



VERITAS

St Dominic's
Sixth Form
College



SUMMER 2026

EDITORIAL FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Principal, Andrew Parkin, reflects on a very good year for St. Dominic's and the end of a busy examination series

The end of the academic year, once again, is upon us and it has been another very good year for us at St. Dominic's. There have been numerous high points this year: our strong Catholic Life and Mission, evident across the College in all that we do, the vibrant and confident community of learners that embrace the Mission of St. Dominic's and live it to the full and our support and teaching staff who make the College the academically and pastorally successful institution that it is.

The summer term is punctuated by both year groups sitting examinations. It is a stressful and challenging time for all our learners but they confront the exams with commitment, hard work and buckets full of resilience and, for the most part, cope admirably with all that this point in the academic cycles presents to them.

For Year 1, the University Predictor Examinations, commenced on Monday April 27th and ran for nine days. There are over 700 in the cohort so the series takes almost two weeks to complete. The first years were impressively focused and embarked on their UPE series positively and with wholehearted commitment. They worked diligently and their outcomes were good. UCAS predictions were formulated from this examination series and all students are now clear about what their targets are in readiness for the coming year.

Examinations commenced for Year 2 on May 11th and, at the time of writing, the 2026 series is almost at a close. There have been 2555 entries, 7565 papers taken, 150 access arrangements implemented, attendance at the entire series has been 99.8% and we have employed 25 invigilators who have ensured that the series has run smoothly and all our students have been well supported and cared for. This is a huge achievement and can be at times a real logistical challenge and congratulations and thanks go to Susan O'Brien and Amanda Wardlaw, our Examinations Officers, for all the planning and preparation. Now we wait for the final results and we hope and pray that their hard work and efforts will have paid off when their results are published on August 13th.

This edition of Veritas is packed full of news following a very busy term. We have travelled far and wide, raised thousands of pounds for numerous charities and hosted lots of visitors from business, politics, sport, religious life and other educational professionals from around the country. We also will be saying farewell to a number of colleagues who are leaving us to start the next phase of their journey later this year.

Thank you for all your support this academic year, enjoy this edition of Veritas and wishing you a happy and peaceful summer ahead.



STAFF FAREWELLS

A Fond Farewell After 21 Years

Abigail Gorton, retiring Director of Music

As I look back over 21 years of leading Music at St. Dominic's, I feel immensely proud as well as grateful.

I remember arriving 21 years ago, as a nervous young new teacher, and feeling an immediate sense of peace as I entered the chapel. I realised how lucky I was to find myself in a place of work where God is acknowledged as the central force in our lives.

St Dominic's is a truly inspiring place to work. The staff really care, the students are fabulous and we are surrounded by beauty.

Over the years I have been privileged to help shape the talents and lives of hundreds of students. It is a real joy to see students blossom into confident performers, composers, leaders and young adults ready to make their mark on the world. I have seen extraordinary talent, but I have also seen determination, resilience and hard work, and those qualities are even more inspiring.

I have been fortunate to work alongside talented, dedicated colleagues whose friendship and expertise have enriched my life far beyond the classroom. In particular, I would like to thank Patrick Miles for his unswerving support since the day I arrived. Patrick was always ready, despite his challenging job as Head of Maths, to accompany students, compose music for them to play, run ensembles and join in enthusiastically with every musical adventure I chose to undertake. A few of the standout memories are the African Sanctus that we mounted in the chapel complete with accompanying recordings that had to be synced with the performance, the choir tour to Venice where we lugged the keyboard around in summer heat, the tours to New York, the Schubert Octet, and, of course, the musicals!

If there is one thing I hope students take away from their time studying music, it is this: never underestimate the value of creativity. Whatever path you choose, hold on to your curiosity, your imagination and your willingness to express yourself. The world needs those qualities.

Bon Voyage,
Abigail Gorton





STAFF FAREWELLS

A Fond Farewell After 38 Years

Patrick Miles, retiring previous Head of Maths

When I joined in 1988 St. Dominic's was growing and had 480 students. These would be accommodated in the New (now known as the Hume) Building and the Old (Catherine) Building. Four new tutor groups would be needed and my tutor group contained nine first year students. Like every other tutor group, it met during period two on Monday mornings. By my second year, this had grown to eighteen; the nine students had been joined by nine others from the 1989 intake.

Even back then, St. Dominic's was a rigorously academic College. In 1988 I was one of three members of staff with an Oxford Maths degree. This meant that I was given the opportunity to teach both first and second year Further Maths. The high academic standards were evident in many subjects across the College. The History department told me that one of my nine tutees was one of the best students they had ever taught. One group who were very special were the Further Maths class in the 1989 intake; because of their enthusiasm and contribution to class discussion. At least three of that group are now doctors.

I let it be known that I had ambitions to become a Head of Maths and in the summer of 1990, when the then Head of Maths retired, it looked as if everything was falling into place.

The enterprise of one tutor group of mine remains in my memory. In the wake of the 2004 tsunami, one tutee had a contact with a charity that worked in the area and asked if we could hold a fund-raising activity. Within minutes, another student had come up with the idea of a teachers' 'Weakest Link'. The only trouble was that the task of speaking to the colleague whom we had in mind to play Anne Robinson fell to me! At the time, we were ground breakers. By the end of term, another tutor group had organised a 'Countdown'. We had organised an 'X Factor' by the end of the year too.



STAFF FAREWELLS

When did staff start to be called by their first names? It largely developed around this time. When I first came to St. Dominic's, only charismatic (in the non-theological sense) humanities teachers allowed the use of their first names. Would the rest of the Maths department follow suit? One key moment occurred when a student dropped Further Maths. He joined one of my Maths classes, and twenty minutes into the first lesson said "Patrick, can you help me with Q3?". What should I do? Last time a student had called me by my first name was five years earlier, and I had sent her to the Vice Principal's office! Should I do the same to this student? My on-the-spot decision was that it was acceptable, and I have never regretted it. In the months that followed I discovered nearly all my colleagues were adopting the same policy.

I have written much more than I should, but I cannot leave out one change. In the early years there was no music department – hence there were opportunities for amateur musicians such as Peter Collister, Susan Chappell, Debbie Chapman and myself to direct music groups. We all taught other subjects. The name Jonathan Griffiths will be familiar to my colleagues in the Maths department. When he was at St. Dominic's he ran the jazz band - so he was into riffs as well as RISPS. When Abi arrived, we could sit back and let her tell us what to do. This combination of professional and amateur leadership is rare.

Patrick Miles

We also say goodbye and all the best to the following staff



Christopher Wong
2i/c Psychology and
DofE Co-ordinator



Scarlet Rowe
Teacher of Politics and
English Literature



Noor Junaid
Teacher of Psychology



Qaiz Rodrigues
Learning Assistant
in Maths & Physics

NEW STAFF

We welcome the following staff who are joining us in the new academic year:

Name	Role
Christine Hill	Teacher of Law
Tanja Schweitzer	Teacher of Mathematics
Spencer Parsons	Teacher of Psychology
James Messer	Teacher of Economics
Geoffrey Higgins	Director of Music
Joseph Lucas	Teacher of Biology
Holly Lloyd	Teacher of Psychology



STUDENT EXECUTIVE END OF YEAR REFLECTION

As my first six months as Head Girl at St. Dominic's come to an end, I have been reflecting on what an unforgettable experience it has been so far. It has been a genuine privilege to represent such a welcoming and vibrant College community, and to work alongside a dedicated Student Executive. Looking back over the year, I feel incredibly proud of everything we have achieved together.

The past six months have been filled with so many memorable moments. Earlier in the year, it was wonderful to celebrate Lunar New Year with the College community, support the incredible production of Chicago, and take part in HE Careers Day, where students had the opportunity to meet professionals from a wide range of industries and representatives from leading universities. We also had the privilege of welcoming Julie Etchingham to St. Dominic's, whose inspiring talk reminded us of the importance of leadership, resilience and pursuing our ambitions.

More recently, one of the highlights of the summer term was the opportunity to meet Susan Acland-Hood, Permanent Secretary at the Department for Education. It was fascinating to discuss the recent A Level examinations and hear about the work being done to improve the education system. It was a unique opportunity to share the perspectives of students and gain an insight into how educational policy is shaped.

We also had the pleasure of meeting our local MP, Gareth Thomas, where we discussed a range of issues affecting young people and our local community. Experiences like these have been invaluable and have shown the importance of ensuring that student voices are heard.

GRACE SHEEHAN – HEAD GIRL





STUDENT EXECUTIVE END OF YEAR RELECTION

Alongside these opportunities, the Student Executive successfully completed our UPE examinations, and I am incredibly proud of how we balanced our academic studies with our leadership responsibilities throughout the year.

There is still plenty to look forward to before the end of the academic year. I am excited to welcome our new students during Transition Day and help them experience the friendly and supportive atmosphere that makes St. Dominic's so special. Volunteering Week, Sports Day, Culture Day and St. Dominic's in Bloom will all be wonderful opportunities to celebrate our College community, while I am also looking forward to travelling to Lourdes as a Redcap to support pilgrims throughout the pilgrimage. The Summer Concert and the annual sleepout are also still to come, and I know they will be fantastic occasions to end what has already been an incredible year.

As I reflect on my first year as Head Girl, I feel incredibly grateful for the opportunities I have been given and for the support of both staff and students throughout the year. It has been a year I will always remember, and I am excited to begin my second year in the role, continuing to represent this amazing College community and making the most of everything that lies ahead.

Grace Sheehan – Head Girl

Stepping into the role of Head Boy has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my time at St. Dominic's. Over the past six months, I have had the opportunity to represent the College, work alongside an incredible Student Executive, and get to know even more members of our community. It has been a genuine privilege, and I am grateful for everything the role has already given me.

Some of my favourite moments this year have come from the events that bring our College together. From celebrating Lunar New Year and enjoying the fantastic production of Chicago to taking part in HE Careers Day, it has been great to see the enthusiasm, talent and diversity that make St. Dominic's such a special place. I feel extremely fortunate to also have been able to attend some of our trips such as Geneva and Florida that have enriched myself and others in so many different ways. Seeing students get involved and support one another is something that has made me especially proud to represent the College.

STUDENT EXECUTIVE END OF YEAR RELECTION

Another highlight has been the opportunity to meet and learn from a number of inspiring people. We were fortunate to welcome Julie Etchingham, as well as Susan Acland-Hood, Permanent Secretary at the Department for Education, and our local MP, Gareth Thomas. Having the chance to represent the student body during these discussions was a real privilege, and each conversation offered a valuable perspective on leadership, education, and public service.

Alongside these opportunities, balancing the responsibilities of the Student Executive with UPE examinations has been challenging but incredibly rewarding. I am proud of everything we have achieved together and grateful for the teamwork and support we have shared throughout the year.

As we approach the end of the academic year, I am looking forward to welcoming new students on Transition Day, taking part in Sports Day, Volunteering Week and Culture Day. These events will be a great way to round off what has already been a memorable year.

Finally, I would like to thank the entire St. Dominic's community. Thank you to the staff for their constant encouragement and guidance, and to all the students for your positivity, kindness and willingness to get involved in College life. It has been an honour to serve as your Head Boy so far, and I look forward to continuing to represent our College over the coming year.

Nicholas Charitou – Head Boy

NICHOLAS CHARITOU – HEAD BOY



STUDENT EXECUTIVE MEETING WITH GARETH THOMAS MP

Meeting with our local council MP, Gareth Thomas

Members of our Student Executive Team recently had the opportunity to meet with our local council MP, Gareth Thomas, to discuss issues that matter to young people and our wider community. These included the regulation of social media, a proposed phone curfew for 16–17-year-olds, and the increasing crime rate around Harrow.

The meeting provided a valuable platform for students to share their perspectives, ask questions, and learn more about how local decisions are made. Questions raised during the Student Council meeting were also presented and answered by Gareth Thomas.

Regulation of social media

We have questioned how minorities in society, such as young people with disabilities or mental health issues, who may find it easier to express themselves and connect with society through social media, will be supported by the government if social media is banned. Gareth responded that the argument is powerful. However, the potential harm caused to young people by social media is too significant to be ignored, as shown by past experiences. This remains a challenge for society, and as a country, we need to improve the way we support people in expressing themselves freely.





