



# VERITAS

ST DOMINIC'S  
SIXTH FORM  
COLLEGE



**SPRING 2026**



# EDITORIAL FROM THE PRINCIPAL

This has been a short but very busy eleven weeks since we returned after the Christmas recess and you are receiving this edition of Veritas just before Christians around the world embark on Holy Week, one of the most significant weeks of the year for those of Christian faith as we walk with Christ on His final journey to His crucifixion and death on Good Friday.

Holy Week is full of meaning and resonates with all of us who participate in the various Masses and services, starting with the Washing of the Feet on Maundy Thursday and Jesus breaking bread with his apostles for the first time, through to Good Friday when Jesus is condemned to die by Pontius Pilate and is made to carry his cross to Golgotha, the place where he was to be crucified. We are present when He is laid in the newly hewn tomb and observe the sadness of Mary, His mother, as she lays her son to rest. The darkness then gives way to new life and the joy of the Resurrection at the Saturday Vigil as the Easter candle is brought into each darkened church and the cantor sings 'Lumen Christi', meaning 'Light of Christ' to which the people respond, 'Deo Gratias', 'thanks be to God'. The Easter Vigil is a mix of scripture readings from the old and new testaments, special prayers and special Easter music which brings the new life of Easter to the people and the conquering of death by Jesus fulfils what He taught us whilst on earth fulfilling the words from John's Gospel 'what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed but what we do know is that we shall see God as He truly is'.

These days help anchor me each year in my faith and beliefs, which, as most of us will testify, can be sometimes sorely tested and challenged in modern times. They remind me of what I was taught as a Catholic, growing up at home and attending Catholic schools and how my faith still speaks to me all these years later. Perhaps most significantly, they remind me of the importance of sacrifice and servant leadership and provide me with hope for the future, not just in this world but also in the next.

This edition of Veritas is full of many examples of our students achieving, enjoying and living out our Mission as a Catholic College – encouraging academic excellence, underpinned with strong pastoral and spiritual support. The report from our Catholic Schools Inspection, which took place in February, opens with the line, 'students love attending St. Dominic's and we see evidence of this through the very many events, activities and learning opportunities that our students have participated in since returning on January 5<sup>th</sup>. Working with young adults as we do here at St. Dominic's most definitely fills us with hope for the future and I hope that you get a sense of our collective optimism when you read this latest edition.

Wishing you and your family a very Happy Easter.

Andrew Parkin - Principal



Andrew Parkin - Principal

# EXCELLENCE PROGRAMME VISIT TO CHRIST'S COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE

Fifteen first-year students on the Excellence Programme recently visited Christ's College, Cambridge as part of the University's KS5 Visit Day programme. The visits gave students the opportunity to learn more about studying at university and exploring what Cambridge has to offer.

The day began with an Introduction to University and Cambridge, where students were given an overview of university life, the benefits of higher education, and what makes Cambridge distinctive compared to other UK universities. The session also highlighted the academic and pastoral support available to students during their studies.

In the second session, Supercurricular Activities and Preparing a Competitive Application, students were encouraged to start thinking about their future pathways. They explored how university courses link to potential careers, reflected on their own skills and interests, and discussed the subject combinations and experiences that help build a strong university application.

The visit provided valuable insight into the Oxbridge application process and helped students consider their next steps in education. It also gave them a chance to experience the historic Cambridge environment first-hand, leaving many feeling inspired and more confident about their future academic ambitions.

***Jean Bulyaba – Acting Assistant Principal/Head of Economics***



# ECONOMICS

## PIGOU SOCIETY TALK AT HARROW SCHOOL

Economics students from St. Dominic's were recently invited to Harrow School to attend a special lecture hosted by the School's student-led Pigou Society. The talk was delivered by renowned economist Ha-Joon Chang of SOAS University of London and explored what he described as a "tectonic shift" in the global economy.

During the one-hour lecture, Professor Chang examined the history and modern use of protectionist economic policies in the United States. He began by discussing the ideas of Alexander Hamilton, who argued for protecting America's early manufacturing industries at a time when the country relied heavily on imports from the British Empire and exported primarily agricultural goods such as sugar and tobacco. However, Professor Chang highlighted how even with extremely high transport costs in Hamilton's era, early American industries were often less efficient than established manufacturers elsewhere.

The lecture then moved to the present day, analysing the changing balance of global trade. Professor Chang explained that the United States' share of global trade has fallen significantly since the 1950s, while China's influence has expanded dramatically since the 1970s. He also discussed China's growing role in key industries such as the processing of rare earth minerals and semiconductor production - areas that are increasingly important to the global economy.



# ECONOMICS

## PIGOU SOCIETY TALK AT HARROW SCHOOL

Professor Chang also considered the recent return of tariffs in U.S. trade policy under Donald Trump, arguing that modern protectionism is unlikely to revive American manufacturing as intended. Drawing on examples from major companies such as General Electric and Microsoft, he noted that since the 1980s many firms have prioritised shareholder payouts and stock buybacks rather than reinvesting profits to remain competitive.

Students had the opportunity to ask Professor Chang questions following the talk, before finishing the visit with a book signing for his well-known work, *23 Things They Don't Tell You About Capitalism*. The event offered an engaging and thought-provoking insight into current debates about global trade and economic policy.

**Jean Bulyaba**  
*Acting Assistant Principal/Head of Economics*



# ECONOMICS INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS



On Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026, thirty-two Year 1 Economics students visited the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA), at its offices in Westminster. The day gave students a valuable opportunity to engage with contemporary economic and political debates in a real-world setting. The visit helped to deepen student understanding of how a “think tank” works, how economic ideas influence public policy and encouraged them to think critically about current national issues.

A key focus of the visit was the role of think tanks, such as the IEA. Sam Cruickshank, the IEA's Head of Education, explained to students how think tanks research, develop, and promote ideas that can shape political debate and government policy. He highlighted how think tanks differ from political parties, as they do not stand for election but instead aim to influence decision-makers, the media, and the public through reports, events, and commentary.

Sam introduced students to the Overton window, a way of describing what ideas are considered politically acceptable at a given time. Sam explained that, inside the window, are ideas that politicians, media, and mainstream institutions can talk about without being seen as extreme. Ideas outside the window are viewed as radical, unthinkable, or taboo - at least for now. By highlighting issues such as government spending and same-sex marriage, Sam was able to demonstrate how, overtime, think tanks can help move public perceptions about what is, and is not, acceptable in a modern society. This raised interesting questions from students about authoritarianism versus liberalism, what is an acceptable level of taxation and from which country/economic models the UK has most to learn.

# ECONOMICS

## INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

The IEA has also become well known for its *Nanny State Index*, an annual research project that examines and ranks European countries according to the extent of paternalistic government intervention in citizens' lifestyle choices. Via a talk given by former St. Dominic's student and LSE graduate Reem Ibrahim, currently the IEA's Head of Media, students learnt that the IEA defines paternalism by index scoring nations on taxation and regulation of alcohol, food and soft drinks, tobacco and "safer nicotine" products. Reem then explained how this work is summarized into a league table which, in the IEA's view, reflects the extent of state regulation in everyday life.



Reem argued that the role of the state should be limited to defending personal liberty, protecting property rights and preventing aggression against the individual. She explained that she had come to this view by exploring government intervention in markets, which she suggested rarely produces optimum outcomes. She illustrated her point by arguing that higher levels of regulation in the health sector have not correlated with improved health outcomes, yet come at a price of less consumer freedom and increased costs (taxes) for individuals. She argued that there is no evidence that state intervention in healthcare has increased life expectancy, but there is much evidence that suggests increasing wealth does. Where, therefore, should a state concerned for the health of its citizens best focus its efforts?

Reem further explained that her work at the IEA has been focussed on sparking debate across policy circles, by challenging assumptions about the effectiveness and desirability of paternalistic measures and advancing the think tank's wider mission of analysing how markets and individual choice interact with government action.

St. Dominic's Sixth Form College is very grateful to the IEA for hosting its students, with particular thanks going to Sam and Reem – the latter giving up her last day working at the IEA for our students, before flying to a new life in Washington DC where she has joined *Reason* magazine.

In addition to the talks, students used the walk from Westminster tube station to the IEA's offices to explore Parliament Square, observing statues of key historical figures such as Prime Ministers Winston Churchill and David Lloyd George and suffragist Millicent Fawcett. Students discussed their significance and how the surrounding buildings, including the Houses of Parliament, the Supreme Court, and Westminster Abbey, represent the UK's political, legal, and historical traditions. This short walk helped place the work of think tanks in a wider national, political and historical context.

