



VERITAS

St Dominic's
Sixth Form
College



SUMMER 2025

EDITORIAL FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The end of another fantastic year at St. Dominic's!

Principal, Andrew Parkin, reflects on a very busy summer term and a successful academic year.

It has been a very good year for us, once again, at St. Dominic's Sixth Form College and, unbelievably, here we are, at the end of the academic year. Seeing our community continuing to thrive in so many aspects of life here on The Hill has been really satisfying to see. We remain the destination of choice for students (and their parents) from across a wide part of London and the Home Counties and our reputation for academic excellence, enshrined in spiritual and pastoral support, remains as strong as ever.

Our second Ofsted Inspection in January was a super moment for us as a College community, our second within 30 months. This inspection had the additional (and new) 'skills' element embodied within it from the revised and updated September 2022 framework and did, in fact, bring a new dimension to the process. The inspection, per se, felt more significant perhaps, than the one of May 2022 due to the whole College being present, it lasting four days rather than three and the aforementioned 'skills element' had its own HMI who spent two full days contacting employers. The outcome, 'outstanding' in all areas and 'strong' for skills was a moment of professional significance for all of us associated with St. Dominic's and the entire community was delighted with the outcome. Achieving two 'outstanding' judgements so close together is unusual and acknowledges the excellence that is evident across the whole institution reflecting the way in which the College has developed year on year over a long period of time.

The summer term is always one of mixed emotions as we say farewell to our Year 2 students. This outgoing cohort have been a delight and have engaged so comprehensively with the Mission and Ethos of the College. The final Leavers' Liturgy, Awards and BBQ was one of the best of all my years here. The students and staff thoroughly enjoyed the event in Siena Hall and those receiving awards were warmly congratulated by their peers.

My award this year went to Dillon Wickramarachchi, a History, Politics and English Literature student. He has been a hard-working, diligent and wholly dedicated individual and a constant 'ray of sunshine' across the College for the last two years. He did in fact receive two awards, the Principal's Award and the History award. Here he is coming forward to receive my award and raising both awards aloft just before the end of the service!



EDITORIAL FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dillon received an enormous cheer when he came forward to receive his award, as you can see from the smiling faces of all the students in the image.

Following the Liturgy and Awards Ceremony we moved to the courtyard for a splendid BBQ and celebratory event which was blessed with very warm and sunny weather which, apart from their examinations, brought the curtain down on their time with us at St. Dominic's.

Examinations commenced for Year 2 on May 12th and ended on June 23rd with a final Further Maths paper. It is always a stressful time but the view, overall, has been generally positive from the Year 2 students and we hope and pray that their hard work and efforts will have paid off when their results are published on August 14th.

Examinations for Year 1 in the form of their University Predictor Examinations, commenced on Monday April 28th and ran for nine days. With a larger cohort it takes us longer to get through a full series. They too worked and prepared thoroughly and outcomes were slightly above expectation which was very encouraging. UCAS predictions were formulated from this examination series and they are now in the process of thinking about next steps for life after St. Dominic's.

In May we hosted our second Skills Seminar and Luncheon with fifty guests from the worlds of business, civic services and higher education. The seminar opened with two keynote speakers; Shelagh Legrave CBE, FE Commissioner and Ian Randell, Chair of the Harrow Chamber of Commerce.



Shelagh Legrave, FE Commissioner giving her keynote address.



Both spoke about the national and local agendas with regards to the skills requirements of employers going forward into the middle years of the 21st century and both were highly complimentary about the work that St. Dominic's has been doing in terms of engagement with the wider business and civic communities. The 'strong' judgement in our January inspection is a true reflection of the excellent links that have been formed by all subject areas across the College and these will truly benefit our students in the longer term. Congratulations must be given to Naomi Ross, Assistant Principal, who has led on this with a 'dogged determination' to ensure that 'strong' judgement came to pass and we wish her and her husband Jon well for the birth of their first child in August.



EDITORIAL FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Reflecting on the Mission of our College and, in particular, our Catholic foundation and heritage, it is pleasing to see this remaining front and centre across all aspects of life at St. Dominic's. Our Catholic faith has been marked throughout the year with numerous high-profile services and Masses. The academic year commenced with a Mass for staff and governors celebrated by Fr. Alexander Master, Private Secretary to Cardinal Vincent Nichols. At Christmas, Bishop John Sherrington, recently appointed Archbishop of Liverpool, was with us to lead our annual 9 Lessons and Carols by Candlelight, which was, once again, a beautiful liturgy that saw the Chapel full to capacity. In March we welcomed Bishop Jim Curry to be with us for our Ash Wednesday Mass and the commencement of Lent. He was very warmly received by over 300 of us who filled the Chapel for this important moment in the Church year. In May we hosted, for the first time, a Confirmation Mass for 22 of our students which was celebrated by Bishop Michael Campbell OSA and again, he too, was very warmly received by the families and guests who joined us for this important moment of faith for our 22 students. This was truly a celebratory occasion for our whole College community seeing these young men and women seeking the Sacrament of Confirmation and one that hopefully, we will now be able to repeat year on year.

All of these events have been in addition to our ongoing Friday Mass cycle which has seen us visited by over 20 diocesan priests with a regular attendance of between 75 and 100 students and staff at each one and, of course, our on-going work around Catholic Social Teaching. We have marked the 'Year of the Jubilee' which is an important global event for the world's 1 billion Catholics and have arranged a number of events to mark this celebration as declared by Pope Francis including pilgrimages to Walsingham and Lindisfarne for staff and Rome, in November 2025, with 25 students and 5 staff. I am pleased that Fr. David Reilly PP of Bow will be joining us as our Chaplain. All are important in their own way and help us to play our part in this Jubilee year, keeping our Catholic faith front and central to all we do.

The development of the College estate has remained an important aspect of the last year. The refurbishment of the Hume Building was a very successful project, opening up the lower ground floor and incorporating the three new modular classrooms. These have been well received and are well used. The refurbishment of two Maths rooms in the Catherine Building was completed in April and this will allow for some subject moves in readiness for September. Further classroom refurbishments are planned for next academic year specifically in the Catherine Building and this will bring this phase of work to a close. Everything we do in terms of developing the estate is done with a view to the longer term, to preserve what we have and to future proof it for generations to come. Everyone visiting the College always comments on how beautiful it is and how the environment provides an 'excellent' space for study and personal development. This requires effort and hard work from all the staff but it brings benefits to our students who have a special place in which to learn. For the first time at the end of term we hosted a 'St. Dom's In Bloom' and an 'Open House' event with over a hundred guests from Harrow on the Hill and the wider Borough joining us for refreshments and a tour of the grounds. It was a tremendous success and one that will now go into our College calendar annually.

EDITORIAL FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It is however, without doubt, our students that have shone this year and remain an inspiration to all of us working at St. Dominic's. During this past year they have involved themselves in a very broad range of events and activities, over and above their academics, which has been fantastic to see. Our sporting successes have been considerable across eight different team sports, and I have been pleased to support and encourage the development of our 'sport and fitness' offer. Our PE team - Elena Synesi, Head of PE and Enrichment, Ryan Whitehurst, Sports Co-ordinator and Bobby Hodge, Sports Coach, have done a superb job and are working very hard to develop and further extend the offer across the College, including a complete refurbishment of our in-house gym space which will be ready for September and paid for by the Friends of St. Dominic's. Health and fitness are integral to academic success and it has been really rewarding to see more students than ever use our gym facilities, have a desire to play a sport or to be active in the Siena Sports Hall. My own sport of badminton has seen an exponential growth in the level of interest and the club I run on a Thursday night regularly has over 50 students in attendance and has enabled us to reach the national finals for the AOC league back in March.

Each year we appoint a new Head Girl (Keira O'Malley), Head Boy (George Procter) and Executive Team (below) to work alongside myself and my senior colleagues to further develop and enhance the student experience. The outgoing team led by Zoya Horan and Ben Moriuchi, did a superb job leading a team of their student colleagues and have helped to develop a range of initiatives across the College to further improve what we do. They were both involved in the appointment of a new team who took up post in January and, once again, it is exciting to work alongside and see them develop. They 'grow' very quickly in the role and the new team were involved in the Ofsted inspection in week two of being in post and then the International Women's Day 'week-long' series of events that took place in March. It was fantastic to see them embrace their role and to greet the guests with such confidence and enthusiasm.



EDITORIAL FROM THE PRINCIPAL

With that in mind, we were particularly pleased with the programme for International Women's Day this year. We pulled an excellent programme together with over thirty women guests from the broadest of professional and personal backgrounds which culminated on day five with Baroness Rosa Monckton visiting us for the final keynote. She was inspirational and everyone enjoyed her talk and this was very satisfying to see. We had an enjoyable luncheon afterwards and once again it was wonderful to bring our community together as these are the moments that are special and times for everyone to enjoy and remember. We were particularly delighted that a number of Dominican Sisters were with us and they too had a very enjoyable morning at the College.



A highlight of this final term of the academic year was the opportunity for myself and Clare Castell, along with Ben, Zoya, George and Keira to be in Rome for the funeral of Pope Francis. We were booked to go for the Canonisation of Carlo Acutis but this was postponed due to the passing of the Holy Father. The Pilgrimage, organised by the Diocese, however went ahead and we were in St. Peter's Square for the funeral. It was, without doubt, one of the most moving and memorable experiences of my life and will, I am sure, be remembered by the four students who were present who themselves found it prayerful, sad but also spiritually affirming and uplifting.

Finally, we are saying farewell to a number of colleagues this year, some of whom have been with us for many years. We wish them all well as they embark on their new lives elsewhere and thank them very much for their service.

And with that, the curtain falls on another highly successful year at St. Dominic's. I wish you a good summer ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Andrew Parker'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line.

Principal

NEW ACTING ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS



Since joining the College in 2016 as a Teacher of Economics, I have been dedicated to driving excellence in Teaching and Learning. Appointed Head of Economics in 2021, I led a long-established flagship department to consistently achieve outstanding outcomes. I am known for my passion, strong work ethic, and subject expertise, and for setting high expectations and fostering highly productive learning environments. I am committed to motivating students and developing high-quality resources. In my new role as Acting Assistant Principal, I aim to use this experience to support the College in fulfilling its mission and making a wider impact across the community.

Jean Bulyaba – Head of Economics



I have worked at St. Dominic's for four years and I have loved every second of it. It has been so fulfilling to lead Geography and work with our students to achieve their potential. I now look forward to working across the rest of the College and supporting more staff and students to achieve their potential and let our beautiful College thrive.

