



THE COMPANION

Mr D. O'Brien, Editor

Message from the Headmaster



Welcome to our Christmas edition of *The Companion*. We have had another packed term with a wide range of extra-curricular activities to complement what goes on in our classrooms. We had our first open-air Mass in the playground to mark the start of the academic year in September, accompanied by a series of retreats for all year groups. We also held a thoughtful and moving memorial service to remember all those who have given their lives in the two World Wars and all who suffer throughout the world because of conflict.

Student Voice is hugely important and I want to know what our students think about the school and what we could do to make it even better. I am always keen to find out how to improve and I want nothing but the very best for the students here at Maria Fidelis. We introduced our FCJ value badges following a consultation with students last year; they suggested badges as a way of celebrating success and enabling students to demonstrate how they live out our values. I am immensely pleased with its success and feel very proud of those students who have already been awarded all 6 badges. This is a wonderful achievement!

Just before the October half term, we had our Catholic Schools Inspection; we have sent a summary document to all families, containing the highlights of the report, but we were delighted that the inspectors concluded that behaviour at Maria Fidelis is exemplary. Good behaviour is healthy for everyone; students can enjoy lessons, teachers can enjoy teaching and parents can feel assured that their child is happy and thriving at school.

I am hugely indebted to our governors and staff, who work tirelessly to ensure that our students get the best experience of school; their dedication is outstanding! It is a rare gift and a privilege to have so many staff committed to making sure that the children in our care get the very best education we can provide.

It is with great gratitude for their service, that we say goodbye to Mr Cranny and Ms Weaver, both of whom have made significant contributions to the PE department, sporting fixtures and the House system. We wish them the very best as they move to different parts of Australia. I wish you all a happy and blessed Christmas and I hope you have a prosperous 2026. I look forward to welcoming our students back on Tuesday 6th January.

Mr M. Anthony, Headmaster

Important Dates:

January 2026

- Mon 5th INSET Day
- Tues 6th First Day of Term
- Thurs 8th Year 11 Parents Eve
- Thurs 29th VI Form Parents Eve

February 2026

- Mon 16th Half Term Begins
- Fri 20th Half Term Ends
- Thurs 26th Year 8 Taster Day
- Thurs 26th Year 8 Options Eve
- Fri 27th Last Day of Term

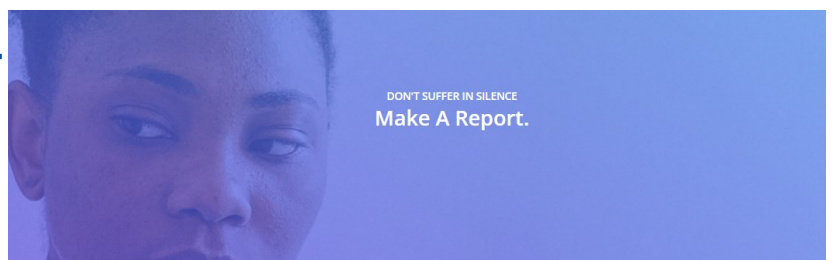
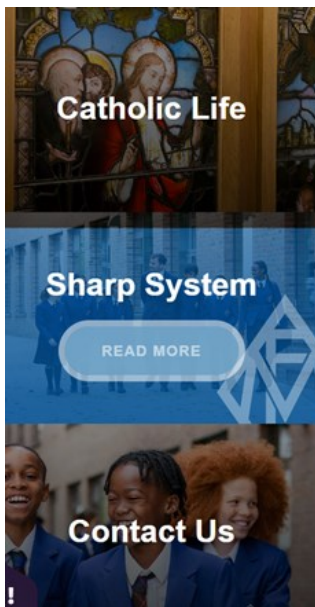


Festival of Lessons and Carols at St Aloysius Catholic Church, Somers Town

SHARP stands for “Student Help Advice Reporting Page.” It is an online platform that allows students to anonymously report issues like bullying, hate crimes, and anti-social behaviour. It is an important tool which forms part of our safeguarding support and helps the school to promote student welfare.

The system provides an anonymous way for students to share concerns with school staff, and the platform also provides resources on topics including e-safety, mental health, and drugs.

Students can access the system from school, home, or on a variety of devices with internet access, such as phones or tablets. All reports go immediately to the Headmaster who then shares them with the pastoral team. We have already been able to tackle a number of issues that have been brought to our attention, and this system enables the school to act swiftly. Reports can also be forwarded to relevant external authorities, such as the police, if they fall outside the school's remit.



Hello, welcome to the School Help Advice Reporting Page System We all work together at Maria Fidelis Catholic School to help with any problems you may have in or out of school.

If you wish to contact us through Mr Anthony, you dont have to leave your details if you dont want to.



Please take the time to look through the pages and if you feel that you can help to keep our school a safe, friendly and fun place to be you can get in touch using the link.

This is a CONFIDENTIAL way to stop YOU or a FRIEND or SOMEONE you have seen SUFFERING..