**Anthony Duffy – Teacher of Economics**

# KEYNOTE SPEECH

## SEAN DOYLE, CEO OF BRITISH AIRWAYS

BRITISH AIRWAYS



St. Dominic's was proud and pleased to welcome Sean Doyle on Friday March 27<sup>th</sup> to deliver an insightful and inspirational talk and presentation which focused on the evolution, current operations and future transformation plans of the 'world's favourite airline', British Airways.

He began by outlining the evolution of British Airways, tracing its origins back to 1919 with the first international flight carrying just one passenger. He explained how airlines like Imperial Airways, BEA and BOAC merged to form British Airways which was later privatised under Margaret Thatcher. The airline became known as "the world's favourite airline" and led innovation in the aviation world by introducing Concorde and premium cabin classes.

Sean then discussed the modern transformation of British Airways which highlighted a £7 billion investment over the past 3 years to improve services and expand globally. Today, the airline operates 287 aircraft across short and long haul routes and serves 32 cities in North America and carries around 46 million passengers annually. He also emphasised BA's sustainability efforts, including more fuel-efficient aircraft and recycling initiatives.

The talk covered the scale of the workforce, with over 42,000 employees worldwide, and the wide range of career opportunities available, from engineering apprenticeships to roles in technology and customer service. Sean stressed the importance of innovation, curiosity and diversity in building the airline's future. He also explored British Airways as a brand, noting its strong identity and focus on making travel a meaningful experience through advertisement.

The Q&A session was particularly insightful for students interested in pursuing a career in aviation. He offered honest and practical advice, emphasising the importance of resilience and maintaining a positive attitude even when facing setbacks. He highlighted that success is not always about having the perfect academic record but about determination and making the most of opportunities. His responses also gave students a deeper understanding of the challenges facing the aviation industry, from sustainability to global economic pressures which made the session both inspiring and relevant for those considering future careers in the sector.

Overall, the talk offered such a valuable insight into one of the aviation leaders of the world and the wider aviation industry. We are grateful to Sean for taking the time to speak to us and share his experiences and advice. Sean was presented with a commemorative framed selection of First Day covers marking 'BA aviation firsts' which he will place in the archive at Headquarters.

***Fatima Gulamhusein - Deputy Head Girl***

# KEYNOTE SPEECH

## SEAN DOYLE, CEO OF BRITISH AIRWAYS



**BRITISH AIRWAYS**

# CLASSICS/HISTORY OF ART

## ROME TRIP

Rome has long been the cultural capital of the West, shaping civilisation with its ancient influence of political systems, architecture and artistic influence; moving through, it was evident that these cultural values echo throughout the city to this very day. Certainly, Rome is a time capsule of the ancient world, and the classics trip was an unforgettable opportunity to experience this outside the context of the classroom.

### Day One: We Came, We Saw...a Snail?

After arriving in the capital (and immediately questioning our life choices dragging suitcases across Rome's cobbled streets) we reached the hotel, providing a relaxing sanctuary to prepare for the activities to follow.

Fully recuperated, the Palazzo Massimo was a perfect appetiser for the sheer craftsmanship of Roman art. The walls of the museum were adorned with beautifully recovered frescoes from Empress Livia's villa. This, alongside other statues of Emperor Augustus, were recognisable landmarks for the Classics students, but also pieces of artistic marvel for everyone to appreciate.

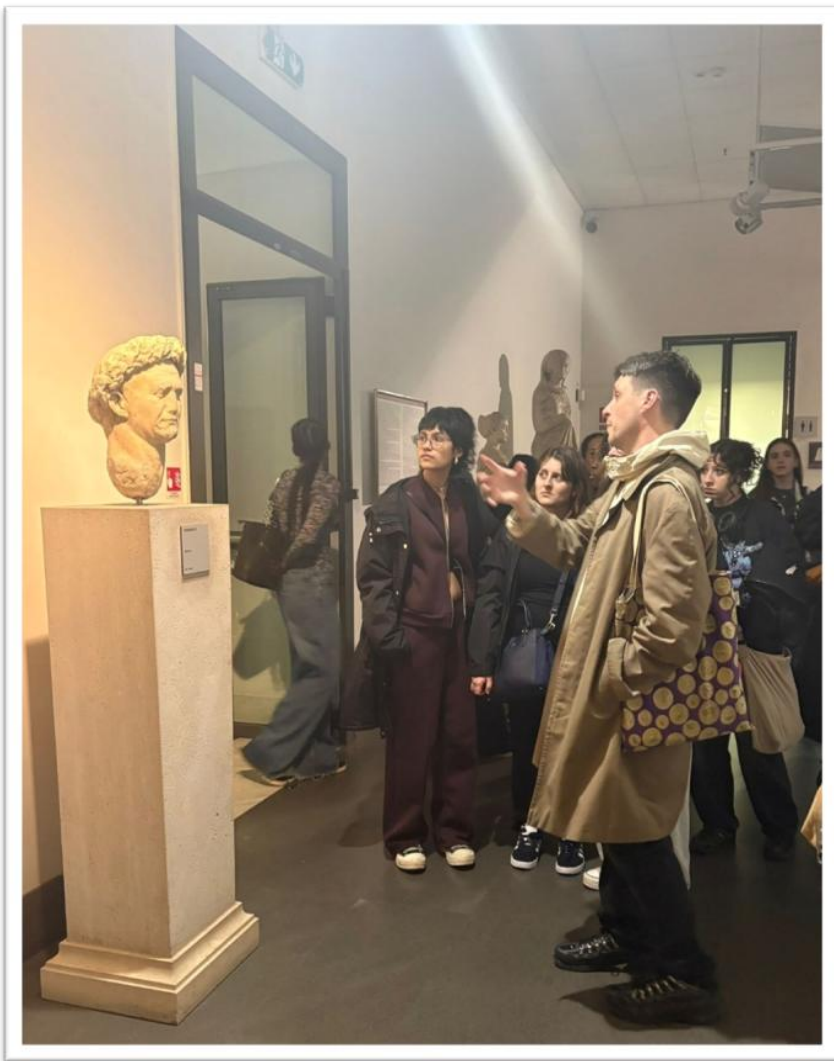


We ended our first day with a rather...*memorable* dinner. Gorging ourselves with authentic Roman pizza and pasta, our efforts to stay healthy were met with a *live snail* in the salad. Chaos ensued. But I guess these things just happen, or so said the manager of the restaurant when he was confronted by a few rather disgruntled foreign students. The day ended more successfully, with a late-night stroll through Rome back to the hotel and a midnight treat of gelato.

### Day Two: "That's not a bench!"

As Rome's main port, Ostia was essential for the grain supply that satisfied the city's vast population; this was our first destination after eventually navigating Rome's infrequent and unreliable metro. Walking through the ruins of the town, remnants of an amphitheatre, public baths and temples dedicated to a variety of gods scattered the landscape. However, it was the mundanity of the high-rise apartments, various eateries and pubs, and miscellaneous graffiti that really illustrated our inextricable connection to the past, and how in 2000 years, human nature has not really changed. This was a particularly valuable part of our trip that provided an indispensable insight into the every-day life of ancient Romans.

# CLASSICS/HISTORY OF ART ROME TRIP



After this, the groups were split. Classics students were led to the Capitoline Museum, another storehouse for Rome's rich history and heritage, while art history students and any others who wanted to join made their trek to the magnificent Vatican.

The Capitoline Museum provided a detailed look into Roman history - surrounded by statues displaying the characteristic 'archaic smile' and depictions of mythological heroes, such as Romulus and Remus. This was all placed alongside the colossal foundational ruins of the Temple of Jupiter Optimus Maximus. The visit reinforced Rome's artistic and religious significance, walking you through its history. It *also* reinforced the importance of being able to correctly identify furniture. Not everything that looks like a bench is, in fact, a bench. Whoops.

After a long day and our first experience of museum fatigue, we decided to treat ourselves to a room service dinner back at the hotel. This was the perfect way to wind down for the evening and fuel ourselves for the day to come, our most jam-packed of the entire trip.

# CLASSICS/HISTORY OF ART

## ROME TRIP

### Day Three:

#### The Empire Strikes Back (with steps)

Our day started with a return to the Colosseum. We had passed it the day before but today afforded us the time to wander around inside. The scale of the building was incredible; the host of many gladiatorial games (such as the 100-days long inaugural games). The estimated capacity suggests up to 80,000 people could have fitted inside. Certainly, it was the most striking example of Roman engineering - its grandness clearly demonstrating the architectural prowess of Flavian Rome. "Now that's history!"