Paul Logue - Head of Geography



NEW ACTING ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

It has been an absolute privilege to have spent the last decade working at St. Dominic's. During my time at the College, I have enjoyed leading in the Maths Department as 2nd In Charge, working with the Teaching & Learning team and networking with our external partners to support student achievement and development. I am looking forward to serving the wider community in many different areas of the College with the Senior Leadership Team.

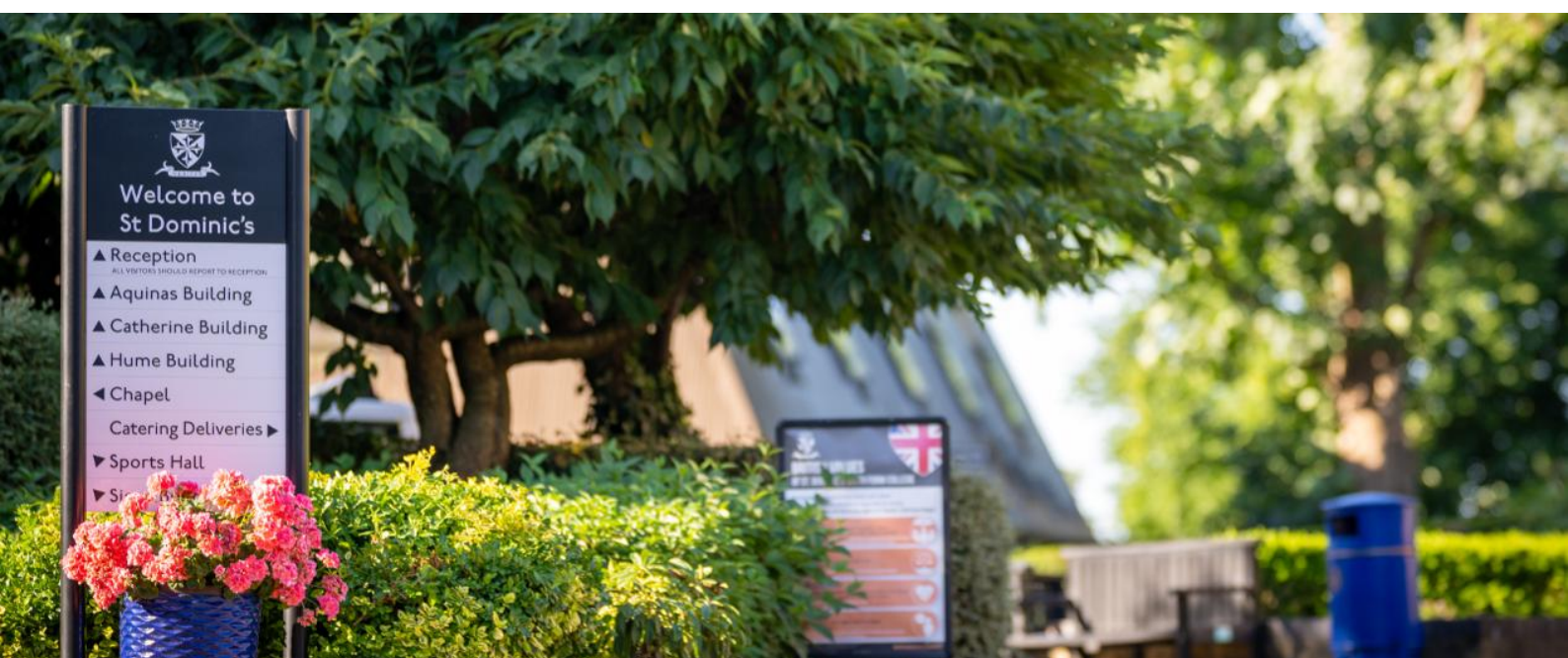
Max Burridge - Assistant Head of Maths/Teaching & Learning Leader



STAFF FAREWELLS

We will be sad to say farewell to the following members of staff and wish them all well on their new ventures:

Colleague	Role
Angela Inglese	Head of History of Art
Ruth Blackford	Head of Art
Kingsley Jolowicz	Head of Government & Politics
Niamh Hurley	Head of RS
Tom Bolton	Teacher of Maths
Stephanie Campbell	Teacher of Business
Eden Gan	Teacher of Physics
Celia Coleman	Head of Psychology
Fiona Curran	Tutor
Paul Eddicott	Premises Assistant





STAFF FAREWELLS

I joined the St Dominic's staff many, many years ago as a part-time teacher of Art and History of Art. It was a one-year contract, but I guess that just goes to show, you never know how things will work out! I am still here but my role has gone through a number of changes. As has the College.

My part-time role turned into full-time after a couple of years, and I added in teaching Religious Studies, and then I became Head of Art and History of Art – my first leadership role with a department of one – the fabulous Art Technician and me. I then gained the post of Head of Visual and Performing Arts when the role was created to bring together my subjects, Design and Technology, Music, Theatre Studies and PE, which was great as our department was really the hub and showcase of the cultural and sporting events in the College and being together helped us to support each other.

When I was promoted to the Senior Leadership Team I took on the role of Student and Staff Development, which I have always felt is at the heart of our mission here at St Dominic's. That everyone should strive to reach their potential with whatever their talents and skills may be is a guideline often picked up within the Catholic Church (Pope John Paul II most recently). I was very happy to semi-retire and just take the role of Head of History of Art, which may be a part-time post but is a full-time job. No complaints from me though. I have really enjoyed my time here at St Dominic's and I think that is because of the ethos which we try to instill in our students and amongst ourselves.

When I first began teaching I knew virtually every student by sight – there were only a few hundred of them. Now I see a new face every day! And they are a fabulous bunch! My current Year 1 and Year 2 students provide me with lots of laughs as well as food for thought. They look at my subject through different eyes and there is always something to learn, even if I have been teaching for long before they were born. I will miss them terribly and I will miss the structure of a College day and a College year. But I am really looking forward to not having to get up so early in the morning!

I am not going away completely as I will have a role on the Governing Body which I am looking forward to. I wish St Dominic's all the best as the College goes from strength to strength.

Angela Inglese, Head of History of Art



NEW STAFF

We welcome the following staff who have joined us recently or are joining us in September:

Name	Role
Andy Shu	Teacher of Maths
Caitlin Walkinshaw	Teacher of Chemistry
Isabela da Silva	Head of Art & History of Art
James Filgate	Premises Assistant
Jenny De Freitas	Teacher of Latin
Kunal Nanavati	Teacher of Economics and Business
Lona Saleh	Teacher of Sociology with Psychology
Mark Williams	Head of Government and Politics
Matthew Eggleston	Teacher of Physics
Noor Junaid	Teacher of Psychology
Qaiz Aaron Rodrigues	Learning Assistant for Maths and Physics
Scarlet Rowe	Teacher of Politics and English Literature
Stelios Attipa	Teacher of Maths
Yu Yao	Teacher of Physics



STUDENT EXECUTIVE REFLECTION

Looking back on my first six months as Head Boy, I can say with certainty that the role has consistently exceeded my expectations, from working alongside Keira and the Student Executive in helping organising events, to being fortunate enough to attend the Pope's funeral in Rome as representatives of the College, being Head Boy has been a privilege. In this role, I have been able to experience the community of St. Dominic's to its fullest extent, events such as the Christmas Carol concert and the Jazz and Rock Cafe are prime examples of how St Dominic's strives to be not only an outstanding College but also an outstanding community. For me, the most valuable part of being Head Boy has been being that link and representative of the Student body to the SLT, allowing myself and my fellow Student Executive to act on behalf of the students when planning and organising events, so that the whole of the St. Dominic's community is able to enjoy their time at the College. I would like to thank Andrew and the rest of the SLT for supporting the Student Executive during these first six months, and I look forward to the rest of my term as Head Boy.

The last six months as Head Girl have been an incredible privilege. I have had the chance to meet inspiring people from all occupations, which has broadened my perspective and motivated me in unexpected ways. Within College, this role has given me a real sense of purpose - from helping to organise events to connecting with students across year group. I have had the opportunity to work with a wide range of people, from senior staff to fellow students, and it has deepened my understanding of how the College operates behind the scenes. It has been amazing to collaborate with the student executive who are hardworking and diligent, to ensure the student body is heard and to openly share our ideas. Overall, it has been a busy but fulfilling six months, and I am excited to continue my time as Head Girl with enthusiasm.

GEORGE PROCTER – HEAD BOY



KEIRA O'MALLEY – HEAD GIRL

POPE FRANCIS



IN MEMORIAM POPE FRANCIS

1936–2025



Remembering Pope Francis

In the wake of Pope Francis's passing, our community came together in mourning and prayer. A Low Requiem Mass was held in the College Chapel, and students on pilgrimage in Rome attended the funeral Mass, offering a powerful witness of faith, unity, and hope.



CHAPLAINCY UPDATE

POPE FRANCIS'S FUNERAL

Being in St Peter's Square alongside half a million other Catholics who were also attending Pope Francis's funeral was very powerful and one of the most moving experiences I have had as a Catholic.

There were three standout moments for me.

Firstly being around so many people from all over the world – we were alongside a family from the Caribbean, a lady who had flown in from Texas and some nuns from Finland – who were there because they wanted to acknowledge and to give thanks to God for the life of Pope Francis, that he was a man who fulfilled his role by living out his faith and all he believed in.

The second was the distribution of Holy Communion. I had wondered whether those of us in the Square would be able to receive given the numbers involved, but after the Eucharistic Prayer, hundreds of priests and deacons started to slowly process with the Blessed Sacrament in order to distribute it to the people. It was an amazing feat of planning and was very moving to see. It reminded me of the Last Supper when Christ broke the bread and shared it with his disciples and told them to go out and feed the people.



CHAPLAINCY UPDATE

POPE FRANCIS'S FUNERAL

The third was being able to share this with our student executive Keira, George, Ben, Zoya and Clare, our Chaplain. For St. Dominic's to be represented here and to see what we have seen and to then have the chance to reflect and pray about the experience was really special and I am grateful to them for coming along and giving up their weekend at such an important time for them all. I think we will remember this weekend for the rest of our lives.

Pope Francis's legacy I hope will live on. George was interviewed by the Catholic newspaper *The Tablet* yesterday and he was asked what he believed the Pope meant to young Catholics today. He spoke eloquently about the Pope's attention to the poor, the needy, those marginalised in society and how he hoped that the new Pope would continue in this vein and further the work of Pope Francis.

Andrew Parkin - Principal



CHAPLAINCY UPDATE

POPE LEO XIV

Prayerful Preparation

During the recent conclave, our College joined the global Church in daily prayer for guidance and unity. Prayers were offered in the Chapel each morning before the College day.