Pumpkin Carving Competition

The first, and perhaps arguably the second most popular House event in the school calendar (second only to Sports Day) is the annual pumpkin carving competition, held on the eve of All Saint’s Day. Students across all four houses assembled in competitive spirit in the Drama Studio to work together to create the most refined and most imaginative array of carvings within a limited time frame. Throughout the evening, staff popped in to review the work being done, as well as checking how well each house was working as a team. Overall it was a wonderful event, with D’Houët House crowned champions. The judges were particularly impressed with the way in which students integrated in their house teams, even though some students had never even met or spoken before.



Catholic Life

Catholic Schools Inspectorate

On Monday 20th October, the infamous phone call came. Maria Fidelis had finally been selected to be the next Catholic school to be inspected as part of a Section 48 inspection. These occur around every 5 years, and observe the three core elements of a Catholic school: Catholic Life and Mission, Religious Education and Collective Worship. Three inspectors visited the school across the last two days of the half term. They observed assemblies and RE lessons, as well as meeting with the Headmaster, Senior Leadership Team, Governors, staff and students. They also completed inspections of RE student books, exam folders and analysed internal data. A critical part of the inspection was also reading through the large number of responses to both staff and parent evaluation forms. The entire community of Maria Fidelis is delighted to share that the school received the following grades in each respective areas:

- 1) Catholic Life and Mission: **Outstanding**
- 2) Religious Education: **Good**
- 3) Collective Worship: **Good**

The full report can be accessed on the school website, under Inspection Reports. It is broken down into the three elements of the inspection. In summary, Maria Fidelis was described as a “vibrant community rooted in FCJ values.” The inspectors praised the “family” atmosphere, particularly the “meaningful ways” in which our students live out the FCJ charism. It was a joy to see that inspectors noticed the “strong subject knowledge” of RE teachers and commend the “excellent relationships” they have built with students. Students were commended for their willingness to participate in prayer and liturgy in many ways such as “reading scripture and bidding prayers” in assemblies.



Overall, we are proud to publish that Maria Fidelis is a school with “Christ at the centre” of everything we do.

Overall effectiveness

The overall quality of Catholic education provided by the school

Catholic life and mission (p.3)

How faithfully the school responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church’s educational mission

Religious education (p.5)

The quality of curriculum religious education

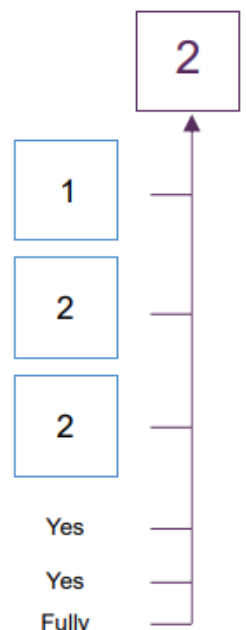
Collective worship (p.7)

The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school

The school is fully compliant with the general norms for religious education laid down by the Bishops’ Conference

The school is fully compliant with any additional requirements of the diocesan bishop

The school has responded to the areas for improvement from the last inspection



Founders Day

Friday 14th November marked the annual commemoration of Founders Day, where we celebrate the history and heritage of our school, founded by the FCJs. Students participated in an adapted morning timetable, working in groups to learn more about the school, its houses and the key figures in the Ignatian spiritual tradition. Year 7 found the day particularly useful, learning about the different houses they have been placed in.



Tabernacle

For Catholics, we believe that during Mass, bread and wine become Jesus' Body and Blood. For some time now we have been trying to source a Tabernacle for our school Chapel, so that the Eucharist can be reserved there. At long last, this September we got our hands on one. With the skill of our site staff, it was quickly installed and then blessed by local parish priest, Canon Jeremy Trood. This took place after an outdoor Mass for Year 9.



Stewardship Club

Students have been learning about creation and the importance of taking care of the environment. We discussed the creation story with a sequencing activity and parables such as The Talents, and the Sheep and the Goats. We even took a session to unwind in a prayerful meditation to explore the wonder of nature and all God's of creation.

We rounded off the term by thinking of practical ways we could have a positive impact on the environment and school community. The Year 7s came up with a litter pick and canteen clean. We were able to relate this to our teachings of creation as well as our FCJ values of Dignity and Companionship with our unsung heroes: the canteen staff.

Stewardship Club really enjoyed the litter pick and are keen to tackle the MUGA next half-term! We will then go outside the building and perform a litter pick in the nearby area to share our care of the environment to the wider Somers Town area.



FCJ Values

In an effort to both promote and recognise the many ways in which students make a valuable contribution to our school community, we have recently introduced six FCJ badges, reflecting the six FCJ values at the heart of our school ethos. Students across all year groups are already stacking up the badges on their blazer lapels, with some students having already received all six in the first term!

Staff are able to nominate any student they see live out one of the following values:

- 1) Excellence
- 2) Hope
- 3) Dignity
- 4) Justice
- 5) Companionship
- 6) Excellence

It is hoped that by the end of the academic year, every student would have been recognised for demonstrating at least one of these values in what they do or say.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

On Friday 12th December, Canon Jeremy Trood came in to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation to students and staff. Confessing your sins and being absolved of them is a wonderful way to prepare spiritually for the coming of the Christ-child at Christmas.

