

We have recently launched our Careers Ambassadors 2025 programme where first-year students can represent their tutor groups and help to shape the careers programme at St. Dominic's. They will be trained as UCAS and apprenticeship experts and promote career activities. They are encouraged to canvas the views of their peers about the types of careers events that they would like to see and even help organise them. We have over 35 students signed up so far.

CAREERS DEPARTMENT

SPRING 2025

Upcoming events

- Tuesday 13th May: UCAS and Alternative Destinations presentation: Our annual online UCAS and Alternative Destination talk to help first-year parents and guardians best support their young people through the university and apprenticeship application process.
- Wednesday 21st May: Alternatives to Medicine talk by the University of Exeter.
- Friday 4th July – UCAS and Apprenticeships event covering subject-specific personal statements, apprenticeship applications, super-curricular activities and employability skills.
- A Star Future: A talk for students interested in applying to university outside of the UK, the application processes, fees, nationality and what to consider when applying to study abroad.
- Allied Healthcare Professions Speed Networking event.
- Biology Speed Networking event.

Alumni Network

We love to keep in touch with all our students once they have left St. Dominic's and many come back to support our various career events. We ask all Year 2 students to sign up to our Alumni network via Future First.

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

Anna Scarampi – Careers Leader
Lisa Harper – Careers Adviser

ENGLISH TRIP

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

On 16th December, Year 2 English Literature students had the fantastic opportunity to visit the National Theatre to watch *The Importance of Being Earnest*, starring Ncuti Gatwa and Sharon D Clarke. The anticipation was high as we arrived at the iconic venue, and the atmosphere inside was electric. The production brought Oscar Wilde's classic comedy to life with vibrant energy, sharp wit, and brilliant performances. Ncuti Gatwa was especially captivating as the charming and mischievous Algernon, while Sharon D Clarke's presence as Lady Bracknell added a commanding and humorous touch. The staging and costumes were stunning, blending tradition with a fresh, dynamic take on the play. There was a lot of pink. The audience was thoroughly engaged, laughing throughout and applauding enthusiastically at the end. It was an unforgettable experience that deepened my appreciation for live theatre and the deep intelligence of Wilde's wit.

Georgina Clyde - Head of English & Modern Foreign Languages



THEATRE STUDIES UPDATE

Paper Birds Workshop, January 2025

This academic year, our A-Level Theatre Studies students have immersed themselves in a series of enriching experiences, each designed to enhance their practical skills and deepen their appreciation for the diverse facets of theatre. Every moment has been an opportunity to engage with professional practitioners, explore innovative staging techniques, and witness performances that challenge and inspire.

We commenced the year with an intensive workshop led by The Paper Birds, a UK-based theatre company renowned for their devised and verbatim theatre. Their approach emphasises the importance of authentic storytelling, and students engaged in exercises that focused on transforming real-life dialogue into compelling monologues. Through structured activities on movement, character, motif, and exposing the process, the workshop provided a strong foundation for the students' Component 1 devised performances. They experimented with physical theatre and non-verbal communication to reinforce narrative, making their work more impactful and thematically rich.

Theatre Trips

Throughout the year, our students have had the privilege of attending several major theatre productions, each offering a unique insight into different performance styles. *Stranger Things: The First Shadow* demonstrated how theatre can rival cinema in its immersive storytelling, using sophisticated visual effects, gripping performances, and a seamless blend of naturalism and heightened theatricality to draw audiences into its supernatural world.

The Aylesbury Waterside Theatre's minimalist production of *A Christmas Carol* stripped away elaborate set designs in favour of a raw, text-focused performance that emphasized characterisation and atmosphere. This approach highlighted the importance of vocal and physical storytelling, making every movement and intonation count. *The Play That Goes Wrong* provided a complete contrast, showcasing the precision required in physical comedy. Each comedic mishap was timed to perfection, demonstrating the technical discipline behind making something look effortlessly chaotic. The production's expert use of misdirection, split-second cueing, and escalating absurdity illustrated how comedy relies on a combination of structured performance and fearless spontaneity.