Pope Leo XIV

Pope Leo XIV, born Robert Francis Prevost in Chicago in 1955, was elected as the 267th pontiff of the Catholic Church in May 2025, becoming the first American and first Augustinian to hold the papacy. His extensive missionary work in Peru, where he holds dual citizenship, has deeply influenced his pastoral approach, emphasising humility and social justice. Choosing the name 'Leo' pays homage to Pope Leo XIII, known for his advocacy of workers' rights and Catholic Social Teaching. Pope Leo XIV is expected to continue this legacy by addressing contemporary issues such as the ethical implications of artificial intelligence and global inequality. His election has been warmly received by Church leaders worldwide, including Cardinal Vincent Nichols of Westminster, who highlighted the new Pope's blend of tradition and moderation.



Leo PP. XIV
8 maggio 2025

CHAPLAINCY UPDATE

LEAVERS' LITURGY



We recently gathered as a College community to say goodbye to our second-year students in a beautiful Leavers' Liturgy, celebrating their time at St. Dominic's and sending them off with a message of hope, gratitude, and faith.

Rooted in the Gospel values that shape our College, the liturgy encouraged our leavers to continue walking in faith, trusting in God's deep and personal love for each one of us as they take their next steps into the future.

We also took this special moment to honour a few outstanding students. Harita received the Chaplaincy Award in recognition of her consistent dedication to spiritual life within the College, while Toby and Savia were awarded the Ethos Award for their commitment to living out our values in action. Their witness to their faith, leadership, and willingness to serve have truly made St. Dominic's a better place.

We give thanks for all our leavers, and we pray that God continues to guide and bless them in all that lies ahead.



CHAPLAINCY UPDATE

CONFIRMATION

Congratulations to the twenty students from St. Dominic's who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday, 24th May.

The beautiful and spiritually uplifting ceremony was held in our lovely College Chapel and led by Bishop Michael Campbell OSA, who presided with warmth, wisdom, and encouragement, making this occasion especially meaningful for all in attendance.

The Chapel was filled with joy and reverence as family, friends, and staff gathered to witness this significant milestone in our students' faith journey.

Following the service, Bishop Campbell joined us for refreshments, where everyone enjoyed a lovely spread of sandwiches, tea and cake. The celebration left a lasting impression on all present, marked by joy, gratitude, and a shared sense of spiritual growth.



CHAPLAINCY UPDATE

RETREAT DAYS

We were delighted to welcome Year 5 pupils from St. Teresa's, St. Anselm's, and St. George's Primary Schools for a series of Catholic retreat days. These special days offered a meaningful opportunity for pupils to reflect on their faith, their personal growth, and the responsibilities they will take on as Year 6 leaders next year.

The retreat sessions combined prayer, discussion, and creative activities, all centred on the idea of God as our rock - our constant source of strength and support. The children explored how they can be a rock for others through kindness, service, and leadership in their school communities.

We were especially grateful for the support of students from St. Dominic's, who helped facilitate the days. Their kindness and guidance had a real impact, and the Year 5 pupils thoroughly enjoyed spending time with them.



Prayer Sponsors

Led by Toby Agerback and Alex Matusescu, students were invited to take part in a Prayer Sponsor group in preparation for their upcoming A Levels and BTEC examinations. Over 30 students gathered in St. Dominic's Chapel, pairing up and committing to praying for one another throughout the exam period. It was a beautiful and faith-filled way to support each other, share trust in God's care, and find strength through prayer during a challenging time.

CHAPLAINCY UPDATE

ST. LUKE'S SUMMER WALK



On a sunny Sunday, June 8th, the St. Luke's Summer Walk brought together a cheerful crowd for a 5km walk over the hill, all in support of our local hospice.

The day kicked off with an energising warm-up to *Walking on Sunshine*, led by the ever-enthusiastic Celia, who got everyone in high spirits. The walk helped raise much-needed funds for this vital cause in our community.

Thank you to everyone who participated and joined the fundraising effort and all those who sponsored our team. A total of £771 was raised on the day.



CHAPLAINCY UPDATE

RACE FOR LIFE

A huge congratulations to the students and staff who took part in the 2025 Cancer Research Race for Life event at Hampstead Heath on Saturday 14th June!

Whether tackling the 3k, 5k or the challenging 10k distance, every member of the team gave their all on this tough, hilly course. The glorious sunshine might have been perfect for a beach day, but it made running conditions far more demanding - making the achievement even more impressive. Particularly for students Aneesh, Jairaj and Oliver, who finished the 10k in an astonishing time of 50 minutes – absolutely fantastic effort!

In true St. Dominic's style, everyone pushed through with incredible determination and together we raised over £2,300 to support vital cancer research.

Massive thank you to everyone who ran, donated, and cheered us on!

Celia Coleman – Head of Psychology



CHAPLAINCY UPDATE

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

St. Luke's Midnight Walk Posters

This spring, a team of dedicated St. Dominic's students and staff supported the annual St. Luke's Starlight Walk by undertaking the important task of placing signage along the entire 10km route through Harrow.

Despite the warm weather, our students remained composed and focused, demonstrating both initiative and collaboration. Armed with maps and strong navigation skills, they ensured that walkers could find their way with ease throughout the event.

We extend our sincere thanks to all who took part, with particular appreciation for Ebony and Kam, whose excellent support and commitment greatly contributed to the success of the event.

Deanery Jubilee Mass

This term pupils and staff from across educational establishments in the Harrow Deanery gathered at St. Joseph's in Wealdstone for the Deanery Jubilee Mass celebrated by Father Mario. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our shared faith bringing us together closer as one community. The music, prayers, and sense of unity made it a truly memorable celebration.



CHAPLAINCY UPDATE

FESTIVAL OF HOPE – WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL



Students and staff from St. Dominic's Sixth Form College were honoured to attend the Festival of Hope Liturgy at Westminster Cathedral, a truly joyful and spiritually nourishing occasion.

The Mass brought together Catholic schools and colleges from across the Diocese of Westminster to celebrate this special Jubilee Year, uniting in faith, prayer, and thanksgiving. It was a powerful reminder of the strength and beauty of our shared Catholic community.

The atmosphere was full of energy and reverence, and our students thoroughly enjoyed being part of such a significant celebration. It was a day of deep spiritual connection, joyful music, and a renewed sense of purpose as we continue to walk forward in faith.

We are grateful to have taken part in such a meaningful moment in the life of the Diocese.

CHAPLAINCY UPDATE

SLEEPOUT FOR THE PASSAGE

On the night of 30th June, 70 students and staff took part in our Annual Sleepout for the Homeless, raising vital funds and awareness for The Passage, a charity devoted to helping those experiencing homelessness.

On one of the warmest June nights on record, students and staff slept out under the summer sky. While there was not much actual sleep, the evening was filled with laughter, reflection, and a strong sense of community. It was a unique opportunity to step outside of daily comforts and stand in solidarity with those who face homelessness every day.

Thanks to the generosity of our wider community, the event was a resounding success, raising over £1300 to support The Passage's life-changing work.

<https://www.justgiving.com/team/stdomsthepas sage>



CHAPLAINCY UPDATE

JUBILEE VOLUNTEERING DAY - FAITH INTO ACTION

This July, students and staff at St. Dominic's came together for one of the highlights of our calendar, the Jubilee Volunteering Day. Rooted in Catholic Social Teaching, the day is dedicated to serving the local community, especially those most in need. Inspired by the call to love our neighbour and uphold the dignity of every person, students stepped forward to give their time and energy to a variety of charities and community-based organisations.

Across Harrow and beyond, students took part in a wide range of service projects, each one an opportunity to live out the Gospel in a tangible way. Some helped at the local baby bank, sorting donations and preparing essential items for families facing hardship. Others spent the day offering companionship at community groups like the Crossroads Stroke Club in North Harrow. A particularly special project saw students helping to build a garden at Birchwood Care Home, creating a peaceful and welcoming space for elderly residents to enjoy.

These acts of service reflect key principles of Catholic Social Teaching, including respect for human dignity and solidarity with the vulnerable. Volunteering Day allows students to encounter and respond to the needs of the community with compassion and humility.



CHAPLAINCY UPDATE

JUBILEE VOLUNTEERING DAY - FAITH INTO ACTION

Students returned with stories of meaningful encounters, a sense of pride, and a deeper awareness of the impact they can have. The day leaves a lasting impression, one that nurtures both faith and character.

"Sorting baby clothes sounds simple, but it made me realise how real the needs in our community are."

"I think it really helped us step out of our own bubbles and understand the needs in our community."

"It was lovely spending time with people who do not always get much company. They were so welcoming."

"I really enjoyed the day and this has made me think about what I can do for others."



CHAPLAINCY UPDATE

JUBILEE VOLUNTEERING DAY - FAITH INTO ACTION



St. Dominic's offers our sincere thanks to the many charities and community groups who welcomed our students so warmly and made this Volunteering Day possible.

With gratitude to the following organisations for hosting our volunteers:

*Ealing Half Marathon
Sustain IT Harrow
Gardening Projects at Stanmore Country Park and Canons Park
St Joseph's Pastoral Centre
St Luke's Hospice Shops
Blossom Baby Bank
Crossroads Stroke Club
St Elizabeth's School, Much Hadham
Horsenden Community Farm
Birchwood Grange Care Home*

We are always open to new volunteering partnerships. If your organisation would like student volunteers next academic year, please do get in touch with Clare our Lay Chaplain cac@stdoms.ac.uk.

CHAPLAINCY UPDATE

GOVERNORS' MASS

At the Governors' Mass on Thursday 3rd July, the St. Dominic's community came together not only in prayer and thanksgiving but also for two special moments of dedication. Firstly, the blessing of our new College minibuss by Monsignor Martin Hayes.

Staff, students, governors, and clergy gathered outside as Monsignor Hayes led a short but moving blessing ceremony. The new minibuss will support the many activities and outreach efforts of our Sixth Form, it was blessed with holy water and prayer, asking for God's protection over all those who travel in it and the work it will support.

Secondly, the St. Dominic's community witnessed a deeply meaningful moment as Swetha Fernando, a Year 12 student, was commissioned as a Minister of Holy Communion.

Swetha was formally blessed and entrusted with this sacred ministry by Monsignor Martin Hayes. Surrounded by staff, governors and fellow students, she committed herself to serving the College community through the distribution of the Eucharist.

This commissioning is not only a personal milestone for Swetha, but also a reflection of the faith-filled ethos of St. Dominic's. Her willingness to take on this role shows a maturity of faith, a servant heart, and a deep commitment to the spiritual life of our College.

We congratulate Swetha on this special calling and pray that she may carry out her ministry with reverence, compassion and joy.