Assemblies

Once a week, every year group gathers together in the hall for their act of collective worship. On a rotation, form classes take on the responsibility for leading their peers in worship, prayer and reflection.

It has been a delight to see so many students take this responsibility seriously. The readings are read clearly and loudly, with students offering mature reflections on the themes shown in the Gospel reading for that Sunday.

Pensioners' Party

As part of our local community outreach, Maria Fidelis holds an annual Pensioners' Christmas Party in the last week of term. This is always a very popular event, with many locals requesting tickets to attend. Both students and staff volunteer their afternoon and evening to prepare food and drinks for the guests, as well as our wonderful musicians preparing a festive feast of music and song.



Many of the attendees have attended for a number of years now, with some arriving incredibly early to secure seats with new found friends they have made at previous gatherings.

The kitchen staff as well work incredibly hard, serving quality meals to over 100 guests. It is wonderful to see how the whole community comes together in festive cheer.



Christmas Market & Ice-Skating in Bath

On Friday 12th December, Ms Lawson and Ms Hillier took a group of students to explore the infamous Christmas Market in Bath. Whilst there, there was plenty of free time for students to explore the market stalls before everyone took to the ice for an ice-skating session. Below is a brief review of the festive day out written by Year 9 students Isabelle, Mekdem, Jahziah, Sia, Vera, Bethel & Morayo:

“The six of us were excited about this trip weeks before. Firstly, we visited Bath's infamous Christmas market, where we dashed to every stall and took photos of well-known spots. After, we had the opportunity to ice skate. Everyone - including first time skaters, quickly got into the flow and enjoyed themselves! Finally, we tasted a rich hot chocolate and explored the Christmas market thoroughly, before returning back to London.”



British Egyptian Society

Last week, we had the incredible opportunity to attend a reception at the House of Lords, hosted by the British Egyptian Society. The event took place on the beautiful terrace overlooking the Thames and featured talks from the Chairman of the Society, Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean, and the Ambassador of Egypt to the UK, as well as Sherif Kamel, whose speech focused on the conflict in the Middle East and Egypt's significant efforts to promote peace and cooperation in the region. It was inspiring to meet students from other schools who share an interest in politics and international relations, and the evening ended with the Ambassador inviting us to visit the Egyptian Embassy for a further discussion.



Andrea Bajan , Year 13

On Monday the 13th of October, we were invited by the Chairman of the British Egyptian Society, Baroness Symon of Vernham Dean, to a Reception at the House of Lords. The reception was to welcome His Excellency Ambassador Mr Ashraf Swelham as the new Egyptian Ambassador to the UK. The Ambassador gave an inspiring speech on his hopes for the relationship between the two countries to grow, and on his hope for a lasting peace in the Middle East.

At this event, we met some other students from Riddlesdown Collegiate, who we shared ideas and opinions with us about the event, as well as how A-Levels are going. We also had a conversation with the Honorary President, Sherif Kamel, who invited us to the Egyptian Embassy. He talked about how 'London was always in his cards' and that he originally graduated with a BA in Engineering, when he turned down an opportunity in London to work at the Egyptian Embassy in Washington DC. I found this event a good opportunity to practice my networking skills and to get an insight into what the British Egyptian Society does.

Fahim Ahmed, Year 13

Imperial Junior Girls' Maths Challenge



On Saturday 8th November, a group of our talented students attended the inaugural Imperial Junior Girls' Maths Contest at Imperial College London's South Kensington campus. The event, hosted by Imperial's Mathematics Department, brought together mathematically gifted girls from across the country for a day filled with problem-solving, collaboration, and inspiration. The contest featured both an individual competition round and a team challenge, testing creativity, logic, and perseverance.

Our Maria Fidelis students represented the school brilliantly, tackling challenging questions with enthusiasm and grace. Their teamwork and positive spirit were a credit to our community.

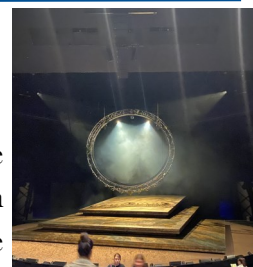
The day also included inspiring mathematics taster lectures by Professor Claudia de Rham and Dr Charlotte Kestner. Professor de Rham's talk was particularly fascinating—she explored quantum mechanics, the expansion of the universe, and how dark energy might challenge Einstein's theory of general relativity, giving students a glimpse into the frontiers of modern physics and cosmology. To top off the day, everyone enjoyed delicious Franca Manca pizza kindly provided by Imperial College. It was a fantastic experience for our students—one that deepened their love of mathematics and showed them how far curiosity and persistence can take them. We are so proud of how they represented Maria Fidelis!