THE PLAY THAT GOES
WRONG

THEATRE STUDIES UPDATE

Our participation in The Old Vic's Take the Lead programme allowed students to develop essential employability skills through theatre-based techniques. Over a series of four dynamic workshops, they explored key competencies such as communication, self-management, self-belief, teamwork, and problem-solving. The programme culminated in a trip to The Old Vic to watch *Oedipus*, a contemporary adaptation of Sophocles' tragedy co-directed by Matthew Warchus and Hofesh Shechter. Starring Rami Malek as Oedipus and Indira Varma as Jocasta, the production's bold staging choices created a powerful theatrical experience. The opening scene, with a giant backdrop of a skull-like face looming over the stage, set a foreboding tone, while the chorus, played by dancers from the Hofesh Shechter Company, moved with an almost hypnotic, primal energy, embodying the collective anguish of Thebes. The fusion of dance and drama transformed the classical text into an electrifying modern spectacle, challenging conventional interpretations and showcasing the emotional weight of fate and consequence.



THEATRE STUDIES UPDATE

Enrichment

Beyond the classroom and theatre visits, the Musical Theatre Enrichment group has spent the year developing skills in staging and performing musical numbers. This training was set to culminate in a performance at the Jazz and Rock Café event, offering students the opportunity to apply their learning in a high-energy, live setting. Meanwhile, the department's main production of *We Will Rock You* encountered logistical challenges, leading to its postponement. While disappointing, this has fuelled even greater creative ambition, and plans are already in motion for an exciting new production in February 2026. Details will be revealed in due course, but one thing is certain: it will be worth the wait.

This year's combination of workshops, performances, and practical experiences has not only strengthened students' technical abilities but has also broadened their understanding of theatre as an evolving and boundary-pushing art form. Each experience has reinforced the importance of risk-taking, adaptability, and creative collaboration. While some subjects require students to work in textbooks, theatre demands that they work on their feet, in the moment, shaping and reshaping ideas in real-time. Theatre is not just about watching or performing; it is about creating. Those who have been part of this journey know what it means to bring something to life, and for those who haven't, they can only wonder what they are missing.

Stephen Leib – Head of Theatre Studies



THEATRE STUDIES

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER: JAZZ AND ROCK CAFÉ



Siena Hall, lit by the glow of stage lights and gently swirling haze, transformed into the perfect venue for a spirited evening of jazz and rock. The entire show, put together by talented students and staff, struck a balance between polished musicianship and the raw energy of live performance.

The Opening Jazz Ensemble - Emily Santos (vocals), Jack Parsons (piano), Rachel Young (bass), and Max Hill (drums) - kicked things off with a sophisticated take on "All of Me" and "Autumn Leaves". Emily's vocals were smooth and emotive, while Jack's improvisational piano runs highlighted the group's synergy.



THEATRE STUDIES

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER: JAZZ AND ROCK CAFÉ

A series of individual performances followed each showcasing a distinctive style:

- Harriet Brown offered a soulful, bluesy take on “Summertime,” her range and control drawing enthusiastic applause.
- Theo Williams injected a welcome jolt of energy with his rock-infused version of “Valerie”, catching the audience by surprise.
- Jessica Li delivered a poised and nuanced rendition of “At Last,” demonstrating clear technical skill and a warm tone.

Instrumentally, Jake Novak brought an intimate charm to “Blackbird” on guitar, enhanced by Siena Hall’s club-like ambience, underscored the depth of talent present at St. Dominic’s.

Partway through the night, The House Band - Anthony Smith, Anita Clay, Mark Driscoll, and Laila Fraser - hit the stage with powerful riffs and driving percussion. Their lively cover of “Sweet Child O’ Mine” turned heads and had more than a few audience members tapping along.

The final act of the evening, also courtesy of The House Band, really brought the house down. Their rousing finale - an up-tempo rock anthem - left the hall reverberating with applause and cheers. It was a fitting capstone to a night that blended community spirit with remarkable talent. By the end, the only regret anyone had was for those who were not there to experience it.