At the Forum, we encountered the religious and political heart of Rome; temples and basilicas stood hand-in-hand where state rituals, legal proceedings and public oratory all came together in one place, representing the identity and authority of the empire.

The Palatine Hill is home to Emperor Augustus' oxymoronic 'modest palace' - or at least what remains of it, after the marble was pillaged in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Overlooking the entire city, the views were spectacular and it is easy to understand why the ancient Romans believed this place to be so close to their gods.



# CLASSICS/HISTORY OF ART

## ROME TRIP



After a short rest-break back at base, we were treated to the beautiful sight of Rome at night during our evening tour around the city. Making a stop at the Trevi Fountain, we were once again struck by the little pockets of historical artwork so integrated into the urban area.

The Pantheon showed just how important the gods were to the ancient Romans, with its immense scale dwarfing over even the modern apartments nearby. Indeed, we were struck with absolute awe at the expanse of skill and artistic capability demonstrated.

We concluded our tour with a trek up the Spanish Steps. Whilst we were amazed, we were incredibly exhausted at this point – after all the walking, the concept of ‘just around the corner’ had lost all its meaning.

### Day Four: All roads lead to home

On the way to our final destination, we passed the Mausoleum of Augustus and the inscribed Relief of his Res Gestae. This was a fun opportunity for Classics students to test the Latin skills they had picked up over the past two years, trying to translate what we could.

At the Ara Pacis, one of our prescribed sources. Built in 13BC to commemorate Augustus’ successful campaigns in Spain and Gaul, we found it littered with political propaganda and funky lizards hidden within the rustic floral motifs. The altar is rich in symbolism, conveying ideas of Augustus’ bringing of a Saturnian Golden Age in 17BC, the piety of the imperial family and the conquests of Rome. Seeing the reliefs in person helped to transform our understanding of these intricate carvings, making it an immersive experience.

Following on, we were given free rein to explore at our own pace, one last time. This gave us the chance to bid farewell to this beautiful city and also get a bit of shopping done before we left.

# CLASSICS/HISTORY OF ART ROME TRIP



To our teachers: Thank you for organising, guiding and, most importantly, tolerating us. To the College: Thank you for the opportunity. And to Rome: Thank you for the history, the gelato, and the reminder that sometimes, things just do 'happen'.

Many thanks to Louis, Kam, Ryan and Sarah (staff) for organising such an amazing trip.

***Rebecca Ryan, Beth-Annily Dobson, Olivia Blackburn – Year 2 Students***

# UPDATES FROM THE CHAPLAINCY TEAM

The Spring term at St. Dominic's has been full of moments of prayer, generosity and service, reflecting the heart of our mission. It has been wonderful to see so many students and staff taking part in the spiritual and charitable life of the College community.

## Epiphany Mass

The term began early on the first morning back after the Christmas break with a quiet and prayerful 7.30am Low Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany, celebrated by Fr Tony Sammarco in the College Chapel. Beginning the term gathered around the altar was a fitting way to start the year, reminding us that Christ is revealed to the whole world and inviting us to seek him in our daily lives.

## Candlemas

On 2<sup>nd</sup> February, the College celebrated Candlemas, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, with a 7.30am Mass in the chapel celebrated by Fr Tony Sammarco. This beautiful feast commemorates the moment when Mary and Joseph presented the infant Jesus in the Temple, where he was recognised by Simeon as *"a light for revelation to the Gentiles"*.

Gathering early in the morning for Mass in the chapel, lit by candlelight, offered a peaceful and reflective start to the day. Candlemas reminds us that Christ is the light who guides us and calls each of us to carry that light into the world through our faith, our actions and our service to others.



# UPDATES FROM THE CHAPLAINCY AND CHARITY TEAMS

## **Sandwiches for the Homeless**

On Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January, a group of students travelled to Notre Dame Church in Soho, where they helped prepare sandwiches for people experiencing homelessness. During the visit the students also heard from Fr Martin, the parish priest, who spoke about the outreach work of the parish and the many ways the Church supports those who are struggling in the local community. It was a powerful reminder of the Church's mission of service in the heart of London.



# UPDATES FROM THE CHAPLAINCY TEAM

## **Roses for Bakhita House**

During Valentine's week, the Charity Team organised a rose sale across the College. Students were able to send roses to one another, along with small notes of kindness and encouragement. Over the course of the week, more than 450 roses were sold, filling the College with messages of friendship and appreciation.

The proceeds from the sale were donated to Bakhita House, the Caritas Westminster safe house that supports women who have been trafficked, enslaved or exploited. The initiative was a wonderful example of how small acts of kindness within our own community can also support those in need beyond the College.



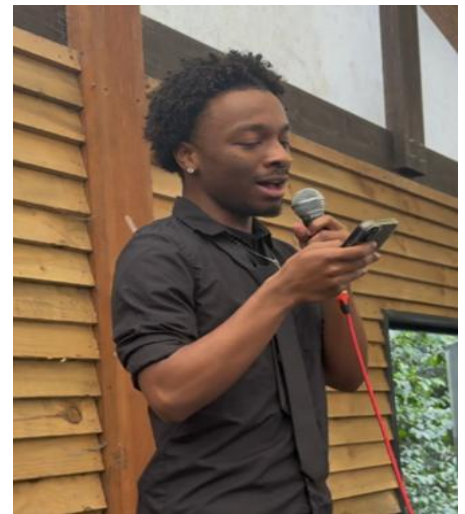
**Caritas**  
Bakhita House

# UPDATES FROM THE CHAPLAINCY TEAM

## Love Songs Under the Shack

In the lead up to Valentine's Day, students brought music and joy to the college with '*Love Songs Under the Shack*'. Students performed a range of well-known love songs, creating a lively and uplifting atmosphere for everyone.

It was a wonderful moment of creativity and community, with music filling the space and bringing a smile to many faces during the College day.



# UPDATES FROM THE CHAPLAINCY TEAM



## **Walking for Justice - CAFOD**

A highlight of the term has been the Big Lent Walk, led by student Jaeden Gandhi (pictured left), who showed impressive commitment and leadership in organising the initiative. Jaeden carefully kept track of the steps taken and encouraged fellow students to get involved throughout the challenge. Thanks to his enthusiasm and determination, the project raised an impressive £550 for CAFOD. We are very grateful to Jaeden for his hard work and for inspiring others to take part.

**CAFOD**  
Catholic Agency for  
Overseas Development

## **CAFOD Family Fast Day**

The College also marked CAFOD Family Fast Day, encouraging students to reflect on how small sacrifices during Lent can help support life changing projects across the world. A delicious soup was prepared in the canteen by Bala and the team and students were able to donate £2 to CAFOD to support their work across the globe.

# UPDATE FROM THE CHAPLAINCY TEAM

## Fairtrade Fortnight

As part of Fairtrade Fortnight, a Fairtrade awareness event was organised during breaktime, where students were invited to enjoy free hot chocolate made with Fairtrade ingredients. It was a simple, but popular, way to introduce students to Fairtrade products while giving them something warm and enjoyable for the tastebuds.

Alongside this, a Fairtrade Quiz took place during tutorial time. Students tested their knowledge about Fairtrade and its work supporting farmers and producers across the world. Winners were rewarded with Divine Fairtrade chocolate bars, making the competition both educational and delicious, while raising awareness of the importance of fair and ethical trade.



# UPDATE FROM THE CHAPLAINCY TEAM



## **International Women's Day Bake Sale**

To mark International Women's Day, students Zoe Gyamfi and Gabi Fearson organised a vibrant bake sale for the College community. There was an impressive array of delicious homemade bakes and the event proved extremely popular with students and staff alike. Thanks to their hard work and enthusiasm, an impressive £517 was raised on the day for charity.



# UPDATE FROM THE CHAPLAINCY TEAME

## Stations of the Cross

During Lent, Stations of the Cross have taken place on Monday evenings after College, with staff and students gathering together to walk with Christ through the final moments of his journey to the cross. These quiet services of reflection and prayer have provided a meaningful opportunity to enter more deeply into the Lenten season.



## Lent Liturgies

Our Lent liturgies took place in the Siena Hall, offering students a space to pause and reflect on the meaning of the Lenten season. These gatherings encouraged the College community to think about prayer, sacrifice and charity, helping us to prepare our hearts for Easter and to consider how we can live out our faith in everyday life.

# UPDATE FROM THE CHAPLAINCY TEAM



## **Sacrament of Confirmation**

Students preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation attended a Retreat Day at SPEC in Pinner. The retreat offered time for prayer, discussion and reflection, as students explored the gifts of the Holy Spirit and considered their call to live out their faith with courage and joy.