Bacchae Theatre Trip

On Monday 20th October, 14 GCSE and A level Classics students attended a performance of Euripides' *Bacchae* at the National Theatre. The Greek tragedy, first produced in 405BC, deals with still pertinent themes, such as gender roles, tyrannical leaders, and the role of religion in society. Below is a brief review by one of the students who attended:

"Our experience at the *Bacchae* was simply breathtaking, with creative outfits, catchy songs and truly original portrayals of characters whom I did not think I could like. This production managed to thoroughly revolutionise the way I view ancient Greek plays and theatre, and the experience I feel led to one of the most enjoyable theatre visits I've ever attended. I am truly grateful for the opportunity and I highly recommend the play to others - a worthy tribute to Dionysus."

Hannah Maloney, Year 12



Foreign Languages at Maria Fidelis

European Day of Languages

Maria Fidelis students took part in various activities to celebrate European Day of Languages in September. Well done to all involved. It was a particular highlight to see students sharing greetings in European languages that are not on our curriculum, demonstrating the wonderful diversity within our student body. As always, there will be more events later in the year which will focus on world languages so please look out for them!



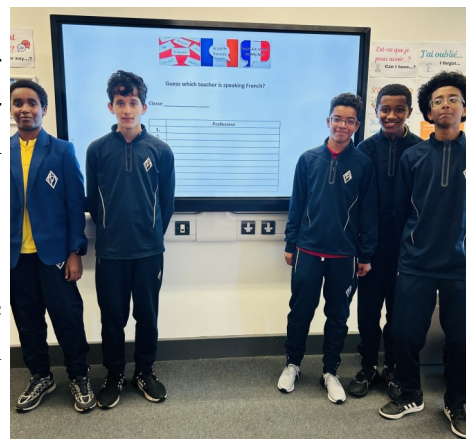
European Day of Languages
26 September

Journée européenne des langues



Guess the Teacher

All French classes took part in a 'Guess the teacher' competition where they had to listen to members of Maria Fidelis staff speaking French. I'm pleased to say that 9U1 French were the winners scoring 9/10. *Bien fait!*



Languages Café

To celebrate the wonderful progress of students in learning new languages, the MFL department organised a Languages Café, where students had to put their skills to the test and engage in conversation with both staff and fellow students. This checked both their listening and speaking skills, whilst also giving them increased confidence to practice the languages they are learning in their classrooms. *Naturellement*, food was on offer!



Jewellery Making with The Creative Dimension Trust

Over the past five years we have been working with The Creative Dimension Trust to deliver a series of mini foundation courses at Maria Fidelis School. The charity aims to support talented young people, providing them with the skills and confidence needed to pursue careers that require core hand skills. The courses are fully funded and students must attend all five sessions after school. They take place on Tuesdays from 3.20-5.30pm.

The courses so far have included gilding, leatherwork, furniture making, tailoring and jewellery making. Each session is delivered by an expert in the field and participation can open further opportunities for participants to attend other courses in the future.

Students do not need to have previous experience but usually have an interest in Art and Design, Design Technology or developing new practical skills and it is for this reason that the Science Department are supporting this initiative.

So far this year we have run a leather craft workshop and next year we will be running jewellery making and furniture making with students allowed to take the items made home.

The Creative Dimension Trust appointed Ms. Candice Lau, a master leather worker, to deliver the recent workshops. Mr. Paul Ravn, an expert jeweller and fellow of the Institute of Professional Goldsmiths will run the jewellery making course and the furniture making is to be delivered by Ms Emma Leslie, designer and furniture maker.

The Trust hopes that participants will see that working in these areas is a real prospect for a future career.

The dates for the jewellery making are as follows:

13th January 2026

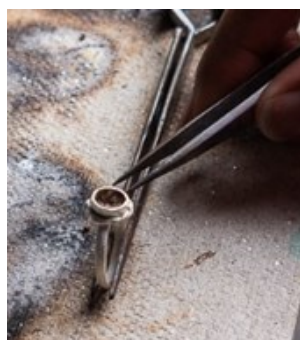
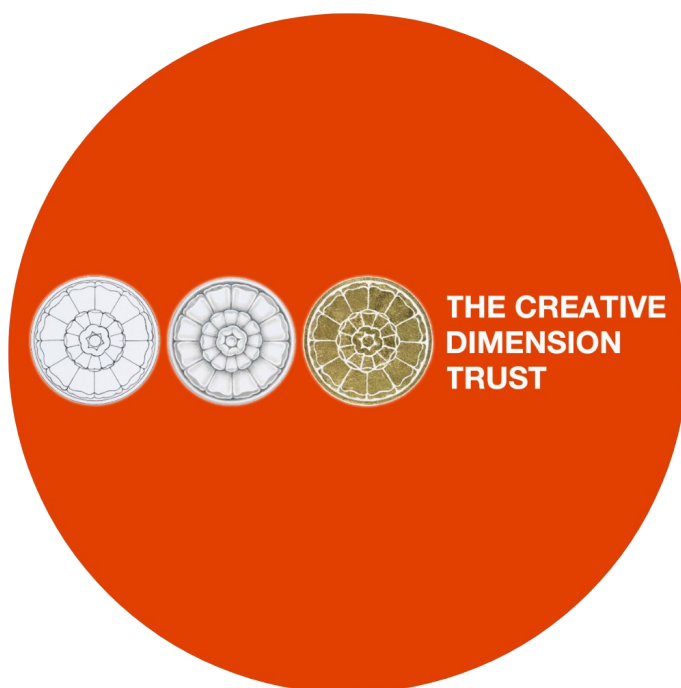
20th January 2026

27th January 2026

3rd February 2026

10th February 2026

Students must be in Years 10-13 to take part and as there are only ten places available for each course. Interest is very competitive so anyone interested will need to apply early. They can express their interest to Ms. Gamble who will put names on the waiting list. For further information about all the workshops on offer outside of school, please visit: www.thecreativedimension.org/workshops.