Stephen Leib – Head of Theatre Studies



TRIP TO LEEDS

I recently travelled to Leeds for an event at Lloyds Bank, and it was a day filled with valuable insights and experiences. We took an early train from King's Cross to Leeds, which was a comfortable and scenic ride. Upon arrival, I was eager to dive into the day's agenda and make the most of the opportunity.

The event focused on key areas related to finance, recruitment, and career planning, which were all incredibly useful for me as I start thinking about my future career. One of the main takeaways was about apprenticeships. I learned how important it is to align your personal values with a company's values when applying for positions. This was a key point I had not fully considered before, but it made perfect sense. It is not just about getting a job but finding the right fit that matches your goals and beliefs.

We also had the chance to step into the shoes of a recruiter, which gave me a fresh perspective on what makes a strong CV stand out. It was a helpful session, especially given how competitive the job market is today. I picked up some useful tips on how to craft a CV that catches the attention of recruiters, which will definitely be valuable as I pursue opportunities in law and finance.

One of the most useful sessions was "Me@23," where we discussed financial planning and how to work towards the lifestyle we want by the time we are 23. It made me think more seriously about financial goals and the steps I need to take to achieve my ideal career and lifestyle. It was practical and eye-opening, showing me how important it is to plan ahead.

The day reinforced my passion for a career in law and finance, and I'm now even more motivated to pursue a solicitor degree apprenticeship. I'm excited to keep building my skills and knowledge in these fields and to continue working toward my dream career.

Overall, the event at Lloyds Bank was a great experience, and I left with a clearer understanding of what I need to do to take the next steps in my career. It was an excellent opportunity to learn and grow, and I'm grateful for the staff that accompanied us on this journey and for the College's support in the application and travel.

Farhiya Hassan - Year 1 Student



BIOLOGY

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

The Keynote event from the Women Beekeepers was an eye-opening introduction into the fundamental role that bees play as pollinators. Caroline Geheran, one of the speakers, spoke about her work with many hives ranging from the hives at St. Dominic's to many embassy gardens. The talk was very informative including beekeeping history, the process of harvesting honey and beeswax and the different types of bees within a hive. Caroline showed us many local beeswax and honey products available such as beeswax candles and leather polish and a variety of hand balms. They enlightened us on the manuka honey benefits and scepticism, and the mass movement of bees to pollinate almond and avocado plants in places like California. Overall, the talk was interesting and useful for people to learn of the vital role bees play in the ecosystem.

Isabella Durrani – Year 2 Biology Student



BIOLOGY

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

When our College organised a chick hatching programme, I never expected it to be such a heartfelt and emotive experience. Watching new life form from eggs was truly incredible, seeing the tiny chicks break free from their shells and take their first wobbly steps was a deeply moving moment. It was amazing to witness how something so small and fragile could emerge full of life.

During the programme, I was one in a group of students assigned the responsibility of looking after the chicks, ensuring they were safe, warm, and well cared for. The moment I first held a chick in my hands, I felt an instant attachment. Their tiny bodies were so soft and delicate, and I could feel them trembling slightly. It struck me how vulnerable they were, and I knew I had to handle them with the utmost gentleness and care.

The live cam 'chick watch' had the whole College involved in seeing the chicks develop. They were soon making their voices heard, fluffing up their feathers and getting into mischief. One morning, the chicks had accidentally tipped over their water bowl, soaking their bedding with water.

Among the flock, one chick stood out to me. She seemed to recognise me, following my movements and settling calmly in my hands whenever I picked her up. It was as if she had chosen me as her carer, and I could not help but feel a special bond with her.

Through this experience, I learned the importance of responsibility and compassion. These tiny creatures had no voice, no way to express their needs, and they depended entirely on those around them for care and safety. I was thrilled to learn they would be moving to The Retreat Animal Rescue Farm Sanctuary, where they could grow and live peacefully, receiving the same kindness and care they experienced at St. Dominic's.

Ishi Mistry – Year 1 Student



PHYSICS BRUNEL TRIP

Just before February half term, the Physics department took 40 students to Brunel University for an open day. Students were welcomed on site by the university staff and were given a run down on what life is like as a student of Brunel.