STUDENT EXECUTIVE MEETING WITH GARETH THOMAS MP

Increasing crime rate around Harrow

Gareth stated that the council has placed a large number of police units in areas such as South Harrow and Wealdstone to ensure public safety. However, with rising crime cases in other areas, the community needs to become more engaged by reporting incidents to the police or directly to Gareth to help create change. The council will assign police units based on previous reported cases.

Recommendations for 17-year-olds interested in starting a career in politics

Gareth recommended that if you want to become a frontline politician, you should be prepared for it to be a short-term career, as you will face elections every five years. You should also choose a political party that you feel comfortable working with. However, if you want to work in the political world in roles such as a journalist, adviser, or lawyer, you should choose a field that interests you, and politics will eventually connect with you in some way. The best approach is to identify your own interests, gain relevant work experience, and understand what the career is really like.

The conversation was engaging and insightful, allowing our team to better understand the role of representatives and the importance of having young voices involved in conversations about the future.

Our Student Executive Team would like to thank Gareth for taking the time to meet with us and for listening to student ideas. This experience has encouraged us to continue representing our school community and creating opportunities for students to make a difference.

Anjaylia Yau - Year 1 Student

CORE RE

Thoughts from Y1 Core RE

After every Y1 Core RE lesson, students are invited to write about what they have learned and how it connects with their own values and beliefs. To give you a flavour of them, these are three responses from two of the lessons.

A much fuller selection of students' work from Module 2: "Created to Love" is on the College website. Each lesson title is shown, followed by three students' responses. They reflect the depth of thinking taking place in Core RE and the way our students are learning to connect belief with action; I think you will enjoy reading them.

Lesson 4: What is love? Divine and Human Love

Aaniya Bathia

This lesson I have learned that the ancient Greeks had four different words for love. One of them is Agape. I have also learned that FAIRTRADE ensures fair returns for farmers and how the FAIRTRADE premium works.

I think a mother who regularly goes to visit her son (who has committed a serious crime) is an example of Agape because she does not fear what other family members or her friends think of her. This shows she is selfless. She loves her son unconditionally even though he has committed a serious crime.

This lesson my opinion about what love is has developed. I have a deeper understanding of what love is and how it does not have one single definition. "Love is kind" and "Love is patient" and it can be shown in so many ways.

Iriza Benitha

This lesson I have learned that although in English there is just one word for love there are different aspects to it. The ancient Greeks had four words for it. One of them was Philia which described the love between family members. I also learned that to live out and share the same love Christ has shown and given us (Agape), we must actively live out 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 using it as our blueprint of how we love one another.

I think a mother who regularly goes to visit her son (who has committed a serious crime) is an example of Agape because visiting him doesn't mean she condones what he has done. I truly believe that the love a mother has for her child is like no other and cannot be explained unless experienced.

This lesson my opinion about what love is has developed because in class we were asked to go below the surface level and go deeper to really explore its meaning and the different ways we express our love for others.

CORE RE

Hazel Connolly

This lesson I have learned about the Ancient Greeks different words for love - Philia, Storge and Agape. Discussing the words allowed me to see how to put out more love and share it with others.

I think a mother who regularly goes to visit her son (who has committed a serious crime) is an example of Agape even though I do not agree with her decision. She is demonstrating unconditional love for her son even though she is bearing some of the consequences of continuing to love him, for example, losing her friends etc.

This lesson my opinion about love has developed because I have thought about how Storge, Philia and Agape are applicable today because love is eternal and we should strive to show it in everything we do.

Lesson 7: When relationships change

Alicja Szczepaniak

This lesson I learned about lots of things including Pope Francis' connection to the painting "Mary Undoer of Knots." I found this particularly moving. I am an artist and someone who also seeks comfort and meaning in art. Art can be very healing.

I think comfort can result in positive consequences. I do not think it ever serves a positive purpose (pedantic, sorry!). Suffering can make people more empathic. It can also sometimes build character but that doesn't mean the purpose of suffering is positive. It was interesting in class that some people thought suffering can be redemptive. My view is that suffering serves no purpose, even though the consequences of suffering can be positive.

In this lesson my views on how to respond to changes in relationships have developed because I think that when it comes to ending a relationship it can be difficult to do what you know is "right". It is more comfortable to do things which are easier or wrong. The part of the lesson when we looked at how to end a relationship well made me think more about this.

Cyprian Mbogo

This lesson I have learned about life's ups and downs and how to stay hopeful and optimistic. I also reflected on Kahlil Gibran's poem "On Pain" which made me think about being patient when bad things come your way.

I think suffering can sometimes have a positive purpose because our lowest moments can teach us things which shape us to be who we are in our best moments. Without hardships I think we cannot entirely understand the value of good moments.

In this lesson my views on how to respond to changes in relationships have changed as I have realised there are considerate ways to end a relationship which respect the other person's dignity as a human being.

CORE RE

Shann Tamakuwala

This lesson I have learned about how you can support family and friends who are experiencing difficult times. I have also learned how you can reframe a statement into a question to help you when a bad change happens in your own life, e.g. *"What can I do to cope with this loss?"*

I think suffering can sometimes have a positive purpose or meaning because it can bring out emotions so deep within people that they then express them in art or poetry. It may make them live life giving out benevolence without any expectations of having people treat them back with the same love. Also, when we suffer ourselves, we feel more sympathetic when other people suffer.

This lesson my views on how to respond to changes in relationships have developed because the scenarios in today's lesson were very eye-opening and I have looked at things by putting myself in other people's shoes.

Thoughts from Year 2 Core RE



The second assessment in Y2 followed the talk "Supper at Emmaus". Students could choose between two essay questions which focused on Caravaggio's famous painting of the same name as the talk.

Below, are two student essays. There are more on the College website. The work is written in a range of styles. All show an enthusiasm for engaging thoughtfully with the painting and its themes. Their responses give a strong sense of how far students have come on their spiritual journey since joining St. Dominic's.

Helena Keyvanfar

How does Caravaggio involve the viewers in the story of Supper at Emmaus?

Caravaggio involves the viewers, by having Peter and Jesus having their hands out and this feels as if they are speaking directly to me and involving me in the conversation. The basket of fruit, nearly falling off the table, and the empty space at the table involves me too. It is as if the basket has been placed there for me to knock it off. The empty place at the table is so anyone (everyone) can sit there and can share the moment too. This is something that Jesus taught and encouraged.

The painting is based on the story two of the disciples travelling to Emmaus with Jesus, who they do not recognise. Caravaggio's painting shows them at an inn having a supper together. It has a very welcoming atmosphere and has a kind message; the empty place at the table, suggests everyone of all religions can be part of the gathering.

CORE RE

There is enough bread to share and keep everyone full. This might be because of the beauty of Jesus sitting with them. With Peter's arm spread out it seems to me like he is involving everyone in the room, including the innkeeper, as well as me. Even though I am not Christian, I feel welcomed and accepted and this is beautiful as I believe there is not a hierarchy when it comes to religion with one being better than another.

As Jesus blessed the bread, I feel I am blessed and the empty space allows everyone who wants to be blessed to be.

Matthew Hayllar

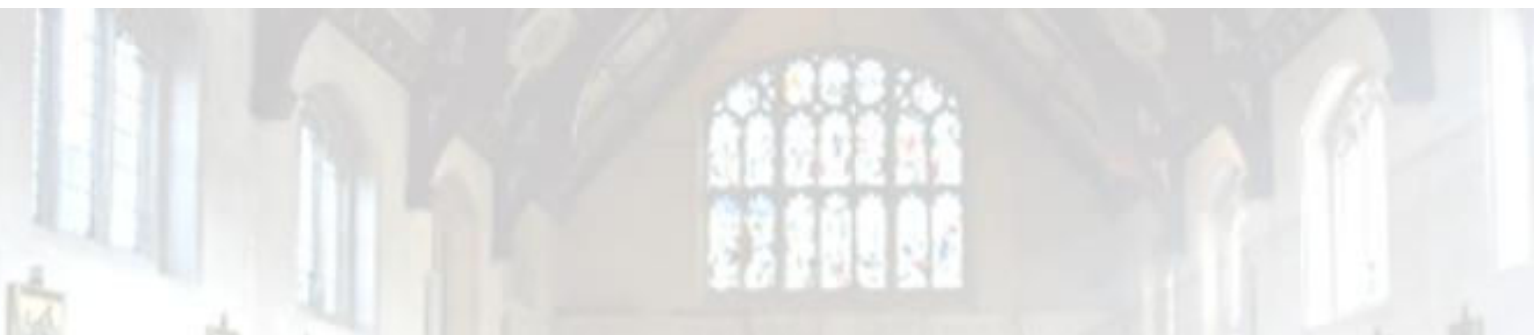
How does Caravaggio involve the viewers in the story of Supper at Emmaus?

Caravaggio involves the viewers of the painting by providing an empty space in the foreground as a place for us as the viewer to be seated. This position of the innkeeper is interesting. Where he is standing allows a halo-like shadow to be projected behind Jesus' head. This is visible to us as viewers. In essence this allows us to recognise Christ at the table even if he does not look like we anticipate or how we remember him from paintings of him on the cross.

With the fruit basket dangerously dangling over the edge of the table Caravaggio provides a sense of impact for the viewer as they can imagine that if they, too, had been present in that room they might, as they recognised Jesus, have upset the basket and sent it to the floor in amazement - a reaction similar to Cleophas' and Peter's.

While the innkeeper, who does not know Jesus, cannot see him for who he is, Cleophas, Peter and we, the viewers, see the risen Jesus in the way we know him, through his blessing of the bread. This act reveals his divinity and confirms that he did indeed come for us as his people.

The shadow cast onto the table by the fruit basket resembles the shape of a fish. This perhaps reflects the Ichthys symbol or perhaps is intended to make us recall Jesus' miracle of multiplying the five loaves of bread and two fishes in order to feed five thousand people. Either way, the illusion created reminds us that each of us is welcomed at the table with God incarnate as not only one of his people but also as a friend.



CHAPLAINCY UPDATE

CONFIRMATION 2026

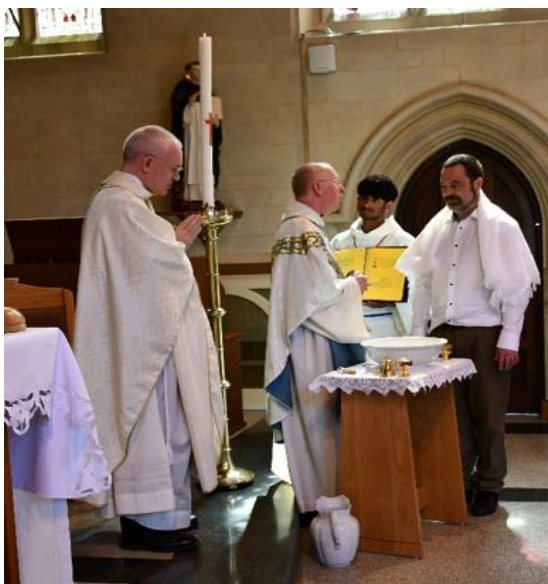


A highlight of the Summer Term was the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday 16th May in the College Chapel. Twenty-two students and one member of staff, Ryan Whitehurst, completed their preparation and were Confirmed by Bishop Michael Campbell OSA. As part of their preparation, candidates attended a retreat day at SPEC in Pinner where they had the opportunity to reflect on their faith, spend time in prayer and consider the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Confirmation programme also included formation sessions and prayer throughout the year, helping candidates to deepen their understanding of the faith and strengthen their relationship with Christ. It was a joyful celebration for candidates, families, sponsors and the wider College community.



CHAPLAINCY UPDATE

BAPTISM OF ROBERT PENNY



This term we were delighted to celebrate the Baptism of Robert Penny, Head of the Philosophy Department, in the College Chapel. Robert's journey of faith has been an inspiration to many, and his Baptism was a joyful and moving occasion for staff and students alike. It was a powerful witness to the continuing work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of those seeking Christ, and we continue to keep Robert in our prayers as he begins this new chapter of his life as a member of the Roman Catholic Church.

CHAPLAINCY UPDATE

PRIMARY SCHOOL RETREAT DAYS

Throughout the Summer Term, the Chaplaincy Team hosted a number of retreat days for pupils from our partner schools, including St Anselm's and St Teresa's. These days provided opportunities for prayer, reflection and personal growth, encouraging pupils to explore their faith and consider how it can guide their daily lives.