Please keep these students in your prayers as they prepare to take the next step on their faith journey.

As we continue our Lenten journey and look ahead to Easter, these events remind us that faith is something we live out not only in prayer but in service, generosity and community.

***Clare Castell - Lay Chaplain***



# BTEC BUSINESS TRIP TO ESCAPE HUNT



This trip was a whole external day team-building activity where we were put into teams to find clues, solve puzzles, crack codes, and complete tasks within an hour. This enabled us to 'escape' from a themed locked room.

The escape room experience was to help foster collaboration, improve our communication, and enhance our problem-solving skills.

During the tasks we used and built upon skills such as team working, leadership, communication, and time pressured problem solving.

Personally, I enjoyed the different ways we were engaged with one another and our thinking. It encouraged us to use diverse thinking and interpersonal skills, but in a fun way.

I can speak on behalf of the entire class when I say that the experience was a great opportunity to bring us closer together - which we all valued.

***Hannah O'Connor – Year 2 Student***

# BUSINESS/ECONOMICS TRIP TO FRANKFURT



The Business and Economics students headed to Frankfurt and dived straight into the heart of Europe's financial powerhouse.

Their visit brought classroom theory to life. At the Money Museum, students explored interactive exhibits, deepened their understanding of how money functions in modern economies, and even had the rare opportunity to hold a bar of gold. Standing outside the striking European Central Bank and observing the fast-paced atmosphere surrounding the Frankfurt Stock Exchange, they witnessed first-hand the institutions that shape monetary policy and global financial markets.

***Rose Painter – Head of Business Studies***

# BUSINESS/ECONOMICS TRIP TO FRANKFURT

I really enjoyed the school trip to Frankfurt. One of the highlights for me was visiting the Stock Exchange, as it helped me better understand how financial markets operate in real life. It was interesting to see how trading works and how global events can influence the market.

I also found the visit to the European Central Bank and the Money Museum very engaging. They helped connect many of the concepts we learn in Business and Economics, especially around monetary policy, inflation, and the role of central banks in managing the economy.

Overall, the trip was a great experience because it allowed me to see how the theories we study in class apply in the real world. It made the subject feel much more practical and interesting.

***Harut Vardanyan – Year 2 Economics Student***





# ART AND DESIGN AND HISTORY OF ART A MONTH OF ACHIEVEMENT AND AMBITION

It has been an exceptionally busy and rewarding month for all students within the Art and Design and History of Art departments, demonstrating remarkable commitment, creativity and intellectual curiosity.

Our Year 2 Art and Design students have been working tirelessly to complete their Personal Investigations, a substantial component worth 60% of their final grade. Over the past eight months, they have independently developed highly personal and ambitious projects, refining their ideas through rigorous experimentation, critical reflection and sustained technical practice. A particular highlight was their formal presentations, which allowed students to present their work to their peers and members of the College community, as well as their plans for their final piece before their deadline a week later. Students articulated their concepts and processes with confidence and maturity. The opportunity to receive live, professional feedback was invaluable and offered an authentic insight into creative industry practice. The culmination of this journey has been the completion of their final outcomes.

Alongside this, the department has continued its focus on building strong foundations with our Year 1 students. This term has seen them introduced to a broad range of materials and processes, many of which were entirely new to them. From printmaking and 3D modelling, to experimental drawing techniques, students have embraced the challenge of stepping beyond their comfort zones. Developing confidence with materials at this early stage is central to nurturing creative risk-taking and technical fluency within their A Level work and beyond.

Looking ahead, preparations are well underway for our forthcoming Creative Careers Event, which this year will partially see us move into the virtual realm. This innovative format will allow students to engage directly with professionals across a wide spectrum of creative industries and from different locations globally, adjusting to things that may previously have felt inaccessible is exciting and something we are eager to see progress. By broadening horizons and facilitating meaningful dialogue, we hope to empower students with a clearer understanding of the diverse pathways available within the arts.

It has also been an enriching period for our History of Art students. A recent trip to Rome (accompanying article above) provided an extraordinary opportunity to experience first-hand the architecture, sculpture and painting that they have studied in the classroom. The educational and cultural value of the visit was immense, and by all accounts the students thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

# ART AND DESIGN AND HISTORY OF ART A MONTH OF ACHIEVEMENT AND AMBITION

And finally, students were invited to Harrow School, where they attended a stimulating talk by Ben Lewis entitled 'How to Make \$450 Million in 19 Minutes: Secrets of the Art Market'. The lecture offered a fascinating and provocative insight into the mechanisms, spectacle and economics of the contemporary art world, deepening students' understanding of the market forces that shape artistic production and reception.

We are immensely proud of all our students in both Art and Design and History of Art. Although the start to 2026 has been demanding, it has been equally successful - one in which sustained effort, creative courage and academic dedication have truly come to fruition. Their achievements reflect not only their individual talents but also a shared culture of ambition, curiosity and support within the department.

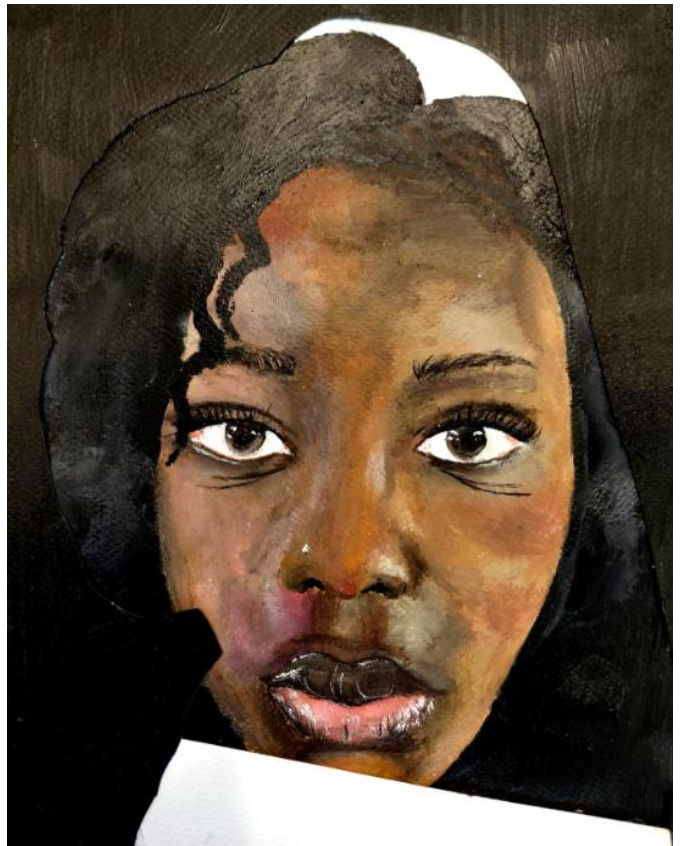
*Isabela da Silva - Head of Art and History of Art*



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Karolina De Four – Theatrical Final Piece

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Dawn Adebawale - Body Final Piece.

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# ART AND DESIGN AND HISTORY OF ART A MONTH OF ACHIEVEMENT AND AMBITION



Tiana Mwendah – Gatherings Final Piece.



Gabriella Styburska - Body Final Piece.



# GEOGRAPHY

## THE FIRST UK GEOGRAPHY OLYMPIAD

St. Dominic's students were fortunate to be one of five state schools invited to participate in a trial to determine if it was viable to launch the first ever UK Geography Olympiad. The event is overseen by the Geographical Association.

The event brought together talented young geographers from a range of schools to celebrate curiosity about the world and to test students' ability to apply their geographical knowledge to unfamiliar challenges. For our students, the Olympiad was not only a competition but also an opportunity to engage deeply with the kinds of complex issues that define geography as a discipline.

Throughout the competition, participants were required to think critically about a variety of geographical themes, drawing on both physical and human geography. Tasks challenged students to analyse patterns in environmental data, interpret maps and spatial information, and consider contemporary global issues such as climate change, urbanisation, and sustainable resource management.

The competition tested students well beyond even what the students learn on the A Level specifications! For example, do you know what angle a yardang is formed at by aeolian processes? For what ecosystem that landform is associated with?

Being invited to participate in the inaugural Geography Olympiad is also an important recognition of the strength of Geography at St. Dominic's. It reflects the College's ongoing commitment to academic excellence and to fostering a deep understanding of the world among our students. Geography is a subject that equips young people with the skills to interpret global patterns, understand environmental change, and think critically about the challenges facing our planet.