MEI Workshop 2025

On Wednesday 17th December, 14 students attended their first MEI workshop at Queen Mary University of London. The day focused on advanced Mathematics topics including Vectors, Arc Lengths and Sectors, with students engaging in complex problem-solving activities that challenged and extended their Mathematical thinking. The workshop provided an excellent opportunity for students to experience university-level Mathematics teaching and work alongside peers from other schools. Following the academic session, students were given a tour of the campus, allowing them to gain insight into university life and facilities. The day was both educational and inspiring, giving our students a valuable taste of higher education while strengthening their understanding of key Mathematical concepts. We look forward to attending future MEI workshops next year.



Drama Club: Donmar Warehouse in the House

Once again, the Drama Department was proud to welcome our close friends from the Donmar Warehouse. Our Sixth Form English Literature and GCSE Drama students were joined by Hattie and Kat to explore Jean Genet's play, *The Maids*. Students were treated to some back ground information and even had the opportunity to act out two scenes in our Drama Studio whilst exploring the themes of oppression and obsession.

As if that wasn't enough, The Donmar also gave us free tickets for the same group of students to attend the play. Battling our way through London traffic, diverted buses and at times rather heavy rain, we made our way on foot to the theatre. "The staging was just so fabulous! I will definitely be able to write about it for my Live Theatre Component in my GCSEs" said one year 11 girl, while one of the boys told his teacher afterwards, "I loved the use of phones and projectors. Not only was it Brechtian, but it was just great to watch. It was like theatre and cinema at the same time!"

A special thank-you to Ms Meier who accompanied our students to the theatre and made sure everyone was safe, comfortable and had the best time possible.

Drama Club: Taking to the Stage in 2026

Starting in January 2026, our Drama club will be taking part in The Donmar Warehouse's My Future project.

Every Tuesday from 15:15-16:45, students will be involved in a theatre devising project based around a current affairs issue. Below is the summary provided about the project by the Donmar Theatre itself:

My Future is a new project for Key Stage 3 students exploring activism and theatre-making. After the successful run of THE TRIALS, our LOCAL Production about climate justice, we at the Donmar are keen to explore the potential of theatre activism. This project is curated by Anne Langford, and devised in partnership with climate activists, teachers and young people. With the support from PwC and contributions from local schools and students, we aim to bring devising and activism to the next level. Similar to our flagship programme Take the Stage, My Future will have 10 in-school sessions over the course of the Autumn and Spring terms. This culminates in the young people sharing their work on the Donmar stage in front of their friends, family and teachers, as well as stakeholders from Camden and Westminster Council.

Any students who are interested in taking part should speak to Mr McReynolds after the Christmas break.

Extra Curricular Activities

Geography in Action

At the start of the academic year, Mr Anthony took a Year 9 GCSE Geography class over to St Pancras Old Church graveyard. This might sound like a rather unusual school trip, but in fact the tombstones are a wealth of information about the physical geography of the area. The students were able to see the ways that weather and climate cause damage to the tombstones, helping their understanding of the types of rock and how they are formed.



BBC Bitesize Workshop

On Wednesday 15th October, Maria Fidelis welcomed a team from the BBC to deliver a workshop to Year 8 called “the other side of the story.” The purpose is to expose students to the questions they should be asking themselves to check if what they are reading, hearing or seeing is an authentic and truthful news story.

Students were introduced to the key terms of bias, information and disinformation, and had to work together to decide whether various unusual news headlines were authentic or not. The BBC staff commended our students and said that they were the most engaged, well behaved and interactive students they had ever worked with!



Speak Out Challenge



Year 10 recently took part in a series of workshops run by the Jack Petchey Foundation as part of their Speak Out Challenge. This scheme, well established in schools all over the country, provides young people with the framework to develop their public speaking and debating skills.

Students worked together to consider what makes a speech convincing and what topics or issues they feel passionate about. With the help of the workshop facilitators, our Year 10s had time to compose a speech of their own on an issue important to them. A few of our students spoke so well in front of their peers that they were chosen to represent Maria Fidelis at the regional “Speak Out” competition.

We are incredibly proud of the speeches Hannaan and Maria in 10C made. It is inspiring to see young people speak out so passionately and convincingly in front of a large audience.

Jack Petchey's
“SPEAK OUT”
Challenge!