A particular highlight was the Year 5 retreat day for pupils from St Teresa's Primary School entitled *You Are My Rock*. Based on the words of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel, the day invited pupils to reflect on the foundations of their lives and the importance of faith, resilience and trust in God. Through prayer, discussion and a range of engaging activities, pupils considered the people and values that support them through life's challenges and how Christ can be the rock upon which they build their lives.

All of the retreat days were supported by St Dominic's students, who helped to lead activities, facilitate discussions and accompany pupils throughout the day. Their enthusiasm, leadership and witness to their faith helped to create welcoming and engaging experiences for the young people who visited the College, providing excellent role models of faith and service.



CHAPLAINCY UPDATE

LEAVERS' LITURGY

On the final day at St Dominic's for our Year 2 students, before they began exam leave, we gathered as a community for the Leavers' Liturgy. This special celebration provided an opportunity to reflect on and give thanks for their time at the College. Students celebrated the friendships they have made, the challenges they have overcome and the many ways in which they have grown during their time at St Dominic's. We will keep them all in our prayers, giving thanks for all they have brought to our community and asking God to guide and bless them in all that lies ahead.



CHAPLAINCY UPDATE

CHAPLAINCY AND ETHOS AWARDS

During the Leavers' Liturgy, two students were recognised for their outstanding contribution to the life of the College.

The Chaplaincy Award was presented to Matthew Hayllar in recognition of his significant contribution to the liturgical life of the College and his commitment to supporting the work of Chaplaincy. Through his dedication and willingness to serve, Matthew has played an important role in enriching the spiritual life of our community.

The Ethos Award was presented to Zuzanna Swiatek, who has consistently supported the College's charitable activities throughout her time at St Dominic's. Her generosity, enthusiasm and willingness to help others have been a wonderful example of the values we seek to promote as a Catholic community. Zuzanna's contribution has always been accompanied by a warm smile and a commitment to serving others.



CHAPLAINCY UPDATE

LITTLE PRINCESS TRUST FUNDRAISER



This term, Shobana Premnath raised money for Little Princess Trust. As part of her efforts, Shobana had her hair cut and donated it to the charity, helping to provide real-hair wigs for children and young people who have lost their hair through cancer treatment and other medical conditions.

To support the cause further, she also organised and ran a successful bake sale, raising over £300 for the charity.



CHAPLAINCY UPDATE

VOLUNTEERING DAY

Volunteering Day

Our annual Volunteering Day once again demonstrated the generosity and commitment of St. Dominic's students and staff. The day provided an opportunity for members of the College community to put their faith into action through service to others.

Volunteers supported a range of local organisations and community projects, including Blossom Baby Bank, St. Joseph's Pastoral Centre, Ealing Half Marathon, Stanmore Country Park, Sustain IT and Crossroads Care. Through practical service, teamwork and a willingness to give their time to others, participants made a valuable contribution to the wider community.

The enthusiasm and commitment shown throughout the day reflected the College's dedication to Catholic Social Teaching and the common good. We are especially grateful to Sian Waters for her hard work in coordinating the day and ensuring that students and staff were able to support such a wide range of worthwhile causes.



CHAPLAINCY UPDATE

SLEEPOUT FOR THE HOMELESS



Students participated in the annual Sleepout for the Homeless, with funds being raised for The Passage. Students spent a night outdoors to raise awareness of homelessness and to support the work of charities serving some of the most vulnerable members of society. The event encouraged participants to reflect on issues of poverty, social exclusion and human dignity while raising valuable funds for charitable causes.

HISTORY

PARIS TRIP



Our trip to Paris was both an enjoyable experience and a really valuable extension of our study of the French Revolution. Over the course of three days, we visited a range of sites connected to the Ancien Régime and the Revolution itself, which helped make the topic feel much more immediate and real. Seeing many of these famous landmarks and artefacts in real life, along with some great French shopping, made the trip extremely memorable as well as useful.

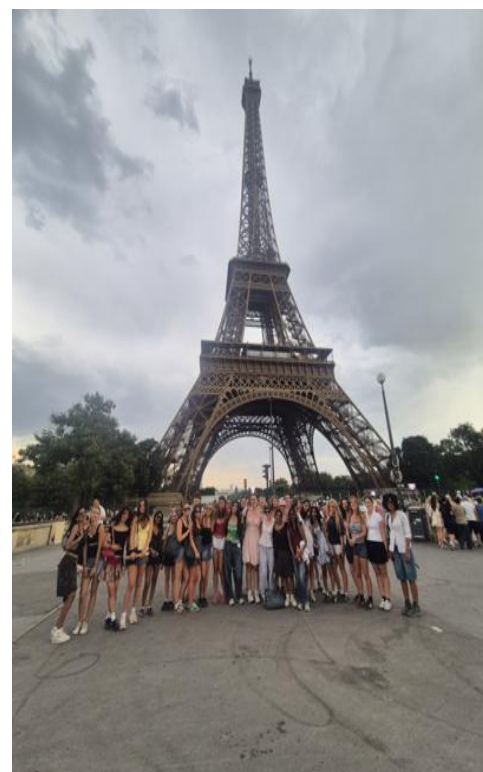
The first day centred on a guided tour of Paris which focused on the Ancien Régime and the French Revolution. We visited key sites including the Bastille, the Hôtel de Ville, Notre-Dame, the Louvre and the Place de la Concorde. Being at places so closely linked to violence and political change really brought our understanding of the Revolution to life, and it was a great way to begin the trip. Rather than just learning about these places as names on a page, we were able to think about what each one shows us about the nature of the Revolution and the society it came from. For example, standing at the exact spot where the guillotine would have been set up at Place de la Concorde reinforced that the Revolution was not only ideological, but also violent and very public. Overall, the tour was valuable because it encouraged us to think more deeply about how places, people and ideas shaped the course of the Revolution.

HISTORY

PARIS TRIP

The second day was centred on a visit to Versailles, which was probably the most striking part of the trip from both a historical and personal perspective. The scale and opulence of the palace made the wealth and privilege of the monarchy far easier to understand. Seeing the King and Queen's apartments and the Hall of Mirrors gave a much clearer sense of the vision of monarchy that Versailles was designed to present, with its image of magnificence and absolute power. At the same time, it also highlighted why the monarchy became associated with extravagance and detachment from the lives of ordinary people. Visiting the palace helped to put criticism of the monarchy into context by making visible the enormous extravagance during a time of wider financial strain. The gardens were also a major highlight for me personally, not only because of their beauty, but because their sheer scale reinforced the levels of spending and labour that underpinned royal prestige. More than anything else on the trip, Versailles made the inequalities of the Ancien Régime feel extremely tangible.

Later that day, we went on a boat tour along the Seine, which was one of the most enjoyable parts of the trip. Seeing Paris from the river gave us a different perspective on the city and its landmarks, including the Eiffel Tower. It was exciting to experience the city in this way, waving to people on the pavements and getting some great photos. The boat tour, followed by food and a visit to Galeries Lafayette, made it a great end to a really memorable day.



HISTORY

PARIS TRIP

On the final day, we visited the Musée Carnavalet, which was one of the most useful visits in terms of deepening our understanding of the Revolution itself. The museum's collection of artefacts, paintings and documents from the revolutionary period made it much easier to connect the political events we have studied with the ideas of the time. Seeing material linked directly to the Revolution, especially a painting of the Tennis Court Oath, gave a much stronger sense of how revolutionary ideas were communicated and remembered. The museum also helped us to understand the impact of the Revolution and get a better sense of public feeling, particularly through the libelles.

Overall, the Paris trip was both enjoyable and useful to our study of the French Revolution. Visiting places like Versailles and seeing revolutionary sites in person made the topic feel much more real and helped deepen my understanding of the period. It was such a memorable trip and a valuable experience for us as students.

Grace Sheehan and Shaiyreen Gangatharan – Year 1 Students



PSYCHOLOGY HUNTERIAN MUSEUM

For the visit to the Hunterian Museum this year, the students were so stunning and brave; they survived the walk down to South Harrow in the heat and then baked on the 35-degree Piccadilly Line until they finally reached Holborn. When they got through the cast-iron fences and into the cool embrace of the Hunterian Museum's air-conditioned interior after such scorching heat, it really hit different.

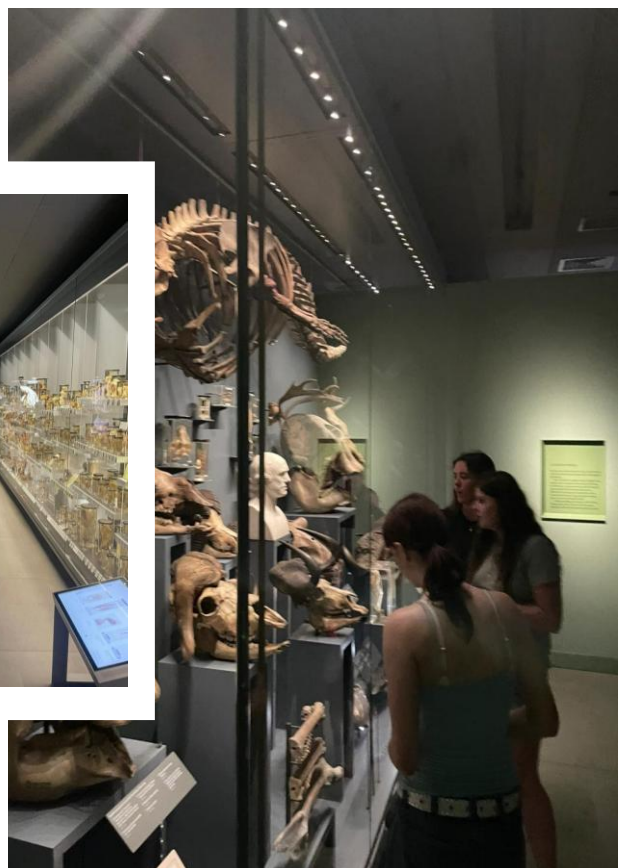
The students looked at the displays and learnt about the history of medicine in the U.K, from trepanning drills to amputation equipment. Many of them commented on how lucky they are to be born in the modern age where the tools of the medical trade are made of surgical steel rather than hand-forged iron. Skeletons and rare artefacts such as the Evelyn Tables (which are examples of human arteries, nerves and veins) captured the attention of many. The highlight of the museum for the students had to be the hall of specimens, where many varieties of animals were preserved. The teachers quizzed the students about how this linked into the Issue and Debate in Edexcel of how Psychology is a science and how it developed over time. Many ethical questions and discussions were also had surrounding the human remains.



PSYCHOLOGY HUNTERIAN MUSEUM

Afterwards, some specially selected students were invited into the Anatomy and Pathology Museum, where medical specimens of limbs, the brain and the organs are housed. The staff delivered a university-level workshop where we exposed the limitations of the version of psychology we teach them at A-Level, introducing the students to the world of pseudo-unipolar neurons, ventricles, Purkinje neurons and glial cells. To me, this is a highly rewarding trip and a worthwhile experience. I am so glad that my previous supervisor, Celia, encouraged its organisation so much. I truly hope that my successors will continue to bring our students here in the future.

Christopher Wong -
2i/c Psychology and DoFE Co-ordinator



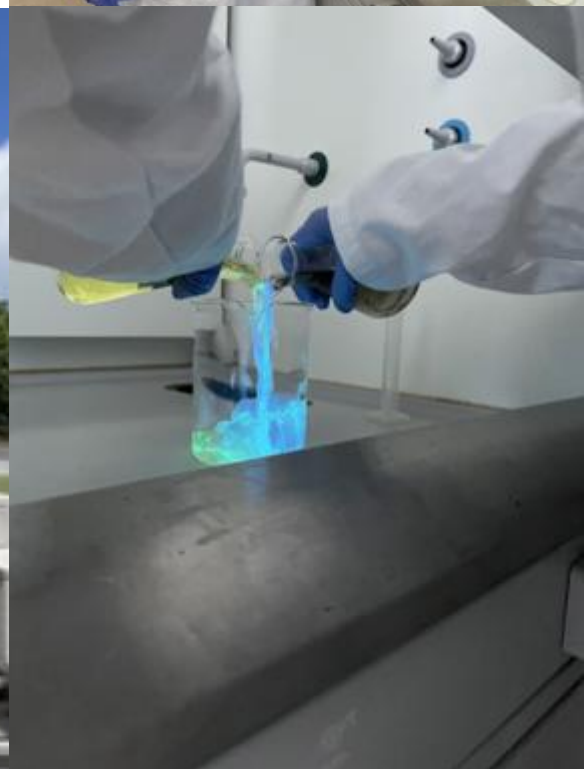
CHEMISTRY TRIP TO LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY

On the 9th June, 36 Science students enjoyed an inspiring STEM visit to Loughborough University, gaining first-hand experience of university-level study in science.