"For even the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve..." (Mark 10:45)

Clare Castell – Chaplain



CHAPLAINCY UPDATE

CORE RE

The second assessment in Year 13 followed the talk *"Supper at Emmaus"* and was based on the theme of *"Eating Together."* Students had a choice of questions. The work they produced was reflective, insightful, and confidently articulated. It was encouraging to see how many students used the assessment as an opportunity to show how they endeavour to live out the demands of their faith in their everyday lives. Their responses gave a strong sense of how far they have come on their spiritual journey during their two years with us at St Dominic's.



Here are three lovely pieces of work, all very different in style, but each demonstrating true "learning of the heart". These students chose to answer the question: "How important is the sharing of food to you? Explain the religious significance of a shared meal/meals you have experienced".

"Eating together" by Francis Sands

In the Bible we are introduced to the importance of a shared meal. For example, Jesus shares the Last Supper with his disciples before he is crucified to forgive our sins. This meal is made present once again each time Mass is celebrated in the Eucharist.

Many Catholics also eat together daily. The family will come together in the evening and share a meal. This builds a strong bond between the family and allows for a time when everyone is brought together in a calm way.

We are taught in scripture that we must love our neighbour and sharing a meal can be a good way to enact this teaching. The act of cooking one's family a meal and taking time to eat it with everyone shows a sense of closeness and a sense of love. Many families will also take time to pray before meals, thanking God for the food and wellbeing of everyone around the table, strengthening each member of the family's connection to God.

Christmas can be another example of a significant gathering together to share food. My family visits my aunt who prepares a meal for the whole extended family to eat after Church. Celebrating Jesus' birth as a congregation, all gathered in the same place of worship, and united in the Eucharist, is very special.

CHAPLAINCY UPDATE

CORE RE

The act of sharing food is present and valued within other religions. For example, Jewish people celebrate shabbat every week. They share a meal with family and friends praising God and spending quality-time together.

Setting time aside to eat together – time that could be used to do something else, especially in our busy, modern world – is a clear example of love of others. It encourages the appreciation of God's gifts to us and further roots the foundations of familial and other bonds.

"Eating together" by Ellen Neza

Through my own personal experiences, I find the act of sharing meals holds great significance, especially within my own religion, Catholicism. Sharing food serves not only to nourish and take care of our bodies, but it is also a powerful way of fostering a community filled with appreciation for the food we are privileged to receive, as well as growing a deeper connection amongst one another.

In Catholicism, the act of sharing food holds profound religious significance. Many of Jesus's teachings centered around meals whether meeting with tax collectors or the wedding at Cana. In the Last Supper he shared a meal with his disciples, saying, "This is my body given up for you. Take it and eat it. Do this in memory of me. This is my blood, the blood of the new covenant. This is poured out for the forgiveness of sins." Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist when he gives himself to us. In this way we are joined with the body of Christ as we share in this mystery which unites us all.

Sharing meals reminds me of the virtues I aspire to as a Catholic, such as hospitality, generosity and gratefulness. Jesus was criticised by his religious opponents for sharing meals with social outcasts. His teachings remind me of how important it is to share food, especially with those less fortunate or those who are marginalised.

Many Churches (including mine) host afternoon teas and meals, where we gather and bond over shared meals. Sharing meals also comes with saying grace before we eat. This expresses our appreciation for having enough to eat and for the variety of foods we can enjoy. This creates a sense of unity, love and thankfulness among everyone.

Growing up, I have experienced how meals can bring people closer together, for instance, family dinners or going out with friends to restaurants. With these meals, there is a reinforcement of social bonds and a sense of belonging and support. Family dinners and meals out with friends were opportunities for me to take time away from the business of my life and communicate with people I care about in a relaxed and open way. I left these meals with a sense of inner peace and love, feeling closer to those around me.

In conclusion the sharing of meals holds for me deep religious, social and personal significance. Through the Eucharist, social gatherings, Church events, meals with loved ones and acts of charity (like sharing food with people who are less fortunate) my faith has grown. Shared meals are also a way for me to live in accordance with the values that I believe are most important.

CHAPLAINCY UPDATE

CORE RE

"Eating together" by Chris Pinto

As a Catholic I have been reading the Bible from a young age. I have been taught about the importance of sharing what we have with others - "Clothe the naked and feed the hungry". Sharing food is one of many ways of giving to those in need. Every Sunday my family and I eat together. We go to Church and each week we donate to charity. We give because Jesus said we should love God with all our heart and love our neighbour as ourselves.

Something I have only started doing recently is sharing a meal with one of my friends. It means I must go out of my way and use a free period to go to a store to choose something we can share together. It is my good deed for that day and it builds rapport.

Acts of kindness and especially sharing a meal are religiously important. We may not recognise the person begging on the other side of the street, but God has created him in his image. His dignity as a human being cannot be taken away from him. Which means it is only right to offer him something kindly.

Doing things like this strengthens my relationship with God just like going to Mass does when we remember the Last Supper. This is a special meal when we receive Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. It is a way to remember his sacrifice on the cross and to grow closer to him on earth.

Wishing you a happy summer.

Helena Shaw - Head of Core RE



HISTORY

PARIS TRIP

Liberté, Égalité...Sleép Déprivation

Of the many things this trip taught us - including not getting off the Metro when we were supposed to (thank you Chris), and how to hibernate at Gare Du Nord - the feeling of truly being in the room where it happens dominates it all. There are not many things more chaotic than unleashing a busload of Year 12s into a foreign city, except maybe trying to catch the H17 to and from College. However, when St. Dominics strives to serve its students, it sure does know how to live up to its legacy.

In June of 2025, a group of French-deficient students boarded the Eurostar to catch the first departure of the day. With enough snacks to last a revolution, we were ready to explore the roots and repercussions of one of the most documented and influential uprisings: The French Revolution.

Day One: Let Them Eat...Italian Food in a French City

With the phrase being "Let Them Eat Brioche" - no it's not "Cake" - it was just one of the many misconceptions St. Dominic's Sixth Formers fell for, another being not comprehending an average of 23,024 steps as we ventured into Versailles. As we strutted amongst endless bedrooms, hallways that seemed to go on forever and quite an unreasonable number of mirrors for a home, it became painfully clear why the French people had enough of royal excess. The Palace of Versailles stood as a catalytic symbol for the Revolution; it is hard to justify powdered wigs and gold-encrusted court rooms when half your country cannot afford bread. Still, it was awe-inspiring being in the very rooms where our story begins.



HISTORY

PARIS TRIP

In true revolutionary spirit, we rejected French cuisine and almost entirely ate in favour of the Italians, with pasta and pizza pretty much taking up our entire trip - except for the one or two eager, cheese-craving individuals who shall not be named. Tired and exhausted, we made our way to the depths of Paris to check-in to our hotel, making the most of seven hours of sleep for an early awakening for the next day.

Day Two: Eiffel For You

Starting off at 8:30 sharp for an exquisite continental breakfast (which, surprisingly, some of us had found the energy to attend) we had a long day ahead. With an accompanied walking-talking guide by a professional - who, for a Frenchman, spoke beautiful English (our history teacher, Chris) - we set off to our first stop: Notre Dame. Amongst the many group photos endured on this particular day, it arguably made the best memories of the trip thus far. With a quick pitstop for lunch, alongside trying to remember which King Louis was which, we headed to our next destination, the Louvre, just in time for...you guessed it...a group photo! Though closed on the day, we immensely yearned being so close yet so far from the glorious Mona Lisa; I am sure she would have loved us anyway. Yet another group photo as we approached the Eiffel Tower in all her glory, which led us to a peaceful cruise on the Seine, sailing past iconic landmarks. As some of us imagined ourselves on the Titanic, others truly captivated the beauty of Parisian architecture - speaking of which, sets us at our final stop for the day, Galeries Lafayette: a 7-floor luxury shopping mall, with exceptional views, except if you were looking at the price tags. We then headed for our final night's sleep, up again for an even earlier start.



HISTORY

PARIS TRIP

Day Three: Au Revoir, For Now

The final day began, as all great tragedies do, with more walking. We made the most of the complimentary breakfast one last time and left our bags behind for one final day adventuring the city. Beginning at Paris Montparnasse for 360-degree views of Paris, the sun welcomed us to a rooftop where some of us took it upon ourselves to tan whilst we can. After making our way back down 56 floors, we headed to the Panthéon, an iconic monument where some of the world's most influential inventors, poets and philosophers are buried - or pretty much anyone whom the French value as important: once again, pretty much anyone. We then returned for one last dinner before waving goodbye to the city, its heat, and double-decker trains.

Gare Du Nord welcomed us back once more as we returned to London, slightly more educated, significantly more tired, and unnecessarily loaded with Eiffel Tower keyrings.

We walked in the footsteps of kings and queens, revolutionaries and the beautiful stench of Parisian streets. More importantly, we have seen our studies come to life - not just in texts, but in the streets, in the history, in the symbolism and in the notorious "I Love Paris" T-shirts, which for some of us, buying was our one and only goal.

To our teachers: thank you for surviving us. To Paris: thank you for the memories, and the handy transport system. To St. Dominic's: thank you for an unforgettable opportunity. And to our fellow students: Vive La Révolution...but maybe not the early starts.

Ahmad Samhat - Year 1 Student



PSYCHOLOGY HUNTERIAN MUSEUM

Our psychology students had a fantastic opportunity to visit the Hunterian Museum, where we discovered the art and science of surgery from ancient times to the present day.

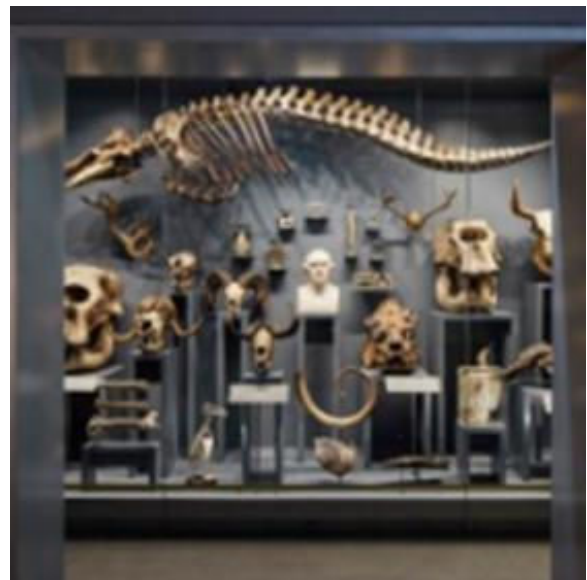
The museum offered a treasure trove of information about different species and their anatomy. Everything from bones to organs and even to nerves and brains were on display for us to examine and learn from. In particular, it was interesting to witness the development of our knowledge of different species because of the idea that from the beginning to the end of the visit, we were clearly able to see the gradual modernisation of surgery and anatomy.