Encouraging Independence

One of the ways that teachers at Maria Fidelis encourage student resilience, responsibility and independence is by handing over parts of the lesson for students to lead on. This helps foster a genuine love and enjoyment for learning, as well as encouraging companionship between peers. The more they rely on each other, the more collaborative they become. This also reduces reliance on teacher input, something that is necessary in order for students to be confident enough for their exams.



Library Lessons: Loving to Read

Our Year 7 and 8 students continue to benefit from their dedicated library lessons once a week. These sessions are designed to promote reading for pleasure, build confidence, and help pupils discover new authors and genres. We warmly encourage parents and carers to support this by discussing books at home and reminding students to borrow and read regularly. Developing strong reading habits is central to boosting overall literacy and long-term academic success.



Remembrance Day: 11.11.2025

Just like many schools, shops and workplaces across the United Kingdom and beyond, Maria Fidelis stopped and stood silently still to mark the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. This is the annual marking of Armistice Day, the time when World War I ended.

For two minutes, we stop everything and honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defend the freedoms we enjoy today. A small gathering of students and staff reflected together with a brief service of remembrance before the icon of the unknown soldier in our foyer. Poppies were also dropped from above, symbolic of the famous poem by John McCrae: In Flanders' Fields.



Art Department

Year 11s have been continuing to produce interesting and ambitious work for their mock exams on the theme of surfaces. Here are some examples of student work:



Courtauld Gallery Visit

Year 11 students' work is on display at the Courtauld Gallery and their collective piece formed the poster to the show 'Sense of Self' currently on until the 15th February. Serenity and Torie both had pieces selected for the exhibition. Students were kindly invited to the Courtauld Museum to explore identity and portraiture. They viewed original drawings in the prints and drawings room and made work in response to Van Gogh and other paintings in the collection. Staff from the Courtauld are came in to school to explore ways to analyse paintings and to develop understanding of Art History of the 20th Century.



The Courtauld

Sense of Self Celebration

Saturday 1st November
The Courtauld Gallery,
Somerset House, London, WC2R 0RN

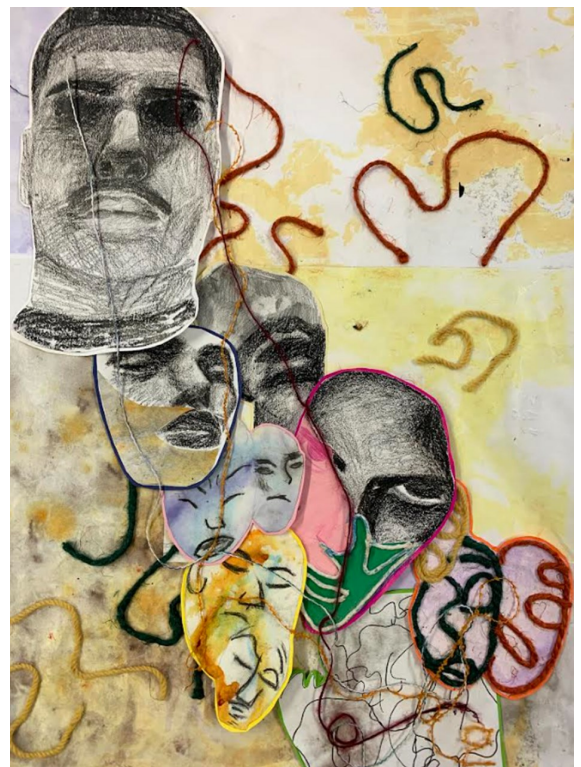
11am - 1pm or 2 - 4pm
Welcome and certificates at
11:30am or 2:30pm

RSVP required, please book for the morning or afternoon [here](#).



As always, we are so incredibly proud to share the final works of some of our talented artists. You can clearly see the time, energy, passion and enthusiasm that has gone into creating these outstanding pieces of art.

Our students should be incredibly proud of the work they do, and we are equally proud to share the fruits of their labours in each edition of The Companion!



Student Council

Having been introduced by Mr McLoughlin this time last year, the presence of the Student Council within the school community has gone from strength to strength. We thank the initial cohort of representatives for their dedication to their duties, voicing the concerns of their peers to the staff. This year began with the election of new form class representatives who will sit on the Council for the academic year. Any students who have a plan or vision for any aspect of school life are encouraged to pass these onto their form representative. It will then be brought up at the next meeting.

Maths Challenge 2025



Preparing for the Count on us Maths Challenge 2025

Debate Club

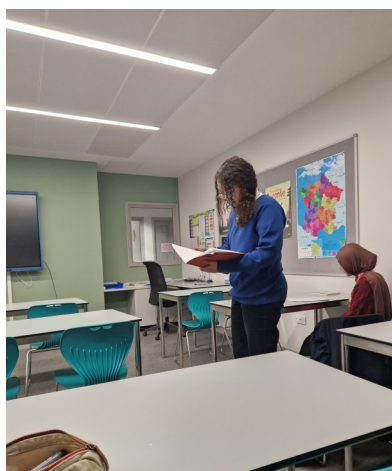
My experience at the Autumn Debate competition at South Hampstead High School was something that remains unforgettable. Everybody in attendance was so welcoming, making debating comfortable, enjoyable, educational and, most importantly: fun!