Students were then given lectures by two Doctors of Mechanical and Civil Engineering – this included an overview of the accommodation options, Engineering course selections and various employers that the university are linked with. There was a big focus on potential future careers after university. Students were given an insight into the importance of doing a placement year and we discovered that Brunel was the first British University to offer this as part of a 'Sandwich' course.

Dr Ercolino showed students a demo on how mass distribution affects the torque on a model bridge. Students were welcomed to experiment with the various masses and their positioning on the model bridge. At this point there were some student ambassadors from Brunel for some Q&A with our students.

After this, students were given a complementary lunch and continued their conversations with Brunel staff and student ambassadors. This was followed by an extensive campus tour of which students greatly enjoyed.

The students enjoyed the day at Brunel, and it really opened their eyes as to what the day-to-day is of a student both for on-campus and off-campus life. This visit built upon the one done last year by Tim, and this is a trip I look forward to running annually.

Luke Ray – Head of Physics

Tim Kemp – Teacher of Physics

Anita Ravji – Senior Laboratory Technician



PSYCHOLOGY

TRIP TO BETHLEM MUSEUM OF THE MIND

In February, us Psychology students had the opportunity to visit Bethlem Museum of the Mind, the world's oldest psychiatric hospital. We were welcomed with various activities, which allowed us to gain a deeper insight into mental health and the way it can be expressed uniquely to oneself. We also learned how societal perception relating to mental health has changed over time.

An unforgettable piece was William Kurelek's autobiographical painting 'The Maze', a patient at Bethlem's hospital before it was established as a museum. The complexity of his painting had allowed him to reflect on the scenes of his past and present life presented by the head open split, roughly divided into various sections focussed on politics, early life, and relationships. At the centre of his painting, a curled white rat (represented himself) can be seen lying exhausted. The lack of energy shows his feelings of defeat, representing Kurelek's 'spirit' as he loses hope in being able to escape the maze (his own thoughts). The process of wandering a maze mirrors the journey of self-discovery, facing brutal challenge and obstacles which can lead to vulnerabilities that not all individuals can understand. The stigma and misunderstanding focused upon mental health issues presented by society in the mid-20th century reflected the isolation and psychological pain he had experienced which is later portrayed by 'life and death section' on the right bottom of the painting. A conveyor belt bearing Kurelek taking him to be crushed with a roller represents inevitable death where he tries to convince himself that he is mortal and not in need of treatments like electroshock therapy and lobotomies. Later, Kurelek had been diagnosed with depression.

The Maze (1953)



PSYCHOLOGY

TRIP TO BETHLEM MUSEUM OF THE MIND

However, there is a happy ending when Kurelek's depression is overcome, later revealing the painting 'Out of the Maze'. This acts as a contrast to his earlier painting as he focuses on his journey towards peace, clarity, and a sense of acceptance. Unlike the claustrophobic disturbing imagery of 'The Maze', 'Out of the Maze' represented a more open, vivid imagery symbolising his freedom from suffering and that healing is possible.

This trip was an eye-opening experience, offering valuable lessons on mental health and resilience. A special thanks to our psychology teachers for giving us the opportunity to explore these important themes and understand that psychological struggles can be overcome.