By witnessing the development of anatomical knowledge and surgical procedures, we were able to realise just how much psychology is impacted by biological features alongside environmental aspects.

What made our experience even more memorable was that we were able to visit an area closed off to the public. This area housed more specimens of human bodies that are used specifically to study and learn from. Because of this, we had our very own psychology lesson delivered by Chris that used these specimens as examples to teach us more complex aspects of the way our brains work.

Overall, it was not only an invaluable opportunity to even be at the Hunterian Museum, but the depth of knowledge we gained was even more important. It is certainly a visit I will never forget, and I strongly recommend taking a friend or visit yourself if you are interested in biology or psychology to gain a more in-depth understanding of our species and others.

Maria Marinova – Year 1 Student



HISTORY OF ART

VISIT TO THE COLNAGHI GALLERY



Once again St. Dominic's History of Art students visited the oldest gallery in the world, the Colnaghi, in the St. James's area of London. The visit was organised by Tristan Petsola, the Gallery Assistant. The Colnaghi consists of two rooms and the exhibition on show was entitled 'Held in Space: Celebrating Women-Led art and Design'. It featured incredible drawings by women artists along with furniture designs by pioneering women designers, such as Charlotte Perriand, from the Banda Gallery. The Colnaghi advertises it as: **'HELD IN SPACE** an exhibition where legacy and modernity coexist in a dreamlike space. It is both a celebration and a meditation: on women's creative legacies, the tactile intimacy of home, and the enduring resonance of artworks shaped by human hands'.

We were given an excellent tour by Federico Bonezzi, Research Specialist and Sales Associate, who was able to draw our attention to some of the interesting features of the works, such as Leonor Fini's many art works of her cats, Gwen John's tranquil drawings and Francoise Gilot. We were also shown around the library during which we learnt some important information about careers in the art world. In fact, while we were looking at the books Federico was online waiting to bid for a particular picture frame which had come up at auction. We learnt about provenance and the role of auction houses in providing a platform for students to break into the gallery world. It was a great trip and here are some comments by the students about what they enjoyed best.

"The visit to the Colnaghi was a great experience witnessing works from 1886, and the sketches from Gilot, who was Pablo Picasso's muse. Few were imitating the same style, others were adorable sketches of cats. There was also an amazing, curved staircase down to the library where we were surrounded by old books of arts and more frames of old sketches."

"The Colnaghi visit was very valuable to me considering my future and gaining access to these professional smaller gallery spaces is so special. I would never have experienced that otherwise. The Colnaghi visit was probably a once in a lifetime visit."

HISTORY OF ART

VISIT TO THE V&A MUSEUM/NATIONAL GALLERY

Yet again another successful but busy day visiting two London Galleries. We started off at the Victoria and Albert Museum to look at the plaster copies of famous Renaissance works. We saw the three Davids - one by Donatello, one by Verrocchio and one by Michelangelo. This is the only place where you will ever see them in the same space and it helps the students to understand the difference between them. We also saw original works by Canova and Giambologna which are perfect for visual analysis and have come up on exam papers in the past. After a good look around, we headed by tube to Trafalgar Square and had our lunch break there before heading into the National Gallery.

Once in the gallery we visited lots of art works that we have studied this year including the Arnolfini Portrait by Van Eyck and the Battle of San Romano by Uccello. One of the main reasons for this visit is to look at some works from the Italian Renaissance and we are very lucky to have works by Botticelli from the Early Renaissance, Giovanni Bellini and Titian from Renaissance Venice and Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo and Raphael from the High Renaissance. The students were absolutely brilliantly behaved, and it was a great trip to end my teaching career at St. Dominic's with.

Angela Inglese - Head of History of Art



HISTORY OF ART

VISIT TO THE V&A AND NATIONAL GALLERY



Here is what the students had to say:

"The Victoria and Albert Museum was stunning, beautiful pillars, loved the experience with our class and Angela. Everyone was in a rush with hurried pictures and excellent viewing of the real monumental sculptures."

"IT WAS FUNNY AND I LOVED IT! THANK YOU, ANGELA IT WAS AMAZING BECAUSE OF YOU!!!"

"I really enjoyed the National Gallery and V&A trip! My favourite part of it was seeing our specified artists' works in real life- such as the Arnolfini Portrait, the Renaissance works, and (my personal favourite) Delacroix's paintings!"

"The trip was super fun. The only downside was the weather which was super hot but overall the trip was a great experience because we saw many artworks that we have literally just studied and we took some great pictures to remind us of the day."

"I loved all the sculptures and paintings we get to study and see them IN REAL LIFE! I also loved the photos I took."

"I really enjoyed the visit, it was a lovely experience, and I had loads of fun, my favourite part about it was seeing the artworks we have studied in real life. Loved it."

"I really enjoyed all the trips, my favourite being the V&A and the National Gallery. I liked all the art works we saw."

"I really enjoyed going to the V&A, looking at the sculptures and getting an understanding of the size of them - as well as other things within the museum like the medieval section. Going to the National Gallery and seeing the works we will study was good and allowed me to get an idea on the use of COLOURS!"

"I loved the trips so much, it was insanely cool to see all the paintings that we have looked at in class. Thank you for everything Angela!!!"

PHYSICS TRIP TO CERN

We had the privilege of taking 44 wonderful Year 1 Physics students to CERN, Switzerland last week. At CERN students were able to interact with the equipment in the Science Gateway, which taught them a lot about particle Physics. During the guided tour students had a presentation delivered to them about the Large Hadron Collider's (LHC) groundbreaking experiments, which include ALICE, ATLAS, CMS, etc.

Other highlights of our trip included a boat ride on Lake Geneva the Mont Salève cable car ride across the French border, a Thai lunch with all students and staff and finally ending with a tour of the United Nations building, where students got to listen in on a conference delivered by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk.

The experience of both students and staff will prove to be unforgettable and everyone involved had a fantastic time. I would like to extend my gratitude to the staff who supported me on this trip: Eden Gan; Craig McDonagh; Faheema Rahman and our Principal, Andrew Parkin.

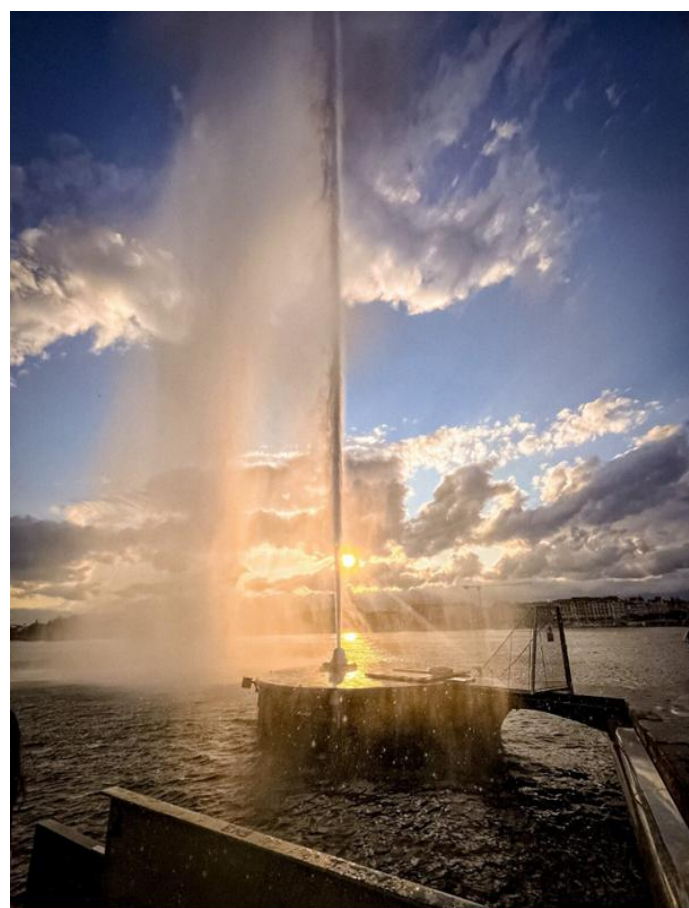
Luke Ray – Head of Physics



PHYSICS TRIP TO GENEVA

We kicked off our Swiss adventure exploring the absolutely stunning city of Geneva– the kind of ‘beautiful’ that makes you understand why people write poetry about European summers, although this beauty is only half as meaningful when you're experiencing it alone. Standing on that cruise, looking out at Geneva's famous fountain dancing across the Lake made me realise that we were just a bunch of physics nerds then suddenly the moment became ten times more spectacular! It was not just ordinary scenery anymore as it was shared with people who were quickly becoming more than just classmates.

On the Saturday came the main event - CERN. The place where they literally smash particles together at ‘near light-speed’ just to see what happens. We had the rare chance to learn about their experiments and the global collaboration there. My friend Krishiv captured it perfectly: "walking through those tunnels felt like being inside asci-fi movie, except the science was real and somehow even more mind-bending than fiction". Really makes you reflect on what our collective intelligence is capable of when used for common good.



PHYSICS TRIP TO GENEVA

But this trip was not just about Physics.

We also wandered through Jardin Botanique, Geneva's peaceful botanical gardens – though "peaceful" is relative when you decide to sit directly in the flowers and get acquainted with some very territorial Swiss bees.



PHYSICS TRIP TO GENEVA

On our final day, we took a cable car up Mont Salève, crossing into France for a majestic view over Geneva and its lake from the top. Here, we enjoyed some hiking coupled with vibes thanks to a portable DJ, along with too many pictures to count, while on top of the best view in miles.



We also visited the United Nations Palace of Nations where we had a proper guided tour around the UN's offices in Geneva. We were able to listen to the opening of the 59th session of the Human Rights Council, which was incredible when you think about it – a bunch of students getting front-row seats to actual international diplomacy.



PHYSICS TRIP TO GENEVA

The absolute highlight? While waiting for our tram to the UN, our beloved Principal Andrew Parkin spontaneously became Geneva's newest street performer, entertaining both us and bemused Swiss locals with impromptu piano skills. Not to be outdone, Shreya Pindoria turned it into a full karaoke session with "I Want It That Way," and before we knew it, half the bus stop was singing along. Peak British tourist behaviour, and we regret nothing!



PHYSICS TRIP TO GENEVA



In our free time, the Geneva Street Food Festival nearly became our downfall – 60+ food trucks, local specialties, and DJs so good we literally lost track of time. Thanks to some incredible Google map skills, we sprinted through Geneva's streets at night, trying to make curfew while still laughing about the night.

Then there was paddle boating on Lake Geneva. What should have been a gentle Hyde Park-style float turned into my personal highlight of the trip when several students' lack of impulse control (and excess of adrenaline) resulted in impromptu swimming sessions in the lake.