From the moment we arrived, students were impressed by the university's modern, spacious laboratories. Bright, well-equipped and designed to support cutting-edge learning, these laboratories provided the perfect setting for students to explore science beyond the classroom and experience what studying STEM at university can really feel like.



**Loughborough
University**



CHEMISTRY LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY

Hands-On Science in Action

A highlight of the visit was the opportunity for students to take part in a range of practical activities across Chemistry, Biology and Physics. These sessions allowed students to apply their theoretical knowledge in a real laboratory environment, while developing key scientific skills.

- ❑ **Chemistry:** Students carried out analysis to determine the concentration of caffeine in soft drinks, as well as an experiment that generated light, using professional-grade equipment and techniques to deepen their understanding of key concepts.
- ❑ **Biology:** Students carried out a galactose enzyme experiment, exploring how enzymes interact with substrates and gaining hands-on experience of biochemical processes.
- ❑ **Physics:** Students carried out experiments to measure the speed of sound, applying their knowledge of waves and developing practical data collection and analysis skills.

Throughout the day, students demonstrated enthusiasm, curiosity and excellent teamwork, fully engaging with each activity and making the most of the experience.

Overall, the visit to Loughborough University was a highly successful and memorable experience, sparking excitement and ambition among our aspiring scientists.

Nicola McGeady – Head of Chemistry



PHYSICS

RAF MUSEUM VISIT

A group of thirty Year 1 Physics students, together with Mr Kemp, Miss Yao and Mr Rodrigues, took part in a very interesting visit to the RAF Museum in Hendon on Wednesday 13th May. Quite a lot of our Physics students are keen to pursue Engineering courses at university. This visit showed them many examples of applications of technological innovations in the field of aircraft engineering, both in the past and much more recently.

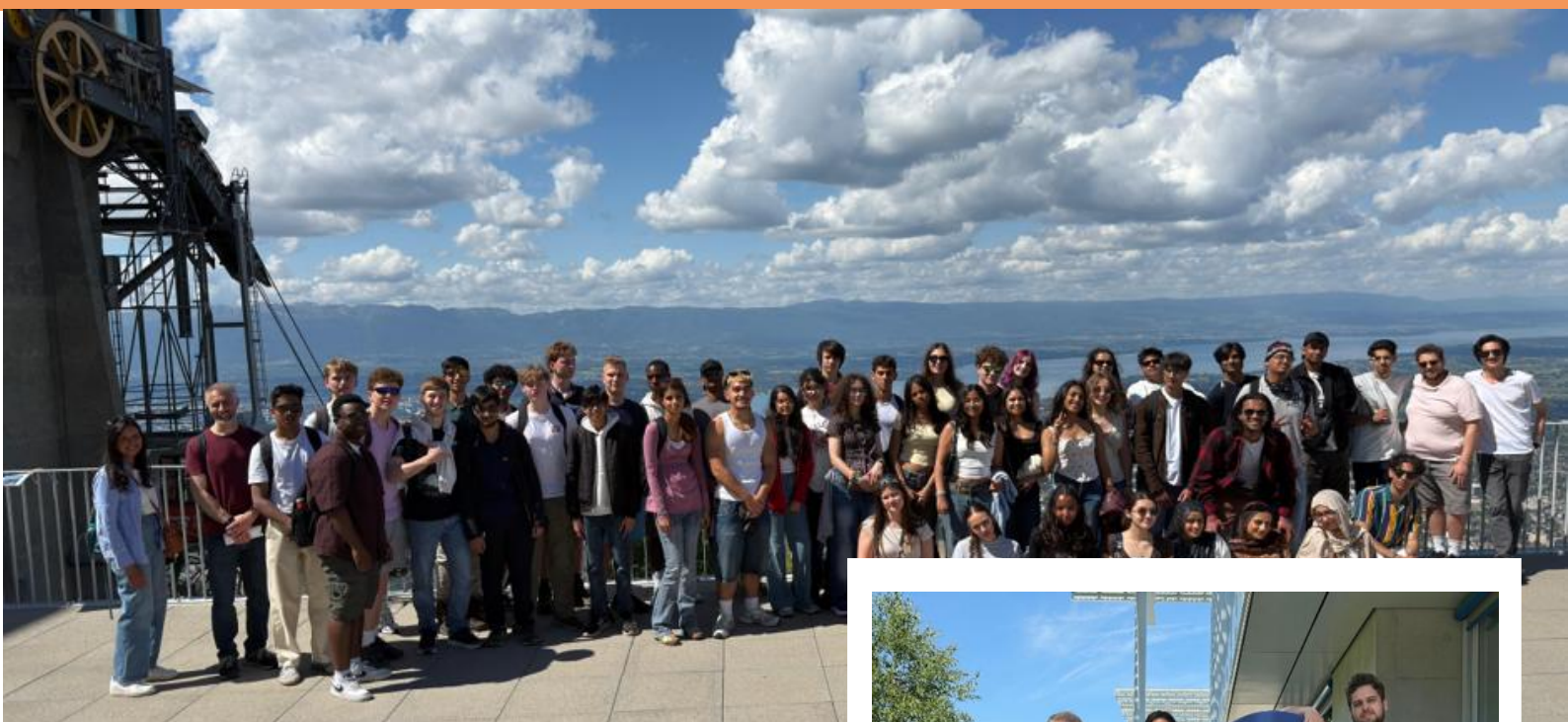
There were many “hands on” exhibits looking at the history of aircraft and how they have been powered and used in both peacetime and wartime.

The students were able to get up close, and also on board, many real-life planes and helicopters and appreciate their capabilities and their huge importance in our recent history. The range of aircraft was astonishing, and the students had a very enjoyable and informative day.

Tim Kemp – Teacher of Physics



PHYSICS GENEVA



The Physics department had the pleasure of taking 44 delightful Year 1 Physics and Chemistry students to Geneva, Switzerland.

Highlights of the first day include: getting soaked by the Jet d'Eau de Genève fountain and a relaxing boat ride on Lake Geneva. On the second day, we visited the lush Botanical Gardens and later rode the Mont Salève cable car ride across the French border, overlooking the stunning snowcapped mountain range of the Alps. On the third day, students and staff visited the sobering Red Cross Museum, a reminder of the important humanitarian work they have done for many decades. After lunch, we went to a chocolate-tasting experience. We rounded off the day with a surprisingly competitive game of bowling – in which the teachers comfortably beat the students.



PHYSICS GENEVA

We were in anticipation for the final day which was the main event - a guided tour at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research. Two dedicated CERN researchers provided an insight into the fascinating work carried out. This included information about the Large Hadron Collider's (LHC) groundbreaking experiments, which include ALICE, ATLAS, CMS, etc; working with and producing anti-hydrogen; and applications of the research carried out here to other fields, which include medicine and general day-to-day life.

After eating a very delicious lunch at the cafeteria, students were able to engage with the equipment and exhibits in the Science Gateway at CERN, which taught them about particle Physics. At the end of the day, we were treated to a highly engaging lecture on 'Mysteries of Matter' which covered topics that go beyond A-Level on states of matter and internal energy. This involved the use of liquid nitrogen, balloons and a dark room, to illustrate plasma and finally a demonstration of quantum levitation.



PHYSICS GENEVA



The experience of both students and staff was extraordinary. This trip would not have been possible without the support, encouragement, and hard work of our wonderful staff: Rakhi Nahar, Matthew Eggleston, Matthew Walsh, Qaiz Rodrigues, and our Principal, Andrew Parkin. I am extremely grateful to each of them.

Luke Ray – Head of Physics

DUKE OF EDINBURGH EXPEDITION 2025-26

This year we had five lovely groups on the DofE expedition: Chaos with a compass; Nature Girls; TASE; Sunbites and Pumpkin. In a bit of a shakeup, the groups underwent the training for their expeditions after the enrichment period. These groups were also handpicked after a panel interview process. Prior to the expedition, they completed training for orienteering and map reading in the classroom. I am certain the groups can still accurately identify the differences between churches with towers and spires on the map.

Once the training was complete, the practice and assessed expeditions took us to the wilds of Chesham, where the students got to experience the quintessential English countryside. But the skies were not kind to them, as they endured blistering winds and freezing hail and climbed the Coombe Hill without *much* complaint.

It was lovely to see these young people bond over lying games (shoutout to the Mafia/Werewolf/Chameleon players), learning to throw a frisbee and really connect with their friends over paneer-filled flatbreads, steaming servings of pot noodles and Wayfarer packs.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH EXPEDITION 2025-26

Doubtless, this was my most successful expedition ever. The students were so resilient when facing challenges - getting lost in Wendover Woods, being rage-baited by teammates over “missing” equipment, surviving stinging nettles and avoiding blue-green algae infested lakes. It is moments on trips like this that I am reminded about the purpose of education; preparing our young people for the future. They take with them lessons of patience, independence and cooperation that will serve them well in the future. Hopefully, they will remember the bonfire Adrian lit, Josh’s photosynthesizing, Anna’s delight in finding loose maps and Lisa’s words of advice on wild camping, as much as I will.

**Christopher Wong –
2i/c Psychology and DofE Co-ordinator**



TRIP TO FLORIDA



Day 1 – NASA Kennedy Space Centre

After an early start to the day, our first morning in Orlando, Florida saw us making the journey out to Cape Canaveral, out by the coast, to visit the NASA Kennedy Space Centre (KSC). I found this part of this trip to be truly rewarding as we learnt about the sacrifices given in pursuit of furthering human advancement and our understanding of space and where we came from.

The first thing on everyone's plan was the Kennedy Space Centre Bus Tour which took us to The Gantry at LC-39 and further on, the Apollo/Saturn V Centre, with lots to explore in depth at both locations. On the drive to each location, our guides revealed to us the biodiversity and ecological preservation programmes of the KSC's surrounding area.

TRIP TO FLORIDA

Whilst, unfortunately, we did not get to see any actual rocket launches during our visit, at the launch pad, we did get to experience 'static test fire' of an engine in development. The Gantry at LC-39 is also home to NASA's largest Earth Information Centre, at which we saw stunning visualisations, such as a holistic view of the many unnoticed changes occurring on Earth, as well as a display of the imaging spectroscopy used by NASA for a variety of uses, such as identifying materials.

As part of our day at the KSC, we had the opportunity to experience simulations of various key points in the history of space exploration, notably the Apollo era. For example, we experienced a recreation of being in the 'firing room' for the very first crewed Saturn V mission, with the whole room shaking as if there really was a rocket being launched. Later, we relived the historic day of the first words spoken on the moon via the Lunar theatre. Whilst at the Apollo/Saturn V Centre, we were able to stand under the Saturn V rocket (the largest ever flown). Additionally, we also were able to reflect on the various challenges faced and the sacrifices made by NASA crew members at the 'Ad astra per aspera' Apollo 1 tribute.

Having spent our day reliving history and taking part in immersive launch experiences, we finished our day at NASA with a tour through the rocket garden, before heading back to the hotel for dinner.

Day 2 - Universal Studios Physics Master Class and Park access

We started our day at Universal with a Physics Master Class led by Michael, in which we learnt about the physics behind how roller coasters work. A key focus of this was the engineering principles of the 6 degrees of freedom (surge, pitch, yaw etc), which we applied by analysing the mechanisms of 'Transformers: The ride-3D', which many of us then later tried that day. This allowed us to be able to see and apply the principles we had learned earlier to the ride when in action. Overall, this class was very interactive and fun and got us all to engage in despite our different levels of physics knowledge.

After the class, we were rewarded with a fast pass to use throughout the parks. Finally, came the part many of us were excited for, a day with access to the Islands of Adventure and Universal Studios parks. We had the opportunity to explore and try as many rides as we could fit into the day. We managed to try rides such as 'Harry Potter and the escape from Gringotts', as well as the group's favourites of 'The VelociCoaster', 'Hagrid's Magical Creatures Motorbike Adventure', and the 'Revenge of the Mummy' (all of which were highly recommended by Carol).