### **Our Medal Winners**

Gold medals: 2 students - Aritha Liyanage and Jessica Murtagh

Silver medals: 7 students

Bronze medals: 17 students

The trial was a success, and I am pleased to say the Olympiad will be launched nationally next academic year, allowing future St. Dominic's Geographers the opportunity to become gladiators in this national competition.

***Paul Logue - Acting Assistant Principal/Head of Geography***

# GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK IN SOUTH WALES

## Coastal Rain: Year 2 Geography Fieldwork in South Wales

Our Year 2 Geographers recently traded their desks for the rugged South Wales coastline during an intensive trip to the Field Studies Council at Margam Country Park.

We left early on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February, a prompt 7:30am departure from St. Dominic's. Upon arrival at Newton Beach, students immediately began primary data collection. Despite persistent rain, the group showed impressive grit investigating sediment analysis and coastal defences. As one student put it, it was "learning in live action", even if they were "soaked to the bone!" Their hard work was rewarded when the rain eventually stopped, revealing amazing views across the Welsh coastline.

The evening at the study centre was dedicated to data consolidation for upcoming exams. After a tour of the grounds to meet the resident alpacas and goats - described by students as "nice animals, awful weather" - a "digital detox" occurred when the Wi-Fi faltered. This led to a wonderful atmosphere of tea-drinking, chatting, and highly competitive card games in the common rooms.

On Day 2, the group moved to Jersey Marine Beach to study sand dune (psammosere) succession. Students worked cooperatively to gather high-quality data, with many noting that the trip "felt like a family doing tasks together".

### Student Voices:

- *"Helped me understand coasts a bit more and a fun trip!"* - on coastal field work.
- *"Wind does not break the spirit."* - on the coastal weather.
- *"This trip was a great way for visual learners to really understand how different processes and hard engineering affect the coast and people."* - on the work.
- *"Wales is cool."* - on the overall experience.

Well done to all students for their attitude and behaviour and how they represented the College. Plus a big thank you to the staff who joined us and who made this trip such a success.

**Alan Ritchie - Teacher of Geography**



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION TRIP TO UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE



The Year 1 A Level PE students undertook a bespoke Sports Science Taster Day at the University of Hertfordshire on the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026. 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 VO2max 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. In addition, all students undertook a wrist taping practical which allowed them to get a better insight into the world of a Sports Therapist.



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION TRIP TO UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE



Anaiya Shah had the following to say about the day: *"I really enjoyed the elements of the trip such as learning how to tape a thumb and tennis elbow, as well as being able to do the VO2 MAX test, which informed my learning and gave me knowledge about my fitness".*

Mina Safahe also commented *"Personally, I found the trip quite intriguing, and it enabled me to learn about different strength/power testing methods. It also provided me with an idea of how taping works, which was very insightful. Overall, it was an enlightening experience!"*

**Elena Synesi – Head of PE**



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

## HISTORICAL TOUR OF HARROW SCHOOL

On Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026, the 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 influenced by 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.

Blake Harrison commented *"The trip was very insightful and helped me to truly understand how the changes in society previously played an influential factor on how sport was developed and helped it become what it is today. It also helped to emphasise the influence of being from a high socio-economic background as the magnitude of it is not something you are able to fathom from just a textbook."*

Jayden Carty also commented *"I think that the trip was an eye-opening experience into the school and its' history along with sport that most would not have access to. I found the trip quite interesting especially the religious areas along with the stories behind them. It was definitely something that I would never have been able to learn about in such detail."*

**Elena Synesi – Head of PE**



# COLLEGE GROUNDS AND SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

On the backfoot of our success in achieving Green Schools status in August, a number of small projects have been operating within the College grounds to further green the College site.

In November 2025, we were incredibly honored to have been awarded two prizes at the Hills Trust AGM for our work on sustainability. The first was an award for our community outreach, demonstrated through our St. Dominic's in Bloom event in June and the second was for our community grounds, a nod to our work with the Harrow beekeepers.

Over the past few weeks, a variety of new wildlife habitats have been installed around the site. Bird feeders, bird nesting boxes, hedgehog hotels and bat boxes are now in place, creating additional shelter and feeding opportunities for local species. These were purchased using Jack Petchey funding awarded to our previous sustainability champions, Emma and Felicitas. The new installations help create a wider range of micro-habitats across the campus, encouraging birds, mammals and insects to make use of the College grounds throughout the year.

The grounds have also been enhanced with the planting of mature-height apple trees. These trees contribute to the College's growing green infrastructure while, also providing seasonal benefits for wildlife.



# COLLEGE GROUNDS AND SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

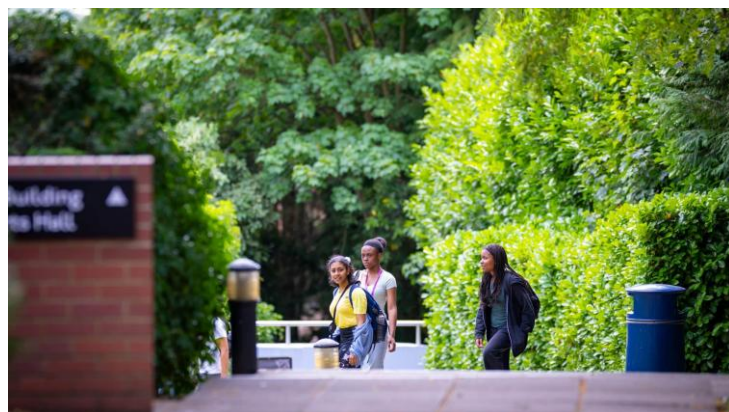
Another important addition to the campus is a new beehive, purchased using funding from Sian's environmental award from the Jack Petchey Foundation. This expands the College's pollinator project and creates further opportunities for students to learn about apiculture and the ecological importance of bees.

Alongside these developments, the College has also begun a biodiversity census of the grounds. Students have been completing bird surveys on the site and recording findings to our Chaplain, Clare. Activities such as hedgehog spotting sessions and wildlife observations are also in the pipeline to build a clearer picture of the ecological value of the site and the species that rely on it.

Finally, the College is now ready to be inspected for our LiveSimply Award. An update on this will be given in the next edition.

These developments build on the strong foundation of care already given to the College environment. The grounds are expertly maintained by our groundskeeper, Dominic, whose dedication and attention to detail ensure that the campus remains both beautiful and ecologically supportive. His work plays a vital role in enabling these sustainability initiatives to flourish, and the College community is extremely grateful for his continued care of the grounds.

***Paul Logue - Acting Assistant  
Principal/Head of Geography***



# LUNAR NEW YEAR AT ST. DOMINIC'S

**BRANSBY**  
— HORSES —



Students and staff recently came together to celebrate Lunar New Year with a series of activities across the College, marking the start of the new lunar calendar in a festive and community-focused way.

The College canteen joined the celebrations by preparing a special menu of themed dishes, giving everyone the opportunity to enjoy traditional flavours associated with the occasion. The menu proved popular at lunchtime, helping to bring a taste of Lunar New Year traditions to the College community.

At break time, fortune cookies were sold for £1 each, adding a fun and interactive element to the day's celebrations. Students and staff enjoyed discovering the messages inside while supporting a good cause.

Later in the day, a Chinese calligraphy workshop was delivered by a group of students and teachers. Participants learned about the cultural significance of calligraphy and had the chance to practise writing characters using traditional brushes and ink. The workshop offered a hands-on experience of an important art form that has been part of Chinese culture for centuries. Thank you to Chris, Yu, Matthew and Anjaylia for volunteering their time to teach students.

As 2026 marks the Year of the Horse in the lunar zodiac, all proceeds raised during the day (£200) were donated to a horse sanctuary in Lincolnshire, Bransby Horses. The event not only celebrated an important cultural festival but also demonstrated the College's commitment to charity and community spirit.

***Paul Logue - Acting Assistant Principal/Head of Geography***

# JACK PETCHEY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2026

Attending the Jack Petchey Achievement Awards ceremony on 11<sup>th</sup> February at the Harrow Arts Centre was a genuine privilege for staff and students from St. Dominic's Sixth Form College. The evening provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the outstanding contributions, determination and personal growth of young people across the local community.

The Jack Petchey Foundation Achievement Awards recognise young people who have shown exceptional commitment, leadership, resilience or service to others. For our College, the ceremony was an important moment to acknowledge the positive impact that students make within the St. Dominic's community and beyond. The atmosphere throughout the evening was one of pride and encouragement, as students from schools and colleges across the borough were recognised for their achievements.