This trip was about so much more than particle physics. It was about those "are we really here?" moments, the inside jokes born from bee stings and lake mishaps. How every time I see someone from this trip now, we exchange a smile that reminisces about our Swiss adventures.

Honestly? I would choose this trip again a hundred times over – same destination, same ridiculous friends – every single time! Thank you so much Luke, Craig, Eden, Faheema and Andrew!

Panav Bindal – Year 1 Student



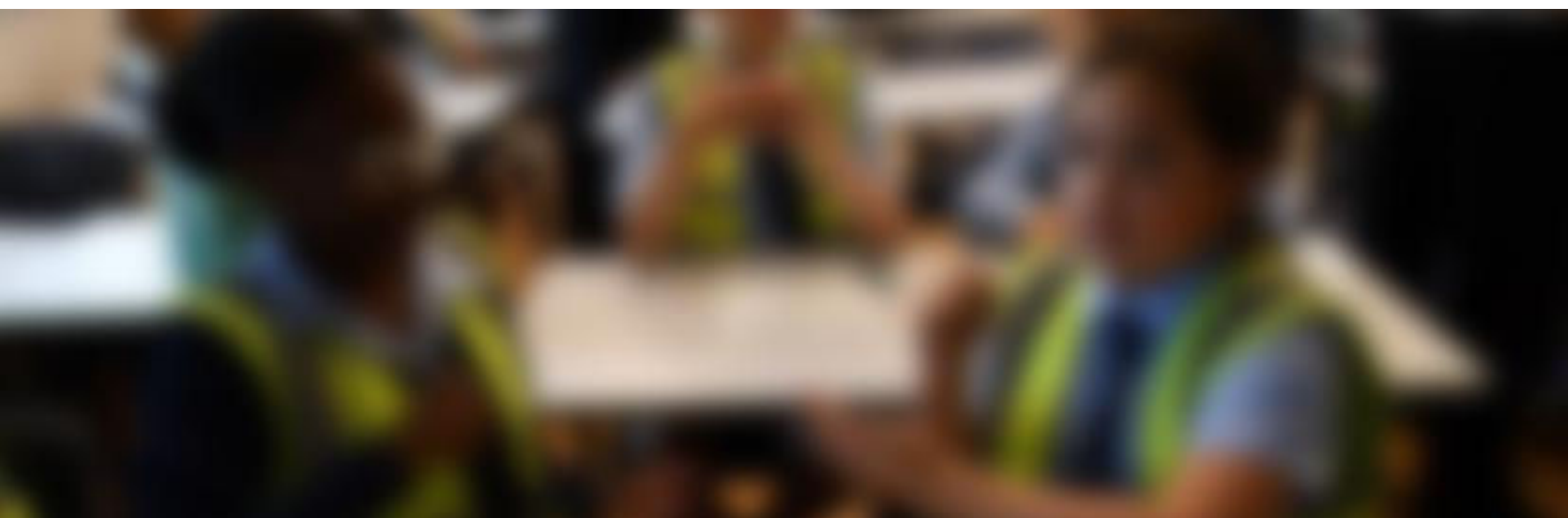
STEM DAY

STEM Day Sparks Excitement and Discovery for Year 5 Students

On a bright Monday morning, 23rd June, 120 eager Year 5 pupils from St. Anselm's and St. George's primary schools stepped into a world of science, discovery, and hands-on learning at our College's STEM Day. The event, designed to ignite curiosity and a passion for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), was a lively and interactive experience that left pupils buzzing with excitement.

The day began with a bang - figuratively, of course - as pupils were grouped and sent off to tackle a variety of workshops across the four STEM subjects.

In *Maths*, pupils became detectives in a **"Murder Mystery" challenge**, using logical reasoning and numerical clues to crack the case. With each group working through puzzles and problem-solving tasks, teamwork and critical thinking were key. The promise of chocolate also helped to win the pupils over!



Meanwhile, the *Biology* lab was a flurry of activity with **food testing experiments**. Wearing lab coats and goggles, pupils investigated different 'soups' to test for sugar, protein and 'poison'. Armed with test tubes and reagents, they learned how scientists use indicators to identify different nutrients - and gained a new appreciation for what is really in their lunchboxes!

Over in *Chemistry*, the lab quite literally lit up with **flame tests**, where pupils discovered how different metals burn with different coloured flames. With safety goggles on and guidance from our Year 12 helpers, pupils were wowed by bursts of green, orange, and purple as they explored the colourful side of chemistry.

STEM DAY

Finally, in *Physics*, pupils got hands-on with **electrical circuits**, learning how electricity flows and how to build working systems using batteries, bulbs, buzzers, and wires. Many pupils were thrilled to light up their own simple circuits - some even managed to add switches and parallel connections!



Throughout the day, pupils rotated through the workshops, guided by our enthusiastic teaching staff and Year 12 science ambassadors, who were on hand to support, explain, and encourage the budding young scientists.

"It was so much fun!" said one Year 5 pupil from St. George's. "I liked the flame tests the best - it felt like real science!" Another from St. Anselm's shared, "I didn't think maths could be that exciting". Our own Year 12 science and maths ambassadors also enjoyed helping and guiding the pupils through a brief insight into the work we do at A level. They loved seeing them light up while learning about the tests we do to search for certain molecules and being fascinated about how to observe things through a light microscope.

The STEM Day was more than just a break from the classroom - it was an opportunity for young minds to engage with science and maths in new and inspiring ways. We hope it has sparked a few future scientists, engineers, and inventors along the way.

A huge thank you to the staff and volunteers who made the day possible - and to the brilliant students of St. Anselm's and St. George's for bringing such great energy and enthusiasm!

Carol Woods - Head of Biology

STEM DAY

On 16th June 2025 we were fortunate to get enthusiastic Year 5 students from St. George's and St. Anselm's.

The day started differently for each group of Year 5 students - either playing Chocs and Chillies or Murder Mystery.

Chocs and Chillies is a game that fired the competitive spirit of each student, where everyone wanted to avoid the chilli like the plague. The rules of Chocs and Chillies involved 13 chocolates and one chilli pepper. Each student could either take 1, 2, or 3 chocolates in each turn, and this would continue until the last person was left with the chilli. At first they were left to play on their own, to get a rough idea and see any patterns that kept on arising. After a few games, the students started to realise they have lost without even coming to finish the game. This led to them trying to make their opponent have 4 chocolates remaining including the chilli pepper.

But why did it always have to be 4 chocolates and a chilli pepper? This had to do with the multiples of 4, where in 13 chocolates you always had to make sure your opponent was left to choose from 12, 8 or 4 and you were always guaranteed a win. Once the students found out this secret trick, each student that went first won their corresponding matches like it was the showdown of the century.

The second game made everyone a private detective for the day where they had to solve a 'Murder Case'. We found out someone has died and a list of suspects was provided. The Chief Investigator told our detectives they had to crack each puzzle to get a clue and eliminate the innocent suspects from the list. The countdown started everyone cracking down the first puzzle; matching the letters of the alphabet to the numbers they solved, breaking down critical sentences that got them one step closer to justice.

Next came a puzzle involving morse code; where teamwork was displayed at its best, one detective mentioning the dots and dash, the other finding the letter. One step closer.

By now, time was ticking, and pressure was running high. As they tackled puzzle after puzzle, each detective crossed off suspects who did not fit the criteria. Assistant detectives buzzed around, ready to answer any questions and lend a helping hand. The room grew tense - more focused than ever - as the final minutes approached. Only a few teams made it to the last puzzle, their minds racing as excitement and intensity filled the air. And then, in a dramatic twist, the cunning murderer was finally revealed - only to be outwitted by our sharp-eyed, quick-witted Year 5 detectives, bringing the mystery to a thrilling close.

All in all this was a fantastic opportunity for the Year 5 students and us. Being able to answer questions about our school life and comparing it to what they have, and to be in their chilli avoiding, mystery solving journey on our funday Monday.

Swetha Fernando – Year 1 Student

Joann Okeoghene Denedo – Year 1 Student

SPORTS ROUND UP

Sports Day

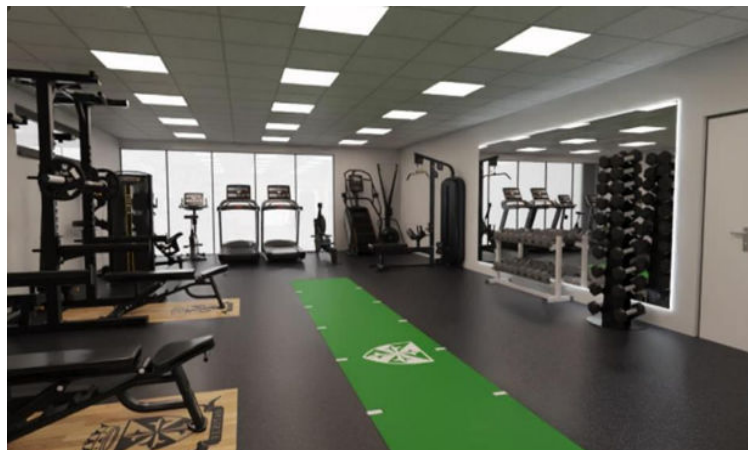
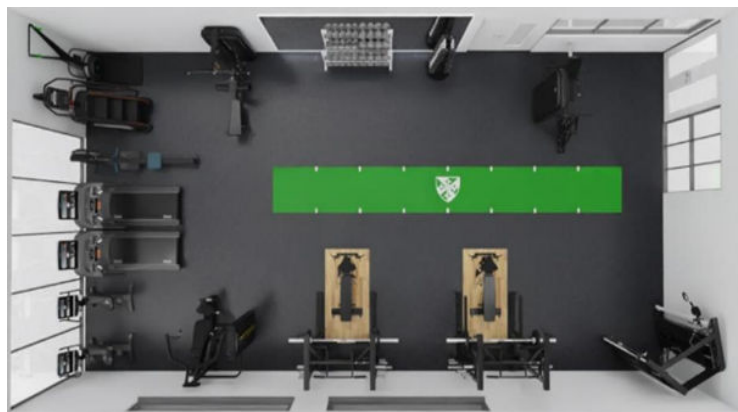
On July 3rd, 2025, we will be hosting our annual sports day in St. Dominic's Park. With over 100 volunteers helping to run the event, we are sure it is going to be a spectacular event. We will be running nine events over the day, consisting of primary school sports day activities, some with a little twist. In particular, the obstacle race, with its four separate events, is an enjoyable one to watch, and the students will be taking on the teachers in a tug of war match to see if they can finally get a victory. We hope that the sun will be shining on the day and look forward to seeing all our students battle it out for the Tutor Group Cup!