I particularly enjoyed being able to express how I feel about certain controversial topics, and not having to feel worried whilst debating

against other teams. Throughout it I was able to improve my both speech and communication skills, as well as putting my quick thinking to the test! The judges were extremely helpful, giving constructive feedback that allowed me to apply it in my other speeches, improving how I debate in general, and how I work as a debater overall.

On the whole, the debating competition was a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate the skills I have learnt in Debate Club, give myself and my teammates the chance to compete and socialise with other school teams, and be given the forum to strengthen our teamwork skills even more.

Aliyah Marie Coopera, 9W



Reading Club

On top of the weekly reading for pleasure that our wonderful form tutors oversee, Ms Meier is reintroducing her Reading Club at lunchtimes on Thursdays in our newly refurbished library.

These sessions, designed for students in Year 7 and Year 8, offer an opportunity to share and discuss books that are read by all members over the course of a few weeks. This helps to bring books to life as well as building social skills in an academic, yet fun way! Anyone is welcome to attend and likewise anyone is welcome to suggest potential books that the group can read. Come along to find out more!



Soak-a-Teacher Fundraiser

Our CAFOD young leaders have been working hard this term on planning imaginative ways to raise money for charity to donate at the start of 2026. This term, they decided to get as many students as possible on board in their fundraising by giving them a one-off opportunity to get their own back on the teachers!

Over 25 members of staff signed up (or were signed up by their colleagues!) to be soaked by sponge or bucket at the end of the term. Students could donate £1 to vote for a specific teacher from the list, then the five staff members with the most votes would be the targets!

After lots of voting, the following staff were the (un)lucky ones: Mr Maynard, Mr Coombes, Mrs McInerney, Mr O'Brien & Ms Lawson.

The event will take place once the donation target of £500 has been reached. Donations can be made via the Sixth Form office, or on ParentPay. Every £1 given will go to supporting those most in need of practical help around the world.

SOAK-A-TEACHER FUNDRAISER



CAFOD
Just one world



Join us in raising money for CAFOD by getting to toss a wet sponge OR pour a bucket on your favourite teacher - every throw helps!

Wednesday
17th
December
at 2:40

On the main
playground!



Help CAFOD spread their message of faith and help those who are less fortunate in the world



DONATIONS:

VOTE FOR THE TEACHERS - £1

ONE SPONGE - £1

ONE BUCKET - £5

!AND SPECIAL GUEST!

Mr Anthony sponge - £3

Mr Anthony bucket - £10

Design Technology Workshop

This term, an engaging workshop brought together Year 11 Design and Technology students to explore the fascinating world of electronics. Hosted by MATRIS ROBOTIC STEM Academy, the workshop focused on hands-on learning, where students showcased their creativity and problem-solving skills through the construction of a steady hand game, an exciting project featuring LED lights and a buzzer.



Students were introduced to a variety of electronic components, including resistors, capacitors, wires, and breadboards, providing them with a robust foundation in the principles of electronics. Under the guidance of a well experienced instructor, the Year 11 students were encouraged to think outside the box as they designed and built their own custom steady hand games. The objective was simple: navigate a loop without touching the wire to avoid setting off the buzzer and lighting up the LEDs.



With such a positive response from students, plans for future workshops are already in the pipeline, aiming to inspire the next generation of engineers, makers, and creators. In a world increasingly driven by technology, initiatives like this are vital in fostering creativity and critical thinking among young learners, particularly Design and Technology students.

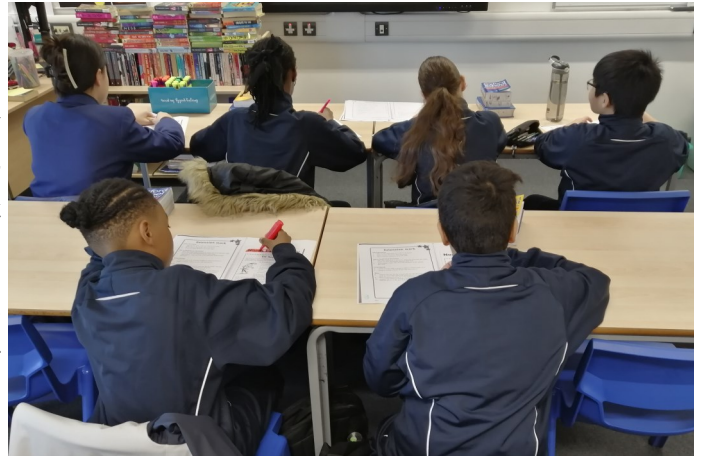
Miss Hylton & Miss Hammond

Ambitious Readers

Our Year 7 literacy intervention continues to run every morning, focusing on strengthening pupils' comprehension and inference skills through guided reading of short texts.

During these sessions, pupils practise identifying key ideas, interpreting deeper meanings, and developing greater confidence in understanding a range of written material. We have already seen encouraging progress from pupils attending these sessions, with many showing increased confidence when tackling more challenging reading tasks in their lessons. The intervention provides targeted support to ensure every child can participate fully and develop the skills needed for success across the curriculum.