TRIP TO FLORIDA



Day 3 – Wildlife boat tour, iFly masterclass and wind tunnel jumps

Our third day in Orlando started with an airboat tour that was jam-packed with incredible sights and breathtaking views, such as bald eagles, alligators and various different waterbirds and insects.

Shortly after this tour, we visited the butterfly garden, where some of us were fortunate enough to be able to hold and feed the butterflies. Furthermore, we also got to see the miniature highland cows, who were very affectionate, and we were able to brush and pet them.

On our way back to the hotel to get ready for our iFly experience, we got to very quickly explore a local mall, doing some shopping, and collecting souvenirs and gifts for our families and friends. At iFly, we learnt about the physics behind the unique and fascinating design of their wind tunnel and were able to construct a 2D plan of this tunnel to better understand it. To end the day, we got to experience two turns in the wind tunnel ourselves, guided by a flying instructor, which was a thrilling and exhilarating experience! As someone who despises heights, I was terrified to partake in this experience, but I gave it a shot anyway, which was a valuable lesson in trying things even if they may scare you.

TRIP TO FLORIDA

Day 4 – Second Day at Universal

Our final full day in Orlando was ours for fun and adventure. Upon entering Universal, most of us ran straight to the Islands of Adventure theme park. The featured 'Incredible Hulk Coaster' and the immersive 'Harry Potter and the forbidden journey' were both favourites in our group. Unfortunately, our day at Universal was cut short by an unrelenting thunderstorm that left many of us drenched, and many of the rides being temporarily closed for safety reasons.

Having left early, we had some free time to explore the local area prior to our farewell dinner at Dave and Busters. At this dinner, we shared our final reflections on the trip, sharing all our favourite memories. We also reflected on our time in Florida and expressed how we enjoyed the opportunity to get to know each other better and to form new friendships. Overall, the trip offered valuable insights into how science exists in background of almost all things across our day to day lives and it gave us the opportunity to appreciate the great strides made by science.

Most importantly, on behalf of all of us on the trip, a massive thank you to Faheema, Carol and Craig for organising, and making this trip the unforgettable, enjoyable experience that it was! This trip would not have been possible without them, and we are highly grateful for the time, effort, and patience they put into this trip. Thank you to the College for providing us with this memorable opportunity!

Trisha D'Sa – Year 1 Student



AN UNFORGETTABLE BIOLOGY ADVENTURE: MONKEY WORLD AND THE EDEN PROJECT

At 7:30am on Thursday 18th June, 40 enthusiastic students and four members of staff gathered bright and early, ready to embark on an exciting two-day Biology field trip to Dorset and Cornwall. Despite the early start, spirits were high as we set off on what would prove to be a memorable combination of learning, discovery, and adventure.

Day One: Monkey World

Our first destination was Monkey World, the world-famous ape and monkey rescue centre in Dorset. As soon as we arrived, we were greeted by the sights and sounds of primates from around the globe. The park is home to rescued monkeys and apes that have suffered from neglect, illegal wildlife trade, laboratory testing, and unsuitable living conditions. From playful capuchins to impressive orangutans, there was plenty to capture our attention and spark our curiosity.

One of the highlights of the visit was an engaging educational session focused on conservation. This linked directly to our A Level Biology studies, helping bring classroom concepts to life. We learned about the incredible conservation work carried out by Monkey World and the challenges involved in protecting endangered species.

A particularly thought-provoking aspect of the session explored the impact of CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) on wildlife conservation. Seeing rescued animals firsthand helped us understand the real-world consequences of illegal wildlife trade and the importance of international agreements in protecting vulnerable species.



AN UNFORGETTABLE BIOLOGY ADVENTURE: MONKEY WORLD AND THE EDEN PROJECT



Day Two: The Eden Project

The sheer scale of the giant biomes was impressive from the moment we arrived. Inside, we experienced environments from around the world, walking through lush tropical landscapes and discovering an astonishing diversity of plant life.

Our educational workshop focused on rainforest ecology and plant adaptations. We investigated how plants have evolved specialised features to survive in different environmental conditions and explored the complex interactions that make rainforest ecosystems some of the most biodiverse places on Earth.

Beyond the workshop, students enjoyed the freedom to wander around and explore the different biomes and exhibits for themselves. We had chance to touch our favourite plant – *Mimosa pudica* that responds to touch.

The two-day excursion provided valuable opportunities to deepen our understanding of key Biology topics while experiencing some of the UK's most unique attractions.

Carol Woods – Head of Biology

BUSINESS

VISIT TO MUSEUM OF BRANDS

The Business students had the exciting opportunity to apply their learning of marketing during a visit to the Museum of Brands in Notting Hill.

Working in partnership with Innocent Drinks, the museum hosted an engaging workshop where students explored key marketing concepts, including packaging design, branding, costing and promotion. Through this, students gained a valuable insight into how businesses influence consumer behaviour and build a strong brand.

During the workshop students worked collaboratively in teams to create their own smoothie brand, developing a product concept, considered its target market and branding. They then pitched their ideas to the rest of the group. The winning smoothie was then freshly blended for everyone to taste, providing a fun and rewarding conclusion to the challenge.

Students also enjoyed exploring the Museum's Time Tunnel and Branding Hall, which showcase the evolution of brands, products and packaging over time. From nostalgic household favourites to modern designs, the exhibits highlighted how branding has changed in response to consumer trends and technological developments.

The visit provided an excellent opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of marketing while developing their creativity, teamwork and presentation skills.

Yasmin Burhan - Teacher of Business Studies



CLASSICS AND SOCIOLOGY

STONEHENGE

The joint Classics and Sociology trip to the ancient Wiltshire landscape was very culturally enriching for our 28 students and 5 members of staff. We visited the Stone Circle at Avebury before making the pilgrimage to the West Kennet Long Barrow along the historic West Kennet Avenue, passing by Silbury Hill. On the second day, students spent time exploring the Salisbury Museum and Salisbury town before heading to Stonehenge.

Avebury, West Kennet, Silbury Hill

We spent time exploring the Avebury village – we observed the sarsen stones and learned the history of some – (including our favourites, the Adam and Eve stone, and the Devil's Chair). Moving on from the Avebury stones, we went on a pilgrimage up to West Kennet (seeing three deer).

We trekked around the huge Silbury Hill and discovered its manmade origins, even getting to enter the West Kennet Long Barrow, a tomb that predates Stonehenge, and was home to many spiders. We learned that although we do not really know the real reason who the long barrow was built for, we know that these stones were a bridge between the living and the dead, between living spaces and ceremonial ones, it had quite a spiritual atmosphere around it while visiting. The long barrow was surprisingly quite damp and cold, though we got to see remnants of people leaving offerings of candles and plants inside.

The best part of all was the areas we got to explore, and the different activities and spiritual stores (crystals and essential oils) we visited. It was a very memorable experience!

Senuri, Asya, Kitty, Sammy – Year 1 Students



CLASSICS AND SOCIOLOGY

STONEHENGE

Salisbury Museum

The Salisbury museum was a fascinating experience that helped me learn more about the history of Salisbury through interactive games, paintings, and artifacts. It included an interactive collective stamp trail that allowed me to take home souvenirs from Salisbury and overall made the experience more memorable. Visiting this museum was delightful and I am so grateful I had the opportunity to visit!

Ayza and Hajar – Year 1 Students

Stonehenge

We visited Stonehenge on the final day, where we spent about two hours around the site, with Louis being our tour guide. We found the trip immensely enjoyable, and we learnt lots about the history of Stonehenge, such as the role it played in summer and winter solstice, and the formation of the stones. We enjoyed learning about the religious aspect of the site and speculating about how the structure was formed. Students should look forward to not only Stonehenge itself, but also the walk over to it.

Niti and Ciara – Year 1 Students



CANCER RESEARCH



Taking part in the Cancer Research 5K/10K in Hampstead this year was an incredibly rewarding experience for all of us! From the start, there was a real sense that the day was not just about running or walking a set distance, but about coming together for something much bigger than us.

The atmosphere throughout the event was genuinely uplifting. It was one of those rare days where everyone was united by a shared purpose, whether they were completing the 5K or pushing themselves through the full 10K. There was a lot of encouragement along the route, with people cheering each other on, which made a huge difference, especially on the tougher sections.

The course itself was beautiful but definitely more challenging than expected. The hills in particular were no joke, and at times it felt like every uphill stretch kept going just a little longer than we hoped.

What stood out most was the sense of community and support, both from those taking part and from everyone who donated. We are really proud to say that, together, we raised over £3,000, helping to support the ongoing work of Cancer Research UK.

Overall, it was a brilliant day. Whilst it was tiring and challenging, it was also really fun and meaningful. It reminded us how powerful small actions can be when lots of people come together. We are really excited to take part again next year and hopefully raise even more for such an important cause!

Eva Forgacz-Cooper – Year 1 Student

SPORTS ROUND UP

It has been another exceptional year for sport at St. Dominic's College, marked by the outstanding achievement of both our football and basketball teams being crowned Association of Colleges (AoC) champions. This dual success is a testament to the dedication and commitment of our student athletes, and to the tireless efforts of our coaching staff. We extend our sincerest congratulations to both squads and offer particular recognition to Ryan and the Brent Bulls for their exemplary contribution to the coaching programme. Although our netball, badminton, women's football and volleyball teams did not win their respective leagues, I would like to acknowledge the effort of all those who contributed to helping St. Dominic's sporting footprint develop. There were some close battles in those sports, and I am hopeful we will challenge for those titles next season.

Participation in the College's fitness facilities has continued to grow significantly, with over 120 students enrolling in gym membership this academic year. This encouraging uptake has been greatly supported by the high-quality fitness provision available at the College, which encompasses both strength and conditioning equipment and a comprehensive range of cardiovascular machines. Our strength and conditioning coach Bobby has played an integral role in supporting our sports teams' physical development, delivering engaging and effective sessions designed to enhance their strength and conditioning.



As the academic year draws to a close, we take this opportunity to formally recognise the contributions of our outgoing sports ambassadors and extend our sincere gratitude for their dedication to the department.

Following a competitive application and interview process, we are pleased to announce the appointment of 12 new sports ambassadors, who will undoubtedly make a valuable contribution to the department in the coming academic year.

SPORTS ROUND UP

The remaining sporting fixtures of the year include the ACVIC Sports Tournament and the College's annual Sports Day. The ACVIC Tournament will be hosted at St. Charles Sixth Form College and will see our students compete against fellow Catholic colleges across a range of sports and athletic disciplines. The athletics competition will take place at the Bannister's Outdoor Sports Centre, and with the advantage of a familiar environment, we are hopeful of a strong performance in this inaugural event.

The sporting calendar will conclude with Sports Day on 2nd July 2026, to be held in St. Dominic's Park. The event will bring together all Year One tutor groups in friendly competition for the Sports Day Tutorial Cup. Points will be awarded to tutor groups based on students' finishing positions across each event, with the cumulative total determining the overall winner. We trust that the weather will be favourable and look forward to an engaging afternoon of traditional sports day activities.

Elena Synesi - Head of PE



MEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM



As Head Coach, I am immensely proud of what this group has accomplished. Beyond the results, the players have represented the school with professionalism, discipline and sportsmanship always. Their dedication to improving individually and collectively has been a pleasure to witness, and they have set a high standard for future St. Dominic's teams to follow. The season will be remembered as a highly successful one, reflecting both the talent of the squad and the positive culture that has been established within the programme.

As the season progressed, the squad continued to build on its strong early performances, displaying consistency, resilience and an excellent team spirit throughout the campaign. St. Dominic's went on to win the league by a margin of four points, losing only two matches across the entire season. The players demonstrated outstanding commitment and determination, both in training and in competitive fixtures, and their achievements are a testament to the hard work they invested throughout the year.