Being able to see our students celebrated on such a stage reinforced the values we seek to cultivate at St. Dominic's: perseverance, kindness, initiative and a willingness to contribute to the wider community. Events such as these remind us that achievement takes many forms - from academic dedication to acts of service, creativity and leadership.



***Anjana Patel, Mayor of Harrow, with Eva Forgacz-Cooper***



# JACK PETCHEY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2026

## Student achievements

**Emma Fox Dooner** - for her leadership of the College's sustainability group and instrumental role in our application for Green Schools status.

**Imogen Day** - for her fundraising efforts to undertake the Three Peaks Challenge. Funds raised were donated to an orphanage in Uganda.

**Evelyn Vulpe** - for her fundraising efforts to undertake the Three Peaks Challenge. Funds raised were donated to an orphanage in Uganda.

**Anastasia Fernandes** - for her volunteering efforts at St. Dominic's and contribution to Chaplaincy.

**Ho Yin Michael Leung** - for his work in creating a positive culture in the College gym and being a mentor to male and female students.

**Annalisa Fernandes** - For her work in supporting the College podcast.

**Felicitas Nunez** - for her efforts in supporting sustainability projects across the College grounds.

**Sian Baldwin** - received an Environment Award for her leadership of the College sustainability group.

**Olivia Blackburn** - for her support of the College archaeological dig.

**Eva Forgacz-Cooper** - For her leadership of the College Law Society and support of Law A Level students.

Each student was awarded a grant of £300 to be spent on an area of the College related to what they were nominated for. Spending has included a state-of-the-art metal detector for the archaeological dig, dozens of law-related books for the Law classroom, a new beehive for the grounds and new podcast recording equipment.

The ceremony was a memorable occasion and a powerful reminder of the remarkable young people within our College community. We are extremely proud of all the students recognised and grateful to the Jack Petchey Foundation for continuing to celebrate and support young people across London and Essex. Congratulations to all of this year's award recipients.

**Paul Logue - Acting Assistant Principal/Head of Geography**

# CAREERS DEPARTMENT

The Spring term Careers calendar began with our annual HE & Future Careers Day. This is a key event in the academic year and gives students the opportunity to meet with over 100 employers, universities and apprenticeship providers. Students attended two talks from a choice of over 40 different subjects and professions, including new subjects for this year: Civil Engineering, Optometry, Philosophy, Sociology and producing an Art Portfolio. We were delighted to welcome back over 20 ex-students who either provided talks or helped at the Careers Fair. Highlights included an alumnus discussing how a Physics degree helped her develop the skills to succeed in a career in Cyber Security, a local entrepreneur on starting his Real Estate business and an Endodontist discussing the importance of keeping up to date with current research when preparing for healthcare applications. 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 welcome LSE and KPMG as new exhibitors this year and thank our alumni for their support to facilitate this.



# CAREERS DEPARTMENT

On Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, we launched the first of our visits to Year 1 tutor groups with our 'Making Decisions at St. Dominic's' presentation. This interactive session introduced students to the UCAS process and apprenticeship applications and explored the importance of transferable skills and how labour market information can guide effective careers research. It was a fantastic opportunity to engage with students, and it's always exciting to learn about their interests and future aspirations.

This month, we hosted a 'Study Abroad' talk for students considering university options outside the UK. Our Careers and UCAS Administrator, Jharna Jassal, provided a valuable overview of the application process for US institutions, including key deadlines, fees, and scholarship opportunities. She also shared a range of useful websites and practical tips to help students navigate their research and make informed decisions about studying abroad.



On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March, we held our annual Economics and Business Speed Networking event designed to help students explore career pathways with these subjects. We welcomed 10 visitors from the world of business and finance including seven alumni who had studied either Economics or Business A Level here at St. Dominic's and are now working within business, investment management, accounting 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 19<sup>th</sup> March we held our annual online Student Finance talk, presented by Mark Alger. Year 2 students, parents and carers were able to find out about the application process, fee and maintenance loans and how student loans are repaid. The presentation has been recorded and sent out via email if you were unable to attend the meeting.

# CAREERS DEPARTMENT

## UCAS

Year 12 students will begin their UCAS journey by signing up to the UCAS hub in tutorial once the new 2027 entry cycle starts on 28<sup>th</sup> April. Students will be able to research courses, universities and apprenticeships in advance of starting their application in June during tutorial. They have also started planning their personal statements and looking at what they now need to do to support their applications. All students have access to Unifrog, an online careers platform which offers a wealth of information on university courses, apprenticeships, and labour market data. Unifrog also has a range of super-curricular activities and resources, helping students develop their skills, deepen their subject knowledge, and strengthen future applications.

Our Year 13 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 again seen an increase in the number of students who have also been getting through to the final stages of some very competitive higher and degree apprenticeship schemes and are now awaiting the outcome of those interviews.

## Careers Ambassadors

We have recently launched our Careers Ambassadors 2026 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.

## Upcoming events

- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May - UCAS and Alternative Destinations presentation: our annual online UCAS and Alternative Destination talk to help first-year parents and carers best support their young people through the university and apprenticeship application process.
- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July - UCAS and Apprenticeships' Day with activities to prepare Year 1 students for the next academic year.
- Employability skills workshop.
- Humanities and Social Sciences 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**

**Jharna Jassal – Careers and UCAS Administrator**



# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY TALK BY JULIE ETCHINGHAM

On 25<sup>th</sup> February, St. Dominics had the privilege to welcome Julie Etchingham at our International Women's Day talk, and it was an incredibly influential and inspiring experience for everyone present. Julie, widely recognised for her role as presenter of ITV News at 10, shared her journey into broadcast and political journalism, offering a clear picture of the challenges, discipline and dedication required to succeed in such a fast-paced and demanding industry. She spoke about the resilience needed to handle high-pressure live interviews, the importance of thorough research and preparation, and how credibility and integrity are central to building trust with audiences. Listening to her explain how she developed her voice, confidence and professionalism over time provided valuable insight into what it takes to grow in a career that is constantly evolving. For the students, the talk was not only informative but deeply motivational, highlighting the realities of the media world while also showing how passion, determination and consistent effort can lead to remarkable achievements. It was an opportunity that left a lasting impression, making the International Women's Day celebration feel truly special and influential for the whole school community.

**Zoe Gyamfi -**  
***Year 1 Student and Member of the Student Executive***



# MUSIC DEPARTMENT

## COSI FAN TUTTE OPERA BY MOZART



Bobby Hodge, our Strength and Conditioning Coach, is a huge opera fan, and having seen his first opera at age 30, he is determined to introduce as many students to opera as he can!

English National Opera have a scheme where under 21s can get free tickets and we took a group of students to see the Mozart comic opera *Così fan tutte* on 11<sup>th</sup> February.

The production is set in a Coney Island fun fair and included a circus troupe who entertained the audience throughout. One of the highlights was Fiordiligi's famous aria 'Come Scoglio' being sung from a hot air balloon that circled above the stage, depicting her on a Ferris wheel ride. The famous trio from the first act 'Soave Sia il Vento' is well worth a listen.

The farcical plot of the opera is merely a vehicle for some of the most sublime music ever written:  
[https://youtu.be/a\\_0FHyF3Pyk?si=Rfo-5YFNSFudlcfi](https://youtu.be/a_0FHyF3Pyk?si=Rfo-5YFNSFudlcfi)

Free tickets:

<https://www.eno.org/your-visit/under-21s-come-free/>

**Abigail Gorton – Head of Music**

# MUSIC DEPARTMENT CHICAGO – TEEN EDITION



In February, St. Dominic's was proud to present our fully staged production of 'Chicago' for two evenings in the fully packed Siena Hall. Stephen Leib (Head of Drama) and Abigail Gorton (Head of Music) worked tirelessly since September with a troupe of talented and committed students to produce a truly wonderful show. It was inspiring to watch the development of the cast and crew as they took on professional roles both on stage and backstage which brought this exciting project to fruition. Our superb musicians played brilliantly alongside top professionals, learning the skills and commitment required to perform a full Musical production. It was a truly unforgettable experience for all involved and I am so proud of the students for bringing their talent, good humour, patience and kindness to make this show another St. Dominic's triumph.

***Abigail Gorton – Head of Music***



# MUSIC DEPARTMENT CHICAGO – TEEN EDITION



## **Cast**

Ellie Harper, Mariyah Baig, Justyna Galecka, Naomi Pacquette, Anaya Reid, Bruno Sitarz, Alex Pickford, Jack Chappell, Danny Duca, Laura English, Bess Di-Luzio, Carina Bastos Figueiredo, Veronika Zhygalova, Cordelia Jarville, Gabriela Konat, Wilfred Nguini, Tristan Allen, Meghan Kumar, Kelly Fernandes, Lucia Antonelli, Jasmine Bhudia, Freya Dominique, Sarah Holmgren and Leicester Bobila.