New Gym

The College gym in the Siena building will be refurbished this summer term with a suite of up-to-date cardiovascular equipment, including a stair master, ski ergometer, treadmills and bikes (with screens), as well as an array of pin loaded weight machines to strengthen the whole body.

In line with the benefits of weight training on mental health, we have purchased two power racks, with wooden platforms in-built so that students can learn how to do Olympic lifts and other rack-based resistance training, with expert tuition from Bobby. To help improve functional fitness, we will also have a track laid in the gym to allow sled workouts to be carried out to improve lower body and back strength. Students can purchase an annual membership of the gym for £50 starting in September 2025. A bargain at £1.40 a week!

Elena Synesi, Head of PE



SPORTS ROUND UP

Over four glorious Thursday afternoons down on the field two sets of St. Dominic's students had two archery sessions each full of challenge, fun and enjoyment. Every single student improved over time. We had over 80 students apply for a chance to join the Archery Coach, Victoria, a former student in the sessions. The weather was mostly kind and the feedback was very positive. The majority of these students were trying archery for the very first time. Here are some student quotes.... "challenging, but fun", "super fun", "really great" and "it was really good to try something new".

Bobby Hodge – Sports Assistant



CULTURAL DIVERSITY DAY





CAREERS UPDATE

This term we have held a number of careers events to inform and inspire our students. On 13th May, A Level Religious Studies students attended a taster lecture in Theology by Dr Jack Bull from St. Mary's University. Students were able to gain an insight into studying this subject at undergraduate level. On 21st May, the University of Exeter gave a talk about Alternatives to Medicine to give students an understanding of the allied healthcare professions and other science-based careers. On 11th June we held our annual Biology Speed Networking event, designed to help students explore career pathways within Biology. We were joined by professionals and undergraduates from Biosciences, Bioengineering, Life Sciences, Nursing and Radiography as well as a Paramedic from the London Ambulance Service and apprentices from a local food manufacturing company.

UCAS

On 13th May we held our annual UCAS and Alternative Destinations online presentation for first-year parents and guardians. This talk explained the UCAS and Apprenticeship process and how parents and guardians can best support their young people.

Our first-year students have been diligently working on their UCAS applications since our tutorial session at the start of June. They are now focusing on their personal statements and have started planning their first drafts. This year marks a significant change in the format of the personal statement. Instead of the traditional 4000-character open statement, students now need to respond to targeted questions. This change aims to ensure that universities receive more specific and relevant information to fully assess the suitability and motivation of applicants.

To support their applications, students are encouraged to demonstrate their interests through engagement in super-curricular activities relevant to their chosen subject or profession. These activities can include wider reading, attending taster lectures, listening to podcasts and watching documentaries, as well as keeping up to date with current issues in their chosen field. Our College Sharepoint LLC page offers a wide range of resources such as JSTOR, Massolit and Gale. The Unifrog platform and Springpod website also provide excellent taster lectures and online work experience and we are excited to welcome Jo Bishop from Springpod to our annual UCAS and Careers Day on 4th July.

The 4th July marks the final day of the academic year and we aim to send students off with the information and inspiration to continue researching and planning their next steps over the summer. Alongside the Springpod talk, we will also welcome Ask Apprenticeships who will deliver a presentation on the Apprenticeship application process. Two of our alumni, who have just completed their first year of undergraduate study, will be returning to share valuable insights on 'How to Make the Most of Year 2'.

CAREERS UPDATE

Choosing a university and course is a big decision and we strongly encourage students to thoroughly research their options by looking closely at course content. University open days are a great opportunity to speak to current students and staff, explore facilities, and imagine what life there might be like. We are fortunate to have many world-renowned universities right here in London, and open days are available over the summer and autumn terms. Many universities offer self-guided campus tours or virtual alternatives if you are unable to attend in person. For parents and guardians, being part of this process can be a valuable way to support and guide your young person through one of the most exciting and important transitions in their life.

For our second years, the Careers Department will be in College on Results day to assist with any UCAS queries or advice. We love to keep in touch with our students once they have moved on from St. Dominic's and encourage them to join our alumni network via Future First:

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



The College is committed to the 'Quality in Careers Standard Award'
We believe all our students deserve access to *high quality, impartial careers education information, advice and guidance*, to inform them of their choices about their future careers and educational progression.

Anna Scarampi - Careers Leader
Lisa Harper - Careers Adviser



SKILLS LUNCH

We were delighted to host our second 'Skills Lunch' on 21st May. We were pleased to be able to be joined by employers, universities and community groups all of whom met our curriculum leaders to talk about the skills young people will require as they move into the world of work. Our curriculum leaders were able to plan events for the upcoming year and think about how they could adapt their schemes of work to ensure that our young people are ready to meet the local, regional and national skills gaps. A particular thank you goes to our two keynote speakers - Shelagh Legrave, the FE Commissioner who spoke eloquently about the importance of skills in education as well as Ian Randall, Director of the North West London Chamber of Commerce who spoke about what skills businesses need young people to have developed so that they are able to thrive. Thank you to all those who joined us!

Naomi Ross - Assistant Principal





LEAVERS' SERVICE AND CARNIVAL 2025





LEAVERS' SERVICE AND CARNIVAL 2025



LEAVERS' AWARDS 2025

Subject	Name
Art	Fiorella Andrisan
History of Art	Skye Greasby
Biology	Nidhi Patel
BTEC (Yvonne Martin Award)	Erica Gracias
Business	Isabella Maria Chrysostomou
Dr Chris Chick Award for Excellence in Chemistry	Rian Chotai
Chemistry	Nidhi Patel
Classics	Freddie McGuigan
Computer Science	Trishan Chudasma
Core RE	Victoria Gawron
Economics	Eashan Patel and Sophia Emile
English	Toby Agerbak
French	Lilia Annon
Geography	Odi Nnaji and Too Nnaji
History	Dillon Wickramarahchi
Law	Esmee Cadogan
Mathematics	Odi Nnaji
Further Mathematics	Rian Chotai
MUN Contribution	Mhikaella Narciso
Music	Alexandra Matusescu
Philosophy	Pola Szelka
Physics	Victoria Klotzky and Nayan Pandey
Physical Education	Kareena Jalan
Psychology	Antonia Verdes
Politics	Zoya Horan
Religious Studies	Karen Botros
Sociology	Evelina Bodiul
Spanish	Freya Thorpe
Theatre Studies	Andra Avadanei
Netball Award	Ireoluwa Sangosanya
Men's Football Award	Kornel Debicki
Women's Football Award	Ashleigh Kinsey
Badminton Award	Aadya Zamre
Volleyball Award	Toby Agerbak
Basketball Award	Joshua Polecina
Table Tennis Award	Rushil Shah
The Sports Personality Award	Grace Amos and Rian Chotai
Library Ambassador	Isabella Durrani
EPQ	Sami Rehman
Chaplaincy Award	Harita Choukaria
Ethos Award	Savia Fernandes and Toby Agerbak
The Principal's Award	Dillon Wickramarahchi

CHESS COMPETITION

The first-ever St. Dominic's Chess Grand Final took place on June 3rd, pitting Eddie Man against Kabilaash Mathiyalagan in what would become an epic showdown. Both players had earned their spots by dominating their respective Chess Clubs during Wednesday Enrichment activities and fighting their way through a knockout tournament of the top players.

The match began with Kabilaash choosing to play with the white pieces. He opened with a classic move, and Eddie responded with the famous Sicilian Defense – the same bold strategy used by Beth Harmon in Netflix's "The Queen's Gambit." This aggressive choice showed Eddie was playing for a win, not just a draw.

For the first 15 moves, both players were cautious, carefully positioning their pieces like generals arranging troops before battle. Neither wanted to give their opponent an opening. But on move 16, everything changed. Kabilaash made a daring leap into the centre of the board with his knight, triggering an explosive chain reaction. Suddenly, pieces were flying off the board in a flurry of eight consecutive captures and trades.

When the chaos settled on move 22, Kabilaash had gained a crucial advantage – he was up one pawn, which in chess terms meant he had a significant edge. Eddie was not going down without a fight though. He tried to activate his pieces and create counterplay, but Kabilaash was ready for every attempt. With surgical precision, he forced more trades that curbed Eddie's fighting chances.



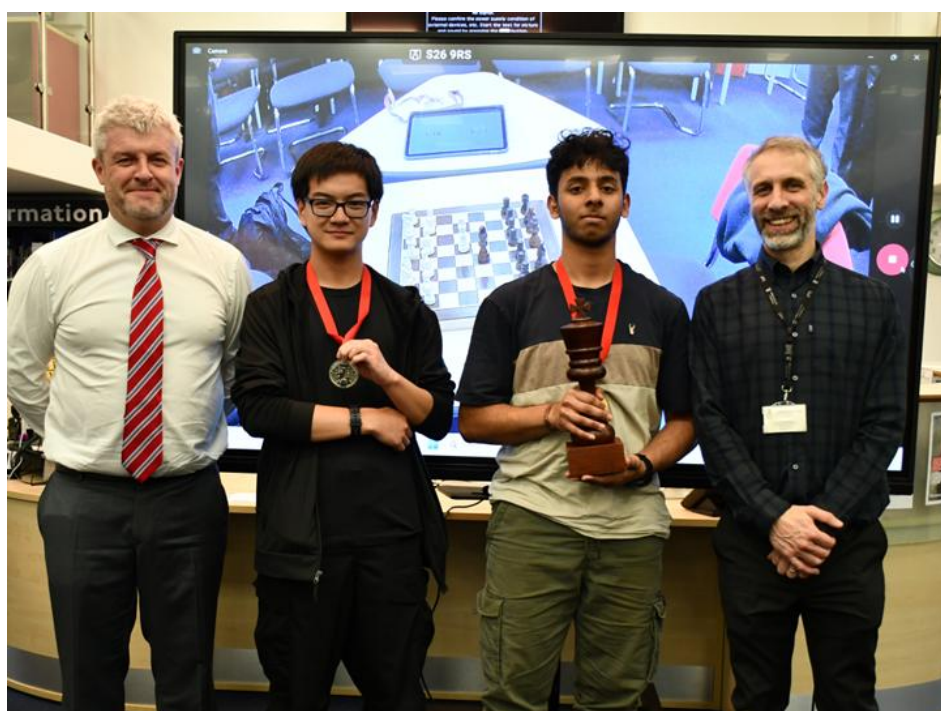
CHESS COMPETITION

Some spectators still held out hope for an Eddie comeback, but those dreams were crushed on move 39. Kabilaash played a brilliant move, simultaneously attacking Eddie's king and rook. This gave him an impressive lead that would be impossible to overcome.