TEAM	PLD	W	D	L	+	-	+/-	PTS
St Dominics Roman Catholic Sixth Form College ST Doms Football 1STS	12	9	1	2	47	23	24	28
Barnet and Southgate College Team 2	12	8	0	2	36	26	10	24
Capital City College Group capital city college (Enfield)	12	4	1	6	30	35	-5	13
Barking and Dagenham College Barking and Dagenham College Mens Tier 2	12	4	0	4	29	24	5	12
New City College Hackney Redbridge Male 1	12	1	1	3	13	16	-3	4
New City College Epping Male 1	12	1	0	4	8	15	-7	3
New City College HSF Male 1	12	0	1	6	6	30	-24	1

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL



The Women's Football Team at St. Dominic's has undergone significant change this academic year, with the squad now consisting predominantly of new Year 12 students and only three Year 13 players remaining from the previous season. Despite this transition, the team has embraced the challenge with enthusiasm and commitment. This year, the team has been entered into the AOC London Women's League, a competitive division that presents several fixtures and strong opponents.

The arrival of the new coach, Mike, has had a notably positive impact on the squad. His leadership, structured training sessions, and supportive approach have already contributed to visible progress in the team's performance and cohesion. The players have responded well to his guidance and are thoroughly enjoying their football, both in training and in competitive matches.

This season has been one of learning, growth and development. The players have gained valuable experience, improved their tactical understanding, and developed greater confidence both individually and as a team. Their commitment to training and willingness to embrace new challenges have been exemplary throughout the year.

While results are always important, the progress made by the squad has been equally significant. The foundations have been laid for future success, and the team can take great pride in the way they represented the College. With a young and talented group of players continuing to develop, the future of women's football at St. Dominic's looks extremely promising.

TEAM	PLD	W	D	L	+	-	+/-	PTS
Saint Francis Xavier College Womens Football	8	7	0	0	46	8	38	21
Capital City College Group capital city college	8	2	0	3	17	16	1	6
St Dominics Roman Catholic Sixth Form College St Doms Girls Football team 2024- 2025	8	2	0	4	10	26	-16	6
New City College Female 2	8	1	0	2	5	8	-3	3
Croydon College and Coulsdon College Croydon and Coulsdon Ladies	8	0	0	3	1	21	-20	0

BASKETBALL



We finished the season with a home win with a winning margin of 80 points, scoring 125 to cement our status as 2026 League Champions - the first Basketball league title we have won for some time. It was a great season for the team overall with grit and determination shown throughout.

TEAM	PLD	W	D	L	PF	PA	PD	PTS	PCT
St Dominics Roman Catholic Sixth Form College St Doms Basketball 1sts	12	11	0	1	763	464	299	33	0.917
Barnet and Southgate College Team 2	12	9	0	3	625	461	164	27	0.750
Capital City College Group CCCG (Kings Cross) 1	12	6	0	3	329	256	73	18	0.500
City of London Highbury Grove COLAHG	12	5	0	7	511	569	-58	15	0.417
St Charles College AoC Basketball	12	3	0	6	448	503	-55	9	0.250
West Thames College West Thames College	12	3	0	8	369	544	-175	9	0.250
New City College Havering Mens Basketball	12	0	0	9	321	569	-248	0	0

NETBALL/BADMINTON

Netball

We competed valiantly in the league and national cup throughout the fixtures and despite not winning we continue to have hope that a winning season is very close. We will return in September in both the league and national cup with excitement for what the new season will bring and with the next AOC national trials coming up in November.



Badminton

We finished the badminton season in second place behind Hills Road (defending league champions), who we pushed really hard in the final match with them at home in Siena Hall, even recording a rare men's singles victory by Priyam Patel. Badminton is ever popular and we will return in September in the league and cup with the same great camaraderie and work ethic that was shown this year.



CROSS-COUNTRY

Our cross-country team has gone from strength to strength this year with a high number of students running. We took the highest number of girls from a single school or college at the Borough and County Championships held at Harrow School with Sian Wright from Year 2 qualifying and running in the national Cross-Country Championship, held in Liverpool.

The team were really encouraging to each other which was great to see, and we hope to develop this event in the future.



VOLLEYBALL

This academic year, St. Dominic's entered the Volleyball team into the AOC London League for the first time, as well as the National Cup, marking an important step in the development of the programme. The team did exceptionally well in their first season of the national cup, making it all the way to the Quarter finals, where unfortunately we got knocked in the final set, 25-23, in a close match. Given that this was the team's first appearance in a national competition, the College is immensely proud of their achievements and the determination they showed throughout the campaign.

The team then shifted their focus to the league fixtures, under the expert coaching and leadership of Chris Wong, one of the College's highly skilled coaches and teachers. The team were in a tough league, with Barnet and Southgate being the National Champions, proving to be their toughest opponent and only losing 3-2 to not only Barnet and Southgate, but also to Leyton and Haringey. The team always put up a fight, and I feel were very unlucky and they could have won all their matches if some points went their way. In the end the team did well and looking forward to taking their new momentum into next year.

TEAM	P	W	L	SF	SA	PF	PA	PQ	SQ	PTS
Barnet and Southgate College Mixed Cup Team	4	4	0	12	2	0	0	0	6.000	12
Leyton Sixth Form College Mixed Volleyball	4	3	1	8	4	0	0	0	2.000	9
Haringey Sixth Form College Haringey Sixth form College	4	1	3	6	9	0	0	0	0.667	3
St Dominics Roman Catholic Sixth Form College ST Doms Mixed Volleyball Team 2024-2025	4	1	3	4	10	0	0	0	0.571	3
Newham 6th Form College Newham Knights Volleyball	4	1	3	4	9	0	0	0	0.111	3

ACVIC CATHOLIC COLLEGES' SPORTS TOURNAMENT



The annual ACVIC Catholic Colleges Sports Tournament promises to be another exciting celebration of sport, competition and community. Bringing together students from St. Charles Catholic Sixth Form College, St. Francis Xavier Sixth Form College, Christ the King Sixth Forms and St. Dominic's Sixth Form College, the event provides an excellent opportunity for young athletes to represent their colleges with pride while fostering friendships across the Catholic education sector.

This year's tournament will feature a wide range of sporting competitions, including Men's and Ladies' 6-a-Side Football, Men's and Ladies' 3v3 Basketball, Netball and Athletics. With students competing across multiple disciplines, the event showcases not only sporting talent, but also teamwork, determination and resilience.

The ACVIC Tournament encourages healthy competition and promotes the importance of physical activity and personal development. Participants will have the opportunity to test themselves against some of the region's most talented student-athletes while demonstrating the values of respect, integrity and sportsmanship.

As the four colleges come together for a day of competition and celebration, the tournament is expected to provide memorable moments, outstanding performances and a fantastic atmosphere for all involved. We look forward to witnessing the dedication and commitment of our students as they compete for honours and represent their colleges with distinction.



ACVIC CATHOLIC COLLEGES' SPORTS TOURNAMENT

St. Dominic's Wins Inaugural ACVIC London Cup

The inaugural ACVIC London Cup commenced on Monday, 22nd June 2026, bringing together St. Charles, St. Francis Xavier, Christ the King and St. Dominic's in a week-long competition. The tournament comprised four events, culminating in athletics, which would determine the overall champions.

St. Dominic's made an impressive start, with the men's team securing victory in the 6-a-side football competition while the women's team progressed to the semi-final stage. Basketball followed, and although the men's team lost to St. Charles in the final, the women's team, formed only the week prior, secured a commanding win. This momentum continued on Thursday, when the netball team triumphed convincingly, further strengthening St. Dominic's position at the top of the standings ahead of the final day of the competition.

Despite the high temperatures, St. Dominic's students delivered outstanding performances across both track and field events, securing the points needed to be crowned winners of the inaugural cup. This victory is a testament not only to the sporting talent within St. Dominic's, but also to the students' ability to work collaboratively as a team, supporting one another in pursuit of a shared goal.



ACVIC CATHOLIC COLLEGES' SPORTS TOURNAMENT



ARCHERY/CRICKET

Archery

Over four Thursdays we have been down on the sports field with ex-student and archery coach Victoria, together with two groups of students taking aim, many for the first time. It is an enrichment that is well liked by the students, and every group improves from the first to second week. It is nice to be out on the field doing something a little bit different.



Cricket

On Wednesday, 17th July 2026, the St. Dominic's Cricket team played a match against John Lyons School 2nd Team. St. Dominic's won the toss and chose to bat first. The opening batting pair of Rian Kotecha (Captain) and Abdul Waalee Mohammad, both got a 100-run partnership, with Abdul top scoring with 51 Retired and Rian scoring 38.

The St. Dominic's boys put on a score of 155 run in their 20 overs. John Lyon then came out to bat, and they had no answer for the St. Dominic's bowlers with Mohammed Abbas Merali, who was the pick of the bowler, grabbing 4 wickets for just 5 runs, an incredible achievement. This resulted in St. Dominics's bowling John Lyon all out for 409 runs, meaning that St. Dominic's were victorious with a 115 Runs.

MATHEMATICS CHESS FINAL

It was a thrilling final between Zayd Hussain and Deven Patel. The opening 10 minutes was a Mexican standoff, with neither player willing to give an inch and not a single piece exchanged.

As the game wore on, Deven began to turn up the heat on the pressure cooker to create a sizzling pudding. The lucky sixpence in that pudding was his white knight that he sent crashing into Zayd's defences like a latter-day Napoleon Bonaparte on Marengo. The capacity crowd knew they were witnessing something special.

Zayd put up a brave defence, but there was no stopping the rampaging knight and after some frantic exchanges Zayd's clock ran out of time. Both players shook hands and Deven held aloft the massive trophy as the crowd roared.

[Congratulations](#) to Deven Patel who becomes the second ever St. Dominic's Chess Champion.

Matthew Walsh – Head of Mathematics



MATHEMATICS

MATHS SLAM 2026

Maths Slam 2026 Grand Final	
AB class	Nazar Tanasiv & David Portariuc with maths
AC class	Naylan Garara & Jaiden Dave
AD class	Maksymilian Rogus
BE class	Amelie Beejay
CE class	Samay Kachalia
DH class	Zain Imran & Kian Mistry
EH class	Mihran Alam



Maths Slam 2026

It was another fantastic Maths Slam final this year. Each participant had already been nominated by their peers as the best presentation from their own class, so as the huge crowd gathered in Hume Hall, the anticipation was palpable.

And the finalists did not disappoint. They each had 3 minutes to bring to life an area of maths outside the A-level curriculum that they find particularly interesting. From the maths of dating apps, to roulette wheels, to beehives, to Minecraft, we had it all!

The standard was incredibly high, but the panel of expert judges had to pick a winner. They deliberated while the crowd were whipped up into a frenzy by Hinita and Avnish's prize draw. As the maths-themed prizes were handed out, white smoke was seen emanating out of the Hume chimney – the judges had picked a winner.

Sonic Shrinkage by Samay Kachalia took the honours and the priceless trophy. A Slam that showed us how Year 1 work on Matrices can be applied to the real-life problem of audio file compression. Entertaining and clearly explained, it was a popular choice. Congratulations Samay!

See you next year for Maths Slam 2027!

Matthew Walsh – Head of Mathematics

CAREERS SKILLS SEMINAR

Skills Seminar brings together employers, universities and civic partners

St. Dominic's Sixth Form College was delighted to host its third annual Skills Seminar and Lunch, bringing together representatives from leading employers, universities and civic organisations, including Blake Morgan LLP, Brunel University, Vodaphone, Royal Holloway, Brent Council and many other valued partners, to explore the skills young people need to succeed in a rapidly changing world.

The event provided an opportunity to celebrate the College's strong partnerships while exploring how education providers and external stakeholders can work together to prepare students for future success. Guests heard about the College's ongoing commitment to the Skills Agenda and the ways in which curriculum planning, enrichment opportunities and employer engagement are helping students develop the knowledge, attributes and transferable skills required by today's workforce.

A highlight of the event was the keynote address delivered by **Rajiv Joshi, Partner at Blake Morgan LLP**, entitled *'The Future of Skills in the Legal Sector: Talent, Technology and AI.'* Drawing on his extensive experience in the legal profession, Rajiv explored how advances in technology, changing working patterns and evolving client expectations are reshaping the skills required of future employees.



CAREERS SKILLS SEMINAR



Rajiv explained that while artificial intelligence is transforming many routine tasks traditionally carried out by junior staff, human skills remain more important than ever. The ability to communicate complex information clearly, build strong relationships with clients, exercise professional judgement and deliver difficult messages with confidence are increasingly valuable in a world where information is readily accessible. He also highlighted the growing importance of evaluating and challenging AI-generated outputs, arguing that future professionals will need to combine technological fluency with critical thinking and sound decision-making.