## **Crew**

Maryam Albatat, Preethika Ananthkumar, Lucy Athemi, Ayman Boussof, Avelly Braganca, Hannah Castell, Hazel Connolly, Jemima Crook, Aaron D'Cunha, Ethan Dias, Anastasia Fernandes, Giulia Filip, Nikola Florek, Eva Forgacz-Cooper, Zoe Gyamfi, Iman Hassan, Kawthar Hassan, Liliya Ivanauskaite, Selin Younes, Emilia Kaminska, Jasnam Kaur, Helena Keyvanfar, Donal Maddison, Andra-Mihaela Mitroi, Kanusha Nadesu, Angel Njoku, Iman Noman, Keira Leigh Parker-Gordon, Samarthi Patel, Niamh Power, Aoife Rooney, Sharmica Sathiyaseelan, Jasmine Sylvester, Mariam Tawfik, Myintzu Thein and Daniella Vullo.

## **Musicians**

Ali Nasrallah, Antonina Bakota, Imogen Day, Natalie Klenert, Aneesh Bhatia, Jonathan Serban and Ava Gollings.

## **Staff helpers**

Patrick Miles, Julie Duggan, Craig McDonagh, Bryan Johnston, Isabela da Silva, Sian Waters, Monika Nastulla and Tom Colgan.

# CHICAGO – TEEN EDITION: A PERSONAL REFLECTION

Watching *Chicago – Teen Edition* come to life at St. Dominic's Sixth Form College was, for me, an experience defined by skill, discipline, and sheer theatrical confidence. From the opening moments, it was clear that this was a cast who had not only embraced the style of the show but mastered the demanding vocal and physical language required to make it land.

The production announced its ambition immediately in the overture, as the entire cast launched into a tightly synchronised tap sequence. The precision, stamina, and musicality on display set a high bar for the evening and established a company operating with real technical assurance. Throughout the show, singing and movement were never treated as separate disciplines; instead, vocal delivery and choreography were fused into a unified, highly polished performance style.

The immersive nature of the production deepened this impact. Projected lyrics, spoken cues, and visual prompts encouraged the audience to sing, shout, and respond in real time, dissolving the traditional boundary between stage and auditorium. This was not gimmickry, but an extension of the performers' confidence: a cast secure enough in their material to invite the audience directly into it.

This approach was established powerfully in the opening number, *All That Jazz*, reimagined as the moment Velma Kelly has already committed murder offstage before calmly preparing to perform as if nothing has happened. Watching Velma wash the blood from her hands and walk confidently down the central aisle, accompanied by her make-up team, while the ensemble delivered the first explosive dance sequence around her, was a striking piece of visual storytelling. The ease with which the cast sang and danced while navigating the audience space spoke volumes about their technical control.



# CHICAGO – TEEN EDITION: A PERSONAL REFLECTION

I was consistently impressed by the strength of the principal performances across both casts. Roxie Hart, played by Mariyah Baig (Cast 1) and Justyna Galecka (Cast 2), was delivered with vocal confidence, clarity of intention, and a strong physical presence. Their performances stood out particularly in *Funny Honey* and *My Own Best Friend*, where assured singing combined with sharp character work and controlled movement to reveal Roxie's self-absorption and hunger for attention.

Velma Kelly, portrayed by Naomi Paquette (Cast 1) and Anaya Reid (Cast 2), brought authority, precision, and formidable dance technique to the role. Both performers navigated Velma's choreography with strength and attack, particularly in *Cell Block Tango* and *I Can't Do It Alone*, where rhythmic accuracy, physical control, and vocal stamina were all on full display.

As Billy Flynn, Wilfred Nguini (Cast 1) and Tristan Allen (Cast 2) delivered performances that were as physically thrilling as they were theatrically astute. Their work combined confident vocal delivery with circus skills, sleight of hand, and moments of acrobatics, reaching a breathtaking peak in *Razzle Dazzle*. What unfolded felt less like a courtroom scene and more like a carefully engineered illusion, built in front of our eyes. Through movement, magic, and direct address, both performers invited the audience to become willing accomplices in the fabrication of truth, complicit in the dazzling deception that underpinned the scene.

I was equally proud of the performances from Cordelia Jarville (Cast 1) and Gabriela Konat (Cast 2) as Matron "Mama" Morton. *When You're Good to Mama* showcased confident vocals, grounded physicality, and an easy authority that filled the space, with both performers maintaining control while engaging directly with the audience.



# CHICAGO – TEEN EDITION: A PERSONAL REFLECTION



The supporting principals demonstrated the same high level of musical and physical discipline. Alex Pickford (Cast 1) and Jack Chappell (Cast 2) brought sensitivity and control to Amos Hart, ensuring Mr Cellophane landed with vocal restraint and emotional honesty. Meghan Kumar (Cast 1) and Kelly Fernandes (Cast 2) handled *Mary Sunshine* with clean vocal lines and measured physicality, allowing the satire of the role to emerge without undermining its sincerity.

The Merry Murderesses - Laura English, Bess Di-Luzio, Carina Bastos Figueiredo, Veronika Zhygalova, and Ellie Harper - delivered *Cell Block Tango* with rhythmic precision, vocal power, and striking ensemble unity. Their control of timing, breath, and movement was exemplary, underscoring the professional standard the cast consistently achieved.

Throughout the evening, the ensemble sustained an impressive level of technical focus. Whether tap dancing, executing complex jazz choreography, or maintaining vocal strength through extended sequences, they demonstrated stamina and commitment. As reporters, jurors, club regulars, and witnesses, they remained responsive to the audience while never sacrificing musical or physical accuracy.

Overall, *Chicago – Teen Edition* was a production built on skill as much as style. The expert singing, disciplined dance technique, and fearless physical performance across the cast resulted in a show that felt confident, alive, and genuinely impressive. Watching these students rise to the technical and theatrical demands of such a challenging piece - and meet them head-on - was a source of immense pride.

**Stephen Leib – Head of Theatre Studies**

# MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

## MATHS FEST

### *A day full of maths? Sign me up!*

On 2<sup>nd</sup> February, a small group of first year maths students attended the 2026 Maths Fest, hosted by the well-known stand-up mathematician Matt Parker and fantastic author Rob Eastaway. The day featured a series of engaging talks from some of the country's leading mathematicians, covering a wide range of topics.

During the breaks and lunch, we could explore the lively Maths Village, which offered a variety of puzzles, activities, and display. Not only did we engage with the various stalls but we also had the opportunity to view the selected entries for the Maths Slam, showcasing some creative yet mathematical ideas!

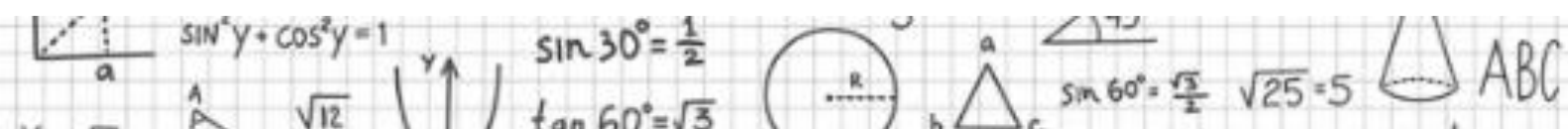
What is the biggest prime number you can say?

Our first speaker of the day, Sophie Maclean, an experienced maths communicator currently studying for a PhD in analytic number theory and additive combinatorics, presented us with this question. As a previous viewer of Maths Fest herself she described how seeing Hannah Fry's talk sparked her love of maths inspiring her to return as a speaker to share her fascination with prime numbers, particularly Sophie Germain primes.

Sophie began her talk "Numbers: A Primer" introducing the familiar prime number emphasising we know surprisingly less about them. She briefly outlined the classical proof by Euclid demonstrating that there are infinitely many primes, before discussing how their distribution is described by the Prime Number Theorem. This result shows that while primes become increasingly sparse as numbers grow larger, they never disappear entirely.

However, such results do not yet extend to Sophie Germain primes, named after Sophie Germain, who studied number theory purely out of intellectual curiosity at a time when women were largely excluded from mathematical research. A Sophie Germain prime is a prime  $P$  for which  $2P+1$  is also prime. Despite significant progress in number theory, mathematicians still do not know whether infinitely many such primes exist.