Eddie, showing sportsmanship recognised the inevitable and graciously resigned on move 48 after putting up a valiant fight.

This thrilling battle marks the beginning of what will become an annual St. Dominic's Chess Championship.

Kabilaash takes home a mini trophy, while his name will be engraved on a larger trophy that will be kept in the College's trophy cabinet – a permanent reminder of this historic first championship.



MEET THE BEEKEEPERS

Recent beekeeping at St. Dominic's certainly goes back to the 1990s when Jo Telfer, current President of Harrow Beekeepers' Association, kept hives in the College grounds. Judy Earl RIP carried on the tradition from around 2010. Bill Fitzmaurice took over in 2017 and was joined by Caroline Geheran in 2021.

2024 saw the addition of the College's own Dominic Kelly who keeps his hives on a separate apiary down by the playing field.

A total of 10 hives are kept on the College grounds and, most years, they provide a good honey harvest.

We wonder if the beekeeping tradition might stretch back even further into the past. It is quite possible that the Dominican nuns, who set up their Convent here in 1878, may have had honeybees on site, maybe in their orchard. Some of their apple and pear trees still bear fruit today, still providing precious forage for our bees in late April into May each year.

Bill Fitzmaurice and Caroline Geheran,

Harrow Beekeepers' Association



IoPPN YOUTH AWARDS KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

Student success at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience (IoPPN) Youth Awards at King's College London!

Congratulations to Naufal Anam and Jashnuka Sivasutharjanan who have been offered places on this year's highly competitive Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience (IoPPN) Youth Awards at King's College London!

The IoPPN received a large number of outstanding applications from across the region, and our students stood out for their impressive written submissions and strong alignment with the award's criteria. They have been invited to visit the IoPPN in the summer of 2025, where they will meet leading researchers and academics, explore potential career paths in STEM fields, and develop valuable skills in research evaluation and communication. As part of the award, both Naufal and Jashnuka will receive a £50 book voucher and a certificate of attendance.

We are incredibly proud of Naufal and Jashnuka for their achievement and look forward to seeing how they make the most of this fantastic opportunity.

Farhanaz Merali and Kam Gill-Pancutt
Personal Tutors



MUSIC SUMMER CONCERT

A wonderful evening of summer music was held at the College on 26th June, with the eclectic mixture of styles and ensembles reflecting the vast array of talents our students possess. Some highlights were Eva Rubin's performance of Prelude No 1 by Villa Lobos (classical guitar); Ali Nasrallah's performance of Vivaldi's Concerto in A minor (violin), and Adrian Eggleston's enthralling performance of Haydn's Piano Sonata in Eb major Hob xvi:52.



Finally, our very own Patrick Miles' world premiere of 'God moves in a mysterious way', his original setting of a poem by William Cowper for strings, wind and soprano – a really complex and beguiling work, worthy of any BBC Proms performance with Abigail Gorton on vocals who brought the words to life.



POLITICS

TALK BY KRUPESH HIRAN

On the 9th of June the Politics Department were fortunate to welcome London Assembly Member for Brent & Harrow who gave a talk on his role in the London Assembly and representing Harrow and Brent. It was a great opportunity to further learn about the process of the relationship between the Mayor of London and the London Assembly. We also discussed the main role of a member of the London Assembly which is to provide scrutiny and lobby for local issues which many students found very helpful. Krupresh's main role is working with transport and healthcare. He is following Sadiq Khan's goal of making all London train stations provide step free services. This highlighted to students how local issues are fought for and how they can make a direct change.

Following the talk, attendees had the opportunity to ask Krupesh questions about his role, the work he does, and issues that mattered to them. One student inquired about how regional-level work, particularly in the area of health, is communicated to local communities, expressing concern that language barriers and other accessibility issues often result in a lack of awareness. Another student inquired about the relationship between the Mayor of London and the London Assembly members. It was insightful to hear Krupesh's perspective on this, as it relates directly to devolution - a key topic covered in the A Level Politics course. Overall, it was a thoroughly engaging and insightful talk which allowed us to think constructively, especially about how decisions affect our everyday life.

Ruth Nakaanga and Kenechi Ezeajugi - Y1 Students



ST. DOMINIC'S IN BLOOM

On Tuesday 2nd July, St. Dominic's Sixth Form College hosted our first ever St. Dominic's in Bloom event. The College grounds came alive with colour as every tutor group submitted a beautifully planted pot for judging, alongside three additional categories open to staff and visitors. The event culminated in an auction, which raised £546 for two wonderful charities: St. Luke's Hospice, which provides compassionate end-of-life care, and Harrow in LEAF, a local charity that promotes horticulture, protects green spaces, and supports community well-being and biodiversity.

We were delighted to welcome a number of special guests, including members of Our Lady and St. Thomas of Canterbury's 'Young at Heart' group, coordinated by Judy Walker and Anna Clarke, who kindly arranged transport for the group. Also in attendance were members of Harrow in LEAF, as well as parents and neighbours from the local community. Our visitors were warmly welcomed by a team of brilliant student helpers, who led guided tours of the College grounds and served tea to the 'Young at Heart' group. Primed by our Chaplain, Clare, to ask open-ended questions, the students showed genuine kindness and curiosity, making our guests feel truly valued and at home.

The tours showcased the College's beautiful outdoor spaces, including our beehives (with many guests purchasing jars of our very own St Dominic's honey), our small allotment, and the pond, all of which left a lasting impression to our visitors. Special thanks go to our groundskeeper, Dominic, whose care and dedication ensure that the College remains a peaceful and inspiring place to work and study. Many visitors commented on how beautiful and well-maintained the site was.



ST. DOMINIC'S IN BLOOM

The most hotly contested category of the competition was 'Best Display in an Unusual Container', with entries ranging from planted volleyballs, wellies and a large coffee tin. Judges Sr. Karen and Helena Shaw, were not swayed by the inclusion of a small statue of Mary holding baby Jesus and instead awarded first place to a clever and colourful arrangement housed in a St. Dominic's tote bag submitted from the Tutor Team. The 'Best in Show' prize also came from this category, a recycled colander bursting with pink and purple petunias (right).

Winning Entries:

- Best Tutor Group Display – Paula Sheehan's E2 Tutor Group
- Best Display in an Unusual Container – The Tutor Team
- Best Hanging Basket – Susan O'Brien
- Best Small Pot – Bryan Johnston
- Best in Show – Susan O'Brien

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making St. Dominic's in Bloom such a joyful and community spirited event.

Sarah Halon - Head of Ancient & Modern Studies



THREE PEAKS CHALLENGE 2025

3 peaks, 3 summits, 3 countries, 3,000m of ascent and 26 miles later, I can proudly say that 42 St. Dominic's students, along with three of our beloved teachers, Avnish Shah, Tom Bolton and Celia Coleman, as well as our former teachers, founding members of Kujali, Bijou Kalayil and Alka Shah-Kalayil, have completed the Three Peaks Challenge 2025! Unfortunately, with Tom and Celia leaving, this was their last trip with us, but a wondrous one, and I speak for all of us when I say we would not have picked anyone better to come on this mentally and physically enduring journey with us. We will truly miss you, Celia and Tom.

We started off on Monday, 30th June with an early start at 6am to head to Fort William, Scotland. Twelve hours later, we were at the site of our first hostel, right across the street from our first climb of Ben Nevis at 1,345m above sea level. Starting off the challenge on Tuesday, the following day, our moods and state of minds were high, eager, and excited, although a little nervous. We were ready to climb our first peak, the tallest of the three, in fact the tallest in the United Kingdom. We started off the climb with what is known as Heart Attack Hill. Those first 45 minutes really took it out of us, but it was worth the effort for the view. We continued up Ben Nevis, hopes high, passing the picturesque waterfall halfway and just under four hours from setting off 38 of us, summited Ben Nevis. It was chilly and cloudy, but once the clouds cleared up a little, it was worth the climb. With hopes high, we were all ready to descend relatively quickly to return to the coach. However, Bijou did warn us that going down was no easy task. Reality hit as we really felt the pain in our knees and toes on the way down, we had underestimated the toll the descent would take on us on this rocky terrain.



THREE PEAKS CHALLENGE 2025

Day two started with a 30-minute drive from Keswick, which was a 5-hour drive from Fort William. This was the day we climbed Scafell Pike, 978m above sea level. Time pressures were really on as we had to ascend and descend in a timely manner to be able to set off to reach our third hostel promptly. Now, I will say this was a difficult climb; the fast pace mixed with heavy winds and rainfall made the ascent more challenging. We saw quite a few slips, but luckily nothing serious! We did end up splitting into three groups, where one group of 23 summited Scafell, a second summiting a different mountain 100m lower than Scafell called Esk Pike and a final group climbing halfway up and then returning back to the coach. The end of the second day left us all in a jolly mood for the third and final day! It is safe to say we were all proud of ourselves and looked forward to some well-deserved hot chocolate at our next service station.

Reaching our third hostel, at the base of Snowdon, we were all excited to mark the near end of our trip, staying up late to play cards and pool, students and teachers alike, adrenaline high! Personally, I would say this final climb was the most rewarding as I can gladly say that all of us summited the mountain at 1,085m above sea level on that Thursday, day three. This climb did require us to use our hands a little more, but we had some great weather and clear skies, so the view was constantly reminding us of the beauty that awaited us at the summit, however windy it was. We made it up Snowdon in a good pace, excited to have summited the third and final peak! The journey down the mountain was a bit easier on the knees and we were met with ice cream at the bottom as a little celebration which summed up the end of this journey, one we all took together in summation, raising £12,000 for Kujali Africa (so far of course)!

Wrapping up, four days of muppets, laughter, hydration, karaoke and stories of our adventures, we returned home proud of our accomplishment, we did it, as a team!

Riya Pathak – Year 1 Student



GOVERNING BODY

Membership Category	Name
Foundation Governor & Chair of Governors	Mr David Martin
Foundation Governor & Vice Chair of Governors	Miss Anne O'Shea
Foundation Governor	Sister Karen d'Artois
Foundation Governor	Miss Cáitlín Boyle
Foundation Governor	Mr Keith Brown
Foundation Governor	Mr Noel Feeney
Foundation Governor	Mr Patrick Freely
Foundation Governor	Mr James O'Flynn
Principal	Mr Andrew Parkin
Staff Governor	Mr Paul Logue
Staff Governor	Mr Louis Leeves
Parent Governor	Mr Gary Holmyard
Parent Governor	Mr Oneal Joseph
Co-opted Governor	Ms Rosemary Laryea
Co-opted Governor	Ms Mia Terra St Hill
Student Governor	Keira O'Malley
Student Governor	George Procter
Student Observer	Swetha Fernando
Student Observer	Rares Pancs

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