The keynote also examined how workplaces are adapting to greater flexibility, hybrid working and global connectivity. Rajiv reflected on how employers are responding to changing expectations from both clients and employees, while continuing to develop the next generation of professionals in an increasingly digital environment. He also discussed the challenges that organisations face in recruiting and developing young talent, particularly as AI changes the nature of entry-level roles and increases competition for opportunities.

The seminar concluded with a student-led tour of the College, followed by lunch and networking opportunities, enabling guests to share insights and discuss future collaboration. The event reinforced the importance of strong partnerships between education providers, employers, universities and civic organisations in ensuring that young people are equipped with the skills, knowledge and confidence needed for the future.

St. Dominic's would like to thank all those who attended and contributed to the success of the event. We look forward to continuing these valuable partnerships and working together to prepare our students for the opportunities and challenges of the future.

Jean Bulyaba – Acting Assistant Principal/Head of Economics

CAREERS DEPARTMENT UPDATE

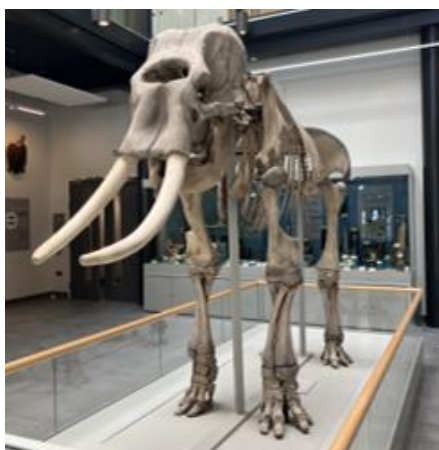
Our primary goal is to empower our students to make informed, ambitious decisions about their futures and the possibility of applying to university, degree apprenticeships, other apprenticeships and training and those entering the workforce directly. Our success is not measured just by destination statistics, but by how confident and equipped our students feel when considering their chosen paths.

Careers Events

We have been busy providing some exciting opportunities to both Year 1 and Year 2 students through workshops, visits and speed networking. We have also been meeting with students individually to offer careers guidance and support as they prepare their UCAS and apprenticeship applications.

A trip to the University of Reading Open Day by Ayanna Buoh, Year 1

After visiting the University of Reading, I gained a clearer understanding of whether a campus university or a city university would be a better fit for me. I say this because there are significant differences between the two. At Reading, the campus promises to offer a sense of community. They offer numerous student societies such as kickboxing, video filming, and unexpectedly, cheerleading - something I believed was only common in the USA. Informed by welcoming students, I was told that participating in these societies is a great way to take a break from academic work and enjoy the student experience. Additionally, the university has an impressive, newly renovated library. It features multiple floors, a modern interior design and group study areas, encouraging collaborative work. There are several on-campus food options, including convenience stores, hairdressers, cafes, and snack shops where familiar items are provided, so you can still feel like you are at home. Overall, the lectures seem engaging, especially given their spacious facilities. If you prefer being part of a close community where you can meet new people and are comfortable with a more self-contained campus environment, I recommend considering Reading University.



CAREERS DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Biology Speed Networking event

On Wednesday 24th June we held our annual Biology Speed Networking event, with over 80 Biology students taking part. This event is designed to help students explore the variety of career pathways within Biology and to develop their networking skills in a group environment. We were joined by 13 professionals and undergraduates working or studying in Biology-related fields including Neuroscience, Dietetics, Physiotherapy, Pharmacy, Nursing and Radiography. We were pleased to welcome back five St. Dominic's alumni who were keen to share their advice and experiences with our Year 1 students.



UCAS

On 13th May we held our annual UCAS and Alternative Destinations online presentation for Year 1 parents and guardians. This talk explained the UCAS and Apprenticeship process and how parents and guardians can best support their young people.

Our Year 1 students have been diligently working on their UCAS applications since our tutorial session at the start of June. Thank you to our Careers Ambassadors for helping with their tutor groups. They are now focussing on their personal statements and have started planning their first drafts. The change in the format of the personal statement. Instead of the traditional 4000-character open statement, students now need to respond to three targeted questions. This change ensures 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 as well as our Careers Opportunities section which lists upcoming webinars, taster lectures, work experience and other opportunities. The Careers Unifrog platform and Spring Pod website also provide excellent taster lectures and online work experience.

CAREERS DEPARTMENT UPDATE

The 3rd of 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. The morning sessions will consist of a presentation about the skills required for university and apprenticeships, then our alumni panel who will give advice on preparing for Year 2 and what they are doing now, personal statement preparation assisted by our subject teachers and admissions tutors from a wide range of universities, a CV workshop and how to use AI properly to enhance and create a successful CV and Advice on Admissions Tests for some university courses.

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 and entry requirements. 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 carers, 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.

A Level Results Day – 13th August 2026

For our Year 2 students, the Careers Department together with teachers, will be in College on Results Day from 8am to 2pm to assist with any UCAS queries or advice they may need, and we wish our leavers a very successful and happy future in their next steps.

We love to keep in touch with all of 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/>

Our Alumni are so important for our careers department and a really valuable asset. They provide our current students with relatable role models, and they can open direct doors to industry as we have seen over the years. It is always so nice to catch up with them, and they provide a wonderful opportunity for staff and students to understand the workplace and new innovations across so many industries.

Best wishes from the Careers Department.

LEAVERS' AWARDS 2026

Subject	Name
Art	Olivia Lea
History of Art	Karl Nunsol
Biology	Matthew Hayllar
BTEC Business (Yvonne Martin Award)	Sara Campean
Business	Emmanuel Kiven
Dr Chris Chick Award for Excellence in Chemistry	Kavishan Paskaran
Chemistry	Mikolaj Szewczyk
Classics	Olivia Blackburn
Computer Science	Ilayda Brown
Core RE	Helena Keyvanfar
Economics	Gian Aquino and Michael Leung
English	Sara Ali
French	Keliane Diasivi
Geography	Ciara Fogarty
History	Abigail Stanton and Tony Phan
Law	Eva Forgacz-Cooper
Mathematics	Danya Aziz Alasadi
Further Mathematics	Leon Henley-Boateng
MUN Contribution (Marc)	Eva Forgacz-Cooper
Music	Eva Rubin



LEAVERS' AWARDS 2026

Subject	Name
Philosophy	Ayesha Hadi
Physics	Tanishka Maheshwari and Leo Lim
Physical Education	Hernan Inyang
Psychology	Sian Baldwin
Politics	Anastasia Fernandes
Religious Studies	Rowan Kesten-Springer
Sociology	Polly Myers
Spanish	Melissa Bura
Theatre Studies	Gabriela Konat
Netball Award	Eziafa Iwe
Men's Football Award	Ethan Sylvester
Women's Football Award	Keira Power
Badminton Award	Prisha Pande
Volleyball Award	Maria Marinova
Basketball Award	Jaden Cumberbatch
Table Tennis Award	Joshua Fernandes
Cross Country Award	Laura English
The Sports Personality Award	Mariam ElNemr
Library Ambassador	Zuzanna Swiatek
EPQ	Shaurya Chaddha
Chaplaincy Award	Matthew Hayllar
Ethos Award	Zuzanna Swiatek
The Principal's Award	Shawn Tauro
The Principal's Award	Hlib Silakov
Head Boy	George Procter
Head Girl	Keira O'Malley



LEAVERS' SERVICE AND CARNIVAL 2026



THEATRE STUDIES

It has been a very full year in Drama at St. Dominic's. Students have taken part in a major College production, visited professional theatres, worked with outside practitioners and completed some of the most demanding parts of the A-level course. Bobby, Lisa Harper and I have also taken students to workshops away from College, giving them the chance to work in unfamiliar spaces and encounter different approaches to performance.

The autumn term was largely taken up with *Chicago*. It was a big commitment for everyone involved and the students worked hard to find the confidence, precision and style the show needed. Since Celia left St. Dominic's, her choreographic experience and professionalism have been very much missed, so the students and I worked together to put much of the choreography in place. We relied on Steeldeck and AB Lighting to help turn the College space into a proper theatrical setting. Jemima Crook, a former St. Dominic's student who is now training in film and theatre hair and make-up, returned to run hair and make-up for the production. Patrick gave up a great deal of his spare time to play the piano during rehearsals and I am extremely grateful for everything he contributed. The backstage student team also gave an enormous amount to the production. They worked across stage management, props, hair and make-up, follow spots, radio microphones, costume changes and front of house. Their work often happened out of sight, but the show depended on them. I am also very grateful to Julia, Clare and Craig for the time and support they gave backstage, and to the SLT front-of-house team who helped the performances run smoothly for the audience.

Abigail was central to the musical side of *Chicago*, just as she had been with *Guys and Dolls*. She retires from St. Dominic's at the end of term and will be deeply missed. Anyone who has worked with her through choir, recitals, concerts or College productions will know the energy, musical skill and enthusiasm she brings to everything she does. I have been very fortunate to work alongside her and am grateful for her support, patience and generosity. Her contribution to the performing arts at St. Dominic's has been a very special one and she will always be welcome to return and help with future musicals.



THEATRE STUDIES

Our theatre visits gave students three very different experiences. In October we saw *Oliver!* at the Gielgud Theatre. The scale of the production and the strength of the ensemble gave students a useful example of how a large musical can keep a familiar story clear and immediate. In February we visited the National Theatre to see *Ballet Shoes*. This led to useful discussion about adaptation and the ways movement, design and performance can reshape a novel for the stage. Our final visit was *Cabaret* at the Playhouse Theatre in April. The production drew the audience into the Kit Kat Club from the moment they entered the building. Students had a great deal to think about afterwards, particularly the atmosphere, the political context and the changing relationship between performers and audience.

Year 1 began the new year with a workshop from The Paper Birds, our chosen practitioner for Component 1. Students explored testimony, verbatim material, narration, movement and direct address. They have since used those methods in their own devised work and are now nearing the end of the process after months of research, practical exploration, editing and rehearsal. Their final performances and portfolios are now coming together.

We have also continued our involvement with the Jeremy Lemmon Project at Shakespeare's Globe. This has given students the chance to work with a professional theatre organisation and experience the expectations of audition and rehearsal beyond College.



Year 1 Devising initial stimuli performance and Paper Birds Workshop.



THEATRE STUDIES



Year 2 '100' Text in Performance exam performance

For Year 2, April brought the Component 2 practical examination. Students performed their group pieces and monologues or duologues for our visiting moderator after a long rehearsal period. The day went very well and they handled the pressure with focus and maturity. In May they completed their final Paper 3 examination, bringing together two years of practical and academic work.

Careers and progression have remained an important part of the department's work. Sona Vyas joined us for a Skills Agenda event and returned for the Visual and Performing Arts Careers Event. She has become a valued regular stakeholder and her experience of professional life has been very useful to students. Jemima also came back for the VPA event and spoke about her training and the professional work she is already doing. It is always valuable to welcome former students back into the department. Current students can see where different courses and areas of training may lead, and they are able to hear about the realities from someone who once sat where they are sitting now.

THEATRE STUDIES

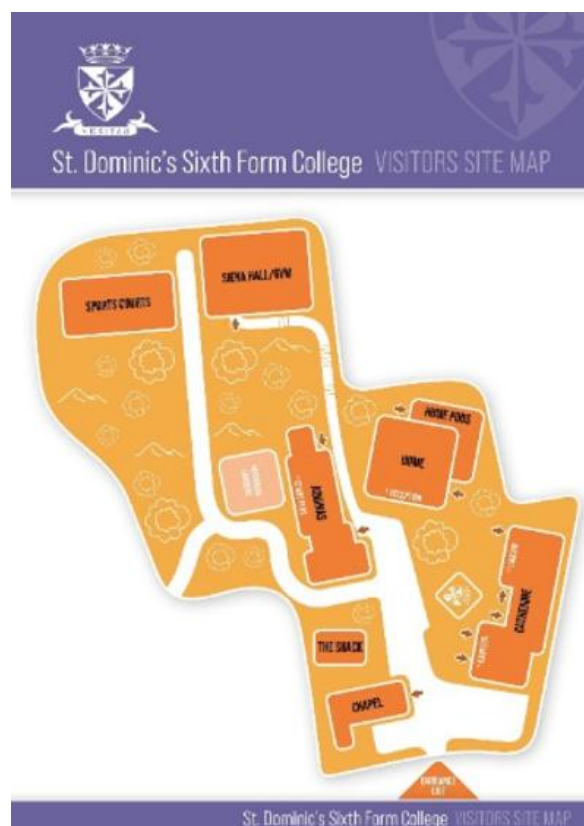
We did not participate in The Old Vic's *Take the Lead* programme this year. Having taken part for several years, we needed to allow other schools the opportunity to become involved. I am optimistic that we may be able to return next year if our application is successful. The project uses theatre-based workshops to develop communication, teamwork, confidence, problem-solving and interview skills. It is useful for students interested in all areas of study and employment, rather than only those considering theatre. If we are offered a place next year, there will be thirty places available to students from across the College and from both year groups. I would strongly encourage anyone interested to sign up when details are announced.