Antonia Verdes and Aneesha Rose Puthanangadi - Y2 Students



CLASSICS TRIP TO ROME AND OSTIA

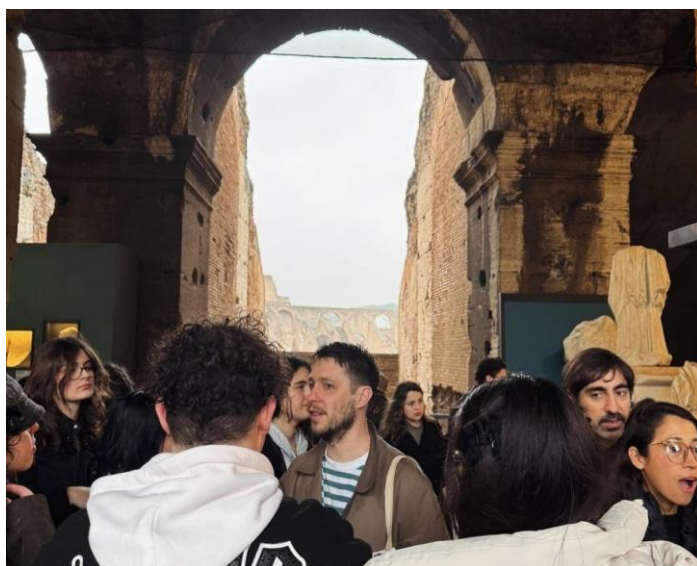
STUDENT PERSPECTIVES

Rose & Annabel (Palazzo Massimo & Colosseum):

Visiting Rome on our College trip was honestly unreal! Seeing all the sites and sources we have studied in Imperial Image in person was almost surreal. At the Palazzo Massimo, the *Via Labicana Augustus* was so incredible to see, way more impressive in real life than in our textbooks! The way he is presented as a figurehead of *pietas* and leader of Roman Religion (*Ponitifex Maximus*) really highlighted how Augustus used art to push his Imperial Image and inspire other Romans to worship the Gods. What really stood out were the frescoes and the artwork house in the Museum. The vivid colours and details in the frescoes, especially the ones showing scenes of daily life and mythological themes, gave us a deeper understanding of how art was used not just for decoration but to send powerful messages. Then at the Colosseum, even though it's from after Augustus' reign (and was raining!), you could still feel his influence. It was all about the grand scale and showing the empire's power, and you could imagine how emperors after him used events like this to continue pushing their image. Standing there, thinking about how the Colosseum was used to distract and control the crowds, really brought to life what we'd learned about how emperors like Augustus crafted their public persona.

We also had great fun exploring Rome by ourselves and the various other artwork and temples/churches that are around the city which clearly still have the same influence as Augustan Rome! Can't forget the food too, the pizza, pasta and gelato really added to the experience.

We definitely recommend going to Rome as it brings what you are learning to life and helps revise Imperial Image in a fun way! As well as this, Louis gave great tours on all aspects of the trip which allowed us to understand the context and significance of all the buildings and artwork.



CLASSICS TRIP TO ROME AND OSTIA

STUDENT PERSPECTIVES

Jan & Bruno (Ostia Antica & Capitoline Museum):

On Day 2 of the trip, we took a train to Ostia Antica, the ancient port city at the mouth of the River Tiber. We walked down the wide streets where you could see the marks made over time by grain-carts and got to look down at the city from the theatre and the bath houses. From there, it became much easier to imagine the hustle and bustle of the ancient port-city, as well as being able to get a sense of what values the Romans held important in the buildings they prioritised, such as religion, particularly religious piety, hygiene and social life. One thing that really stuck with me was just how much religion permeated Ancient Rome as a society, with most of their buildings having some form of tribute/image of a god, such as the bath houses having mosaics of Neptune, the god of the sea. It was really enlightening to be able to walk through history amongst the foundations of such a beautiful vestige of the Roman Empire and gain a perspective on life back then in a city beyond the metropolitan reach of Rome - it basically felt like time-travel.

We then headed to the Capitoline Museum afterwards, which held many of the artifacts and remnants of the glory of Rome's history. Beyond the rich history displayed, the building itself was strikingly beautiful, with murals from floor to ceiling depicting the mythological origins of Rome starting from Romulus. It was particularly striking to see the colossal foundations of the temple of Jupiter, an ancient temple constructed long before Rome rose to power. To see the immense religious devotion of a poor agricultural society was awe inspiring and brought to mind more recent acts of devotion in our history, such as that of similar medieval societies constructing ornate churches for God. It was also incredible to see the intricacy and detail of many of the sculptures from Ancient Rome, as it would have taken high levels of skill and craftsmanship to create these works of art, such as a bust of Hercules, with his lion skin draped on his shoulders. It was truly a valuable experience to be able to observe both the places and the works of art that we study in person.