The talk also touched on how extremely large primes are discovered today, often through special numbers known as Mersenne primes. While the largest known primes now contain millions of digits,  $10^{40}$  digits, far beyond anything that could realistically be spoken aloud, Sophie concluded by answering the question she posed at the start of the talk. The largest prime number she could recite was the 28-digit prime 1234567891234567891234567891. Despite its intimidating size, the pattern makes it surprisingly easy to remember, an excellent party trick, and perhaps a reliable way to win the occasional bet!





# MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

## MATHS FEST

I think many of the attendees felt a similar sense of inspiration to the one Sophie described when she first encountered the work of Hannah Fry. Her enthusiasm for mathematics was clearly infectious, leaving the audience with a renewed curiosity about prime numbers. As one student reflected: "Her talk was informative and I realised there are more areas of maths that I can dig into deeper".

***Ritika Shah – Year 1 Student***

One of the most striking ideas from Maths Fest came from the talk by Ayliean MacDonald, who demonstrated the Tower of Hanoi using different-sized boxes stacked on top of each other. The challenge was to move the entire stack while following two simple rules: only one box could be moved at a time, and a larger box could never be placed on top of a smaller one. While the puzzle initially appears straightforward, the number of moves required follows the formula  $2^n - 1$ , meaning that each additional box causes the total number of moves to grow exponentially. To put her idea at scale: an interesting fact is that if the puzzle had 64 boxes - as in a famous legend about monks solving the Tower of Hanoi - it would require  $2^{64} - 1$  moves, a number so vast that even moving one box every second would take billions of years to complete! This illustrates an important mathematical idea: systems governed by exponential growth quickly become far more complex than our intuition expects. For a mathematics student, the puzzle is a powerful reminder that even simple rules can produce surprisingly deep mathematical structures, linking ideas such as recursion, exponential functions, and algorithmic thinking that are fundamental in modern mathematics and computing.

***Dimitrina Grazhdani – Year 1 Student***

The final talk of the day was delivered by Ben Sparks, a mathematician and musician who travels around the country sharing his love of maths, music - and the maths behind music. During his talk he combined humour with probability, showing how statistics appears in everyday situations - from card games to gambling.

His talk, "The Sacred Geometry of Chance," was inspired by the song Shape of My Heart by Sting. He began using the example of poker, Ben explained how probability determines the ranking of poker hands. Using ideas such as factorials and combinations, he showed how mathematicians can count the number of possible hands in a deck of cards and explain why rare hands like straight flushes are so unlikely.

My favourite part was when Ben demonstrated the famous "birthday paradox." He bet £20 that two people in a small section of the audience would share a birthday, while a student bravely put £1 on the line to challenge him. After asking a few people their birthdays, a match quickly appeared - proving Ben right and winning him the £1. He then explained that with just 23 people in a room, the probability that two people share a birthday is already greater than 50%, which is far more likely than most people expect.

To end the talk, Ben picked up his guitar, and performed Shape of My Heart himself, bringing the maths and music together - returning to the song that inspired the whole presentation.

***Jaiden Ruiz Lakhani – Year 1 Student***

# MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

## M3 CHALLENGE

Two teams - Team 1 (Zak, Zayd, Samay, Krizzh and Mihran) and Team 2 (Ciaran, Nicholas, Elisei, Nazar and David) - took part in the MathWorks M3 Mathematical Modelling Competition, hosted by SIAM, on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February and Monday 2nd March. The challenge involved a continuous 14-hour session in which we built real-world statistical models and produced a detailed report explaining our research and conclusions.

This year's theme explored gambling and its social and financial impacts. The first question asked us to model a person's disposable income using demographic factors such as age and gross income. The second then required us to estimate an individual's expected annual gambling losses using similar demographic data. Finally, we combined these models to create a clear and accessible metric to help the general public better understand the wider consequences of gambling.

Throughout the day, both teams worked hard gathering data, coding and refining models, while simultaneously collaborating on the final paper. The long hours were made much more enjoyable thanks to the excellent catering department who provided an array of snacks, the occasional chance to step outside and enjoy the unexpectedly warm British weather and, of course, an evening pizza order!!!

We would like to thank Andrew and the Site staff for providing the venue, as well as Lisa for helping us organise the event and checking in throughout the days. It was a fun and rewarding experience, and one that everyone involved can look back on with pride.

***Zayd Hussain – Year 1 Student***



# REFLECTIONS FROM THE HEAD GIRL

## GRACE SHEEHAN

As my first term as Head Girl at St. Dominic's comes to a close, I have been reflecting on what a memorable few months it has been. It has been a real honour to represent such a welcoming and vibrant College community, and to work alongside a dedicated and passionate Student Executive.

This term has been full of wonderful events. From celebrating Lunar New Year together to supporting the fantastic school production of *Chicago*, there has been so much to be proud of. It was a pleasure to help with the production and to see the incredible talent, creativity and commitment of our students on display.



We have also had many opportunities beyond the classroom. During HE Careers Day we had the chance to meet professionals from a wide range of fields whether it be quantum physics, politics or real estate as well as representatives from leading universities, giving students valuable insight into the many pathways available after College.

Another particularly inspiring moment this term was welcoming Julie Etchingham to the College. Hearing about her career and seeing a woman leading in such an important field was incredibly motivating and reminded us of the importance of strong female role models. We have also been meeting with the Board of Governors to discuss ways we can further enhance the spiritual life of the College. These conversations have been a valuable opportunity to represent student voice and to share ideas about strengthening the sense of reflection and community that is such an important part of life at St. Dominic's.

We are currently taking part in the Lent Walk and raising money for important charities such as CAFOD. It has been wonderful to see so many students coming together in support of such meaningful causes.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue working on rejuvenating the Student Council so that every student feels heard and represented. Student voice is incredibly important, and we hope to strengthen opportunities for students to share their ideas and contribute to College life.

I feel very proud of our College and grateful for the opportunity to represent such a supportive and enthusiastic student body. I look forward to the summer term and to the many exciting plans still to come.

***Grace Sheehan – Head Girl***

# REFLECTIONS FROM THE HEAD BOY

## NICHOLAS CHARITOU

My time as Head Boy, though brief, has been both empowering and transformative. It has not only strengthened my character and discipline but also exposed me to experiences that I know will stay with me far beyond my time at St. Dominic's. From meeting the governing body to helping orchestrate charity fundraisers alongside the executive team, I have had the opportunity to develop and refine key leadership skills. I have been fortunate to welcome broadcaster, Julie Etchingham to the College to deliver a keynote speech on her successful career and thoroughly enjoyed our *Women in Medicine* talk as part of our International Women's Week celebrations. I hope that, during my tenure, we can make a lasting and positive impact on the College community. Above all, I am incredibly proud to hold the position of Head Boy and to represent the student body alongside the executive team in such a meaningful way.



# STUDENT INFORMATION DATABASE AND PARENTPAY

## 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-25exampler
- 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-25exampler
- Send an email to [sid@stdoms.ac.uk](mailto: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 Student Services so we can try and provide further support.

## ParentPay

ParentPay is the online system used over 11,000 schools and colleges, to collect cashless payments for meals, trips, charity donations, governors fund, exam fees and music lessons.

Parents can make secure, 24/7 online payments via credit/debit card or bank transfer, and also provides the option to pay in cash at a Pay Point location. For ParentPay queries or login problems please email: [parentpay@stdoms.ac.uk](mailto:parentpay@stdoms.ac.uk).

# ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

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

Razvan Bucur Regula  
Ayanna Kwandu Buoh  
Benson Cabral  
Ailsa Cassell  
Edward Chan  
Hau Wing Dorothy Chan  
Avirna Chandrakanthan  
Ella Coker  
Aarav Darmeci  
Savannah De Sa Pinto  
Justyna Galecka  
Himanshu Hapangama  
Ruby Heckles  
Daniel Horan  
Caoimhe Howley  
Ho Chit Lam  
Theo Madanayake  
Tanishka Maheshwari  
Nicole Materka

Xyza Mendoza  
Nadine Monaghan  
Orla Moore  
Denis Nedelcu  
Erin O'Connor  
Dilan Peach  
Alison Pereira  
Shamara Perera  
Milan Pitamber  
Stefania Radu  
Sahanah Ranjithkumar  
Grace Sheehan  
Mikolaj Szewczyk  
Rosie Taggart  
Raima Vaz  
Abbey Wilbraham  
Charlotte Riaz Williams  
Pok Wang Yip





St Dominic's  
Sixth Form College

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