At the end of Year 2 Gabriela Konat received the Drama Award in recognition of her contribution to the subject during her time at St. Dominic's. Gabriela and Jack Chappell have both been pursuing places at respected drama training institutions. Jack has been accepted at Goldsmiths and Gabriela has also secured a place through the audition process. I wish the whole of Year 2 every success on results day and in the different areas of study and training they have chosen to follow.

Stephen Leib – Head of Theatre Studies



New for this year, we asked offer holders to register for their own slot, arriving in 15-minute interviews between 12noon and 2pm, so no-one was waiting too long in sunshine. Equipped with our newly designed College Campus map, and guided by our brilliant Student Ambassadors, everyone was able to navigate the site and find their way to their chosen subjects.



TRANSITION AFTERNOON AUGUST 2026 INTAKE



There were also opportunities to visit our Student Support in Study+, the Library and Learning Centre to meet the Librarians, Personal Tutors and Careers Team, discuss student leadership and enrichment opportunities with our Student Executive and to meet our Chaplaincy Team in the beautiful Chapel.

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

I valued the time and effort the students and staff gave up giving us the knowledge of our chosen courses that I and many others have chosen to study at St. Dominic's. It was a great opportunity to ask certain questions and for my knowledge to be developed on those subjects I have chosen to study at St. Dominic's. Many thanks for putting on a great event which helped me and many others!

Being able to seek guidance from subject teachers about what A Levels look like in comparison to GCSEs and learning about extracurricular activities. Also, it was very useful learning about the sports teams from the girls in the sports centre.

Really getting an insight into how the academic term is sectioned out for each subject, a more detailed insight into the courses and speaking to the students. At this point when we have already decided our subjects, it felt more useful to speak to the students who were in the year above studying the same things and they were all super friendly and helpful!

Our Transition Afternoon feedback rated: 4.07/5



Angela McCormack - Admissions Officer

ST. DOMINIC'S CELEBRATES CULTURAL DIVERSITY



On Tuesday, 30th June, St. Dominic's Sixth Form College came together to celebrate its annual Culture Day, an occasion that recognized the rich diversity at the heart of the College community. The event provided students and staff with the opportunity to celebrate the many cultures, traditions and heritages represented across the College, highlighting the inclusive and welcoming environment that makes St. Dominic's such a unique place to study.

Throughout the day, students and staff proudly wore traditional attire reflecting their cultural heritage. Henna stalls, which had been running from Monday to Wednesday, proved extremely popular, with all proceeds contributing towards students' fundraising efforts for the Three Peaks Challenge. Thank you to Arya Patel and Miriam Tawfik for leading on this.

The celebrations continued with a range of performances, as students showcased traditional songs and music beneath the Shack during breaktime, followed by energetic and engaging traditional dance performances at lunchtime. Thank you to Keya Wankhede, Ishita Chowdhury, Niti Deshpande, Namara Mistry, Sarah-Jane Preece, Jayna Patel, Shobana Premnath, Abinisha, Harini, Sathu, Jathushigah, Varsana, Kavinela, Nayoli, Mekavi and Risha for making the day so memorable.

The College canteen also embraced the occasion by serving a selection of dishes inspired by cuisines from around the world, allowing everyone to experience the flavours of different cultures. Thank you to Bala and the catering team for putting this on for us.

Adding a competitive spirit to the celebrations, students took part in the highly anticipated "Clash of the Titans" Table Tennis World Cup tournament, which attracted enthusiastic participants and spectators throughout the day. Congratulations to Kevin Biju and Yusuf Mahmood for winning under the banner of Japan. Thank you to Ryan Whitehurst, Sports Coach and Coordinator, for organising the event. All funds raised during the event (£115) were donated to UNICEF.

The College extends its sincere thanks to the Equality and Diversity Team for their hard work, dedication and careful planning in delivering such a successful event. Their efforts ensured that Culture Day was a memorable celebration of the many cultures that enrich life at St. Dominic's, while reinforcing the College's values of inclusion, respect and community.

Paul Logue - Acting Assistant Principal

ST. DOMINIC'S CELEBRATES CULTURAL DIVERSITY



ST. DOMINIC'S CLIMATE AND LOCAL ACTION COMMITTEE



St Dominic's green achievements during the 2025-26 academic year



- 🌳 31,203 trees now planted globally with Ecologi
- 💚 Eco-Schools Green Flag Award with Distinction achieved
- 🍏 8 new mature apple trees planted to support our beehives and ecosystems
- 🏆 Jack Petchey Environmental Award for our students' sustainability work
- 🐝 Third beehive built on site
- 🏆 Two awards won at the Harrow Hill Trust AGM for our St Dominic's in Bloom 2025 event: ***The Community Enhancement on the Hill*** and ***The Hill in Flower***
- 🦉 New bird feeders, hedgehog hotels and bat boxes added across the site
- 📹 Live camera at St Dominic's pond tracking animal activity
- ♻️ Recycling bins in every classroom and communal area
- † 🌍 CAFOD Live Simply Award inspection pending in September
- 🌱 Tutor groups potted plants and flowers in preparation for our Bloom event
- 🌻 St Dom's in Bloom event invited over 80 visitors on site
- 👥 Gardening day in Stanmore Country Park with student volunteers

MUSIC

END OF YEAR CONCERT

On Monday night we held our final musical event of the year - and the final concert led by me as retiring Director of Music.

The event was an eclectic mix of offerings from our talented students, including some choral pieces by Faure and Billy Joel, all beautifully accompanied by Paul Ayres on organ and piano. Student solos were outstanding, in particular Ava Gollings' rendition of Debussy's 'Girl with the flaxen hair' on piano, and Kelly Fernandes singing 'Stormy Weather' with all the panache of Lena Horne. Grace Sheehan sang the 'Pie Jesu' from Faure's requiem with a stunning soprano tone and control. As an encore, I sang 'Time to Say Goodbye', and there was not a dry eye in the house! Afterwards, we enjoyed some live rock music and home-made burgers under the shack. All in all it was a delightful summer and farewell event.

Abigail Gorton – Director of Music





THE CLIMBING SOCIETY

It has been an exceptionally successful period for the Climbing Society, which ran for 10 weeks, starting in March and finishing in late June, with students demonstrating enthusiasm, and willingness to challenge themselves both physically and mentally.

This term has seen record engagement, with over twenty members regularly attending our climbing sessions. Students of all experience levels have come together to build confidence and socialise in a highly physical environment. All of our members have come out better, more efficient problem solvers.

Quite a significant milestone for the society was becoming the first club in the College's history to receive dedicated funding, securing a £5 subsidy for all participants. The subsidy helped make sessions more accessible and enabled even greater participation.

Beyond the physical challenge of climbing itself, the society has fostered a strong sense of community. The positive atmosphere at every session has been great to see, with friendships developing across this year's participants through a shared passion for climbing.

Most importantly, members have thoroughly enjoyed their experiences this term. It has been a pleasure to witness the confidence and enthusiasm of our climbers continue to grow with every visit.

We are incredibly proud of everything the Climbing Society has achieved this year and look forward to building on this success in the future. The enthusiasm, and commitment shown by our members have established a strong foundation for the society, and we are hopeful to continue next year.

David Stefan Portariuc – Founder of the Climbing Society

ST. DOMINIC'S IN BLOOM

The sun shone warmly on our St. Dom's in Bloom event, helping to make the campus look especially beautiful in all its summer colour. Balloons fluttered across the site, adding to the cheerful atmosphere of a summer fête and creating a real sense of celebration.

Our student ambassadors offered visitors a warm welcome, leading tours of the campus and handing out little bags of herbs for anyone who wished to take one home. In the canteen, guests gathered over tea and cake, sharing stories and enjoying the chance to admire the prize-winning exhibits, along with a lovely display of photographs sent in by staff - from flourishing gardens and windowsill plants to carefully arranged flowers.

It was a joyful summer occasion: simple, bright and full of life. One of those days that is good to look back on, and even better to look forward to doing all over again next year.

Helena Shaw - Wellbeing Coordinator and Head of Core RE



THREE PEAKS CHALLENGE 2026

The mountains were more than just a hike, more like...character building! When we first arrived in Wales after a very long coach journey, we thought the biggest challenge would be surviving our first night in a YHA hostel. Let's just say...it was an experience! Little did we know that was the easiest part of the week. Our first climb was Snowdon, which we naively assumed was going to be the toughest. The weather was relentless, with rain pouring down from start to finish, leaving our bags, clothes and boots completely soaked. The coach journey afterwards was not much better, as everyone sat shivering in wet clothes wondering what we had signed up for.

Next came Scafell Pike in the Lake District – the mountain we had all been warned about. And the warnings were justified! Some students made the sensible decision to stop at a lower point, but those who reached the summit described it as a constant "hands on knees" climb, with sections feeling more like rock climbing than hiking. Thankfully, the weather was kinder than Snowdon, although everyone seemed to finish with at least one new ache, blister or mystery injury.

Finally, we travelled to Scotland to conquer Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in the UK. It was a long, steep climb that seemed never-ending, with every corner making us think the summit must be just ahead... it never was! We battled rain, strong winds and even snow, but reaching the top together made every freezing step worthwhile. Standing at the summit as a team is a moment none of us will forget. Back at the hostel, we celebrated with a well-earned dinner, thanked our fantastic guides and teachers, and took a moment to appreciate what we had achieved. Although we are all now walking like we have aged about 50 years, the Three Peaks Challenge was an unforgettable experience. We made lifelong memories, pushed ourselves further than we thought possible and proved that, with enough determination (and snacks), anything is achievable.

Three Peaks 2026 team – tired, sore, but incredibly proud! **Milly Chauhan – Year 1 Student**



DATES TO NOTE FOR THE AUTUMN RETURNING YEAR 2 STUDENTS

Please note the following dates for the start of the 2026/27 academic year:

Monday 24 th August	Teaching staff return to the new academic year Inset Day 1 – College closed to students
Tuesday 25 th August	Enrolment Day 1 (incoming Y1) – invitation only
Wednesday 26 th August	Enrolment Day 2 (incoming Y1) - invitation only
Thursday 27 th August	Inset Day 2 – College closed to students
Friday 28 th August	Induction Day (Year 1 only)
Saturday 30 th August	Sunday 31 st August
Monday 31 st August	Bank Holiday – College closed
Tuesday 1 st September	Inset Day 3 – College closed to students
Wednesday 2 nd September	Teaching starts (for Y1 and Y2) Y2 Assembly at 8:30am – Siena Hall with Principal, Andrew Parkin

Year 2 students start back on Wednesday 2nd September 2026 at 8:30am with an assembly in the Siena Hall.

GOVERNING BODY

Our Governing Body:

Sister Karen d'Artois
Dr Paula Aubrey
Ms Cáitlín Boyle
Mr Keith Brown
Mr Nicholas Charitou
Mr Emmanuel Chukwuma
Ms Claire Clark
Mr Noel Feeney
Mr Patrick Freely
Ms Angela Inglese
Ms Rosemary Laryea
Mr David Martin (Chair of Governors)
Mr James O'Flynn
Mrs Anne O'Shea (Vice Chair of Governors)
Mr Andrew Parkin
Ms Yvette Remedios
Mr Adrian Richardson
Miss Grace Sheehan
Ms Mia Terra St. Hill
Ms Melisa Tupou



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 (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.



St Dominic's
Sixth Form College

MAIN COLLEGE EMAIL stdoms@stdoms.ac.uk

ABSENCE attendance@stdoms.ac.uk

STUDENT SERVICES studentservices@stdoms.ac.uk