CLASSICS TRIP TO ROME AND OSTIA

STUDENT PERSPECTIVES

Freddie & Sophia (The Forum, Palatine Hill & Ara Pacis):

Following the Colosseum, a few of us braved the torrential rain and went to the Palatine Hill and the Forum. Despite being soaked through we were still able to enjoy the beauty and fascinating history of these sites. Once the rain subsided, we had a fantastic view over the Forum and a photo op with some seagulls. On the final day, we made our last stop at the Ara Pacis, seeing it in real life allowed us to better appreciate the intricate art and detail down to the tiny frogs and lizards we could never see in a textbook, as beforehand we just had to believe Louis that they were there. On a serious note, the Ara Pacis is such an iconic Augustan monument, and the experience was all the more improved by sunny skies. Experiencing this beautiful space and altar with clear skies over head, really enhanced the sense of awe and wonder the artwork evokes.



CLASSICS TRIP TO ROME AND OSTIA

STUDENT PERSPECTIVES

Skye-Louise Greasby (Vatican):

Some of us had the amazing chance to visit the Vatican City on the second and third days of our trip. Entering St. Peter's Basilica through the Jubilee Doors - a significant tradition during the Jubilee year, signifying grace, renewal, and reconciliation - was one of the highlights. We were especially impressed by Bernini's St. Peter's Baldachin, which was located immediately over the resting site of Saint Peter's incorruptible body.

When we visited the Sistine Chapel, we made a point of heading right to Michelangelo's masterpiece, the Sistine Ceiling. As anticipated, it was a truly astounding and unforgettable sight. As History and History of Art students, it was exciting to identify the histories that Michelangelo portrayed as well as deciphering the unusual prophets selected. After seeing the Sistine ceiling, we looked for other notable pieces, part of the History of Art spec in the Vatican Museum. The visit was made much more memorable by the opportunity to see Raphael's School of Athens and the Prima Porta Augustus up close.



CLASSICS TRIP TO ROME AND OSTIA

STUDENT PERSPECTIVES

Dillon (experience of a History student):

The architecture was enough to reduce one to a state of shock. The remains of a fallen empire, always passionately and intricately explained by Louis Leeves (Head of Classics). His explanations for the intricate structures, intricate in more ways than one when it came to the busts of the fallen Emperors and Commanders of Rome, really added to the worn but modernised character of Italian architecture, from the supremely soaked Palatine Hill to the dizzying heights of the Spanish Steps. I had the opportunity to revel in what was around me and I can say for sure I was lost for words. The fountain which stood at the centre gave the very essence of tranquillity and the statues which stood beside me brought a sense of reverence at the fruits of the intricacy of the religion. Thank you to our Chaplain, Clare Castell, for accompanying us.

The culture of Italy simultaneously conformed and subverted my expectations and perhaps the way we think of such culture. From the gentle diplomacy of the staff at the Hoxton, to the somewhat abrasive and rash, yet enjoyable attitudes of restaurant staff, especially the one we dined at lunchtime on the Wednesday, Italian culture, for me, encompassed itself as one of immense pride yet a sense of attentiveness. The intricacy and uniqueness of their craft, whether it be the imposing Colosseum to the basil ice cream which we savoured, is a testament to their supremely dedicated yet somewhat imposing demeanour.

The tastes of Rome quite rightfully cemented themselves in their position of world acclaim. From the savoury delights of pizzas (funnily enough without pineapple, I wonder what would have happened if I tried to order it...) and pasta, as well as the gelatos for a sweet treat, the Italian cuisine is able to achieve a sense of awe akin to its architecture, the simplicity of build yet complexity of structure really left a resonating effect overall.



FURTHER MATHS

TRIP TO ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, OXFORD

In January, we took a group of 15 Further Maths students to visit St. John's College, Oxford, for an insightful and inspiring Maths trip. The day was packed with engaging activities, giving us a taste of university life and the fascinating world of higher-level mathematics.