We appreciate your continued partnership in reinforcing the importance of regular reading at home.



Christmas Cluedo

The lead up to Christmas for teachers all over the country can be a rather stressful time. At the end of a long term and as it gets colder and darker, everyone looks forward to the Christmas break. In order to bring a bit of festive spirit to the community, Mr Cranny organises a 'Christmas Cluedo' game amongst the staff. Essentially, each participant receives a small slip of paper in their pigeon hole. On it will be the name of a teacher, an item and a location. It is then their job to 'kill' this person, with that item, in that location. For example, it could be: "Mr Cranny, Whiteboard Pen, Canteen."



The game is incredibly popular, with staff employing the help of students to create the circumstance for them to strike. Some staff go to extreme levels, planting their 'weapon' in the location days in advance. Once having successfully 'killed' their target, they take on the job of 'killing' that person's target. Truly, the infamous Christmas board game is brought to life here at Maria Fidelis. I wonder who will make it to the end of term alive...

Christmas Jumper Day



Thursday 11th December marked National Christmas Jumper Day. Students and staff alike dusted off their festive outfits to celebrate the imminent arrival of the festive season, celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Seeing the wonderful array of styles and themes around the school certainly gave the building a festive feel, whilst also being another opportunity for us all to live out Catholic Social Teaching by raising money for The Passage, a homeless charity in London.

Festival of Lessons & Carols

The musical highlight for this term was undoubtedly the return of the traditional Festival of Lessons and Carols held at St Aloysius' Church, thanks to the kind permission of Canon Jeremy Trood, Parish Priest. Hundreds of people gathered to hear an evening of prayers, readings, reflections and carols, led by our wonderful choir. It was wonderful to round off the term with this festive gathering of people of all faiths and none, preparing to welcome the baby Jesus at Christmas.

Parents commented on how joyful it was to participate in some of the carols, but they also appreciated the opportunity to simply listen to others, reflecting on the beauty of the words that are sometimes overlooked. The nine Year 7s read so beautifully and passionately, adding to the beauty of the evening. The evening finished with a final blessing from Canon Jeremy before festive refreshments were shared back over in the canteen.

MF in Miami

We are immensely proud to share that Year 11 student Jayden Malundama recently travelled to Miami in the USA to play in the Chelsea FC U16 side that competed in the Messi Cup.

Jayden has been an academy player at Chelsea for a number of years now, maturely balancing his emerging football career with GCSE studies here at Maria Fidelis. During the competition, Jayden assisted with one of the goals, and the team finished 4th overall. We are all so excited to see where his professional career will truly kick off.

Staff v Students Football



XLP recently supervised a lunchtime tournament in the hall between staff and Year 11 students. This was a wonderful send off for Mr Cranny before he moves to Australia.

Year 9 Boys Football

Congratulations to the Year 9 boys football team who recently represented Maria Fidelis at the Camden and Islington School's Finals under the management of Mr Cranny. Our team performed fantastically and were eventually crowned winners of the whole competition! They are photographed here immediately after having been presented with the team trophy and individual medals.



Year 9 Girls Football



Congratulations to the Year 9 girls football team who also played in the Camden and Islington School's Finals. Throughout the group stage, the team defended well, keeping a clean sheet. They were beaten 2-0 by the eventual winners, meaning they came 2nd overall. This is a great achievement and we are very proud of them!

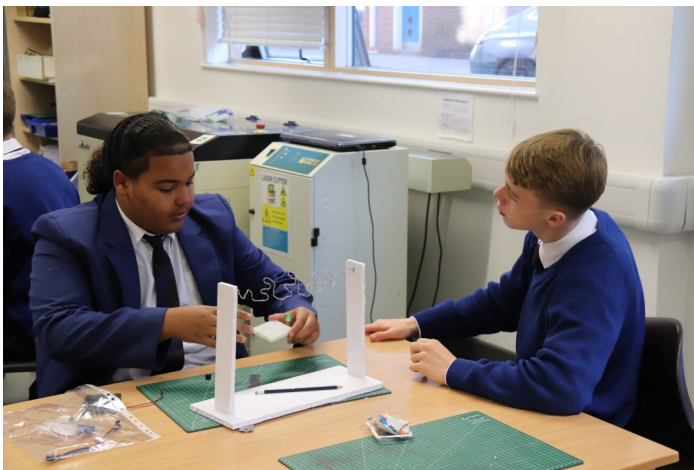
PHOTO GALLERY



September: Year 7 Welcome Mass at St Aloysius



September: Year 9 Outdoor Mass



October: DT Workshop for Year 11



October: MacMillan Coffee Morning



November: Jack Petchey Awards Evening 2025



December: Key Stage 3 Advent Liturgy

PHOTO GALLERY



December: Choir at St Pancras Grand Hotel



December: Day Trip to Bath Christmas Market



December: Pensioners' Party



December: Lessons and Carols



December: Rewards Lunch with the Headmaster



December: Euston Foodbank Drop-Off