We began with a talk about the Oxford admissions process, where we learned about entry requirements, personal statements, the significance of the college system and what admissions tutors look for in a strong Maths applicant. It was an eye-opening session that helped demystify the application process and provided valuable advice for those considering applying.

Next, we were given a tour of St. John's College, where we explored its historic architecture, beautiful gardens, and impressive facilities. The history was fascinating and eye-opening, and walking through the quads and halls where some of the brightest minds have studied was truly inspiring.

After that, we visited the Mathematical Institute, a modern hub of mathematical research and learning. Seeing the cutting-edge facilities and meeting students working on advanced mathematical problems gave us an exciting glimpse into the world of university-level maths. The students were fascinated by how maths was baked into every corner of the department; from the ceilings shaped like the vibrations of a drum to the flooring being covered with 'Penrose Tiles' - a 'pattern' which continues infinitely but never repeats itself.

One of the highlights of the trip was a talk on topology, delivered by one of Oxford's professors. Topology explores the properties of shapes that remain unchanged through stretching and bending. The talk introduced us to mind-bending concepts such as the Möbius strip and the interesting relationship between sides, edges and faces.

Overall, the trip was an invaluable experience that deepened our appreciation for mathematics and university life. It left many of the students feeling motivated and excited about the possibilities that studying Maths at Oxford - or any top university - could offer.

Tom Bolton
Teacher of Mathematics



JACK PETCHEY FOUNDATION



The College is proud to continue celebrating students who make valuable contributions to our community or demonstrate remarkable personal growth, thanks to its long-standing partnership with the Jack Petchey Foundation.

Every year, students at St. Dominic's have the opportunity to nominate their peers for the Jack Petchey Achievement Award. These nominations are not based on academic performance but on dedication, commitment to self-improvement, or exceptional support of others. The student executive team then carefully reviews these nominations to select the final nine award winners.

Each recipient is awarded with a certificate, an invitation to the Jack Petchey Awards Evening, and a £300 grant to be used for the benefit of a group of students at the College.

This year's outstanding winners were Dillon Wickramarachchi, Rian Chotai, Manav Bhatt, Oliver Ryder, Aadya Zamre, and Jordyn Jesurajah. Each of these students was nominated by their peers for a range of reasons, but a shared commitment to supporting the College community stood out among them all.

On Thursday, 13th February, our award winners attended the annual Jack Petchey Awards Evening, where they received their certificates and celebrated the remarkable achievements of other winners from schools and clubs across Harrow.

In addition to recognising individual achievements, the Jack Petchey Foundation also generously supports the College's annual 3-Peaks trip, providing funding of £40 per student.

This vital contribution helps to reduce the cost of the trip, making it accessible to all students.

Craig McDonagh – Assistant Principal

ATTENDANCE AND 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

Sahra Ahmed
Ysabella Gail Aizpuru
Darrell Anyanwu
Blagomir Bibishkov
Razvan Bucur Regula
Hau Wing Dorothy Chan
Anastasia Fernandes
Daniel Franklyn
Ruby Healy
Lena Jakubczyk
Yllka Jero
Ami Kerai
Sophie Lach
Lucas Lekaj
Leo Lim
Priyanshi Mahajan
Hoi Tik Man
Aksh Mistri
Nadine Monaghan
Livia Munglani
Erin O'Connor
Lilavati Paliha-Wadane Gutierrez

Riya Patel
Sai Patel
Kaushik Srinivasan
Mikolaj Szewczyk
Denis Timofte
Kabissa Uthayarajan
Laranya Vijayakumar
Mia Wallis
Caitlin Yuill

Year 2 Students

Mya Benson
Karen Botros
Alexandru Filip
Leah Goosey
Dhruv Kerai
Sounak Lahiri
Amber Moran
Sanvi Patel
Marjan Saifi
Diljot Serray
Rebecca Vince



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



St Dominic's
Sixth Form College

MAIN COLLEGE EMAIL stdoms@stdoms.ac.uk

ABSENCE attendance@stdoms.ac.uk

STUDENT SERVICES studentservices@stdoms.ac.uk