



PARENTS' NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another activity packed Autumn Term with a huge range of competitive and extra-curricular events.

Our Prizegiving Evening in November helped us to showcase our new building in Drummond Crescent; students and staff are making full use of all our amazing new facilities. We are all looking forward to the Summer Term when the outside space will be complete and we can move Gower Street pupils onto our new site.

It was a pleasure to welcome St. Aloysius Catholic Primary to our Carols by Candlelight Service; the evening was a great success and we hope this will become an annual event in our calendar. Our well established Senior Citizens' Party was our best yet with over 120 guests in attendance.

Our thanks to all our dedicated staff who made all these activities possible and to you, our parents' and carers who support us in all we do.

We wish you all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas.



Helen Gill
(Headteacher)

Senior Citizens Christmas Party 2018



This year, we held our 6th annual Senior Citizens' Christmas party and it was our most successful yet! We had over 120 guests, all of whom had a wonderful evening.



This is an event that really shows the local community at its best – businesses, schools, community centres and various organisations all working together for a wonderful celebration of the spirit of Christmas. Our staff and pupils put in a huge amount of effort to make the evening possible, both on the night and during the weeks leading up to it, and we are very blessed to have such a dedicated group of people at Maria Fidelis.



The Caterlink staff, as ever, kindly gave up their time to cook a three course cooked meal for all our guests. There was a grand raffle with a large number of prizes kindly donated by parents, staff and local businesses, including an amazing cake, Eurostar Tickets, NLER tickets, a hamper from Harvey Nichols, Ted Baker handbags and many more.



Dirty dancing courtesy of DJ Desmond
(Mr McDonald in his day job!)



Cheers! See you next year.

Next year's party is already confirmed; it will be held on Thursday 12th December 2019.

Mr. Anthony
(Deputy Headteacher)



Physical Education Department

The year has started in impressive fashion for many of the students and teams involved in sport at Maria Fidelis. The students have taken advantage of these opportunities to really stretch and challenge themselves in an array of competitive contexts, and as such have made some excellent progress.

Our senior boys Handball team have also qualified to represent Camden at the London Youth Games after going unbeaten during qualifying. The Year 9 boys will represent Camden in the London Youth Games for Basketball after winning the qualifying tournament. The year 10/11 competed well in the Badminton trials for the London youth games but just fell short of qualification, however the GCSE boys were challenged by club players and managed to obtain excellent footage for their GCSE moderation.

In the Camden Shield the year 8/9 Boys' Football team have started very well and are currently undefeated after three excellent games so far this season. Our year 7 Boys Football team recently qualified through to the next round of the Camden and Islington Football Cup Competition after winning 4-3 against Haverstock School. The Girls football Teams have competed to very high standards during their games this season and were rewarded by their Arsenal Coaches and gifted with tickets to a recent Arsenal Football Match.



Junior NBA League



We are excited to announce that Maria Fidelis are competing in the Jr NBA league for the third consecutive year with basketball teams for both year 7 and 8, both boys and girls. The Jr. NBA League was created for 11-13 year old boys and girls in secondary schools to participate in basketball. The league is organised and operated by Basketball England in partnership with the NBA.



Inter-house Competitions

Congratulations to following houses for winning the following competitions. D’Houet for winning the Boys' Inter-house competition for basketball. Guillemet for winning the Girls' Basketball Competition. D’Houet for winning the Boys' Football competition, Loyola for winning the Girls' Football competition and Faber for winning the Table Tennis competition.

The competitive calendar for the New Year brings the beginning of Camden Shield competitions for Boys' Basketball and Girls' Netball as well as the Ski trip in February where staff and students will be experiencing the Austrian Alps in Altenmarkt; we hope to continue our very good start to the year. Well done to everyone involved in representing the school so far: you’ve done an excellent job!



Camden Shield in Basketball

The students have also made a great start in the Camden Shield in Basketball. They have been training very hard and have been very successful. This is highlighted by following results:

- Year 9/10 girls finished 2nd in the Camden shield
- Year 8 girls are 4-0 in the Camden Shield (top of the Jr NBA league)
- Year 7 girls are 3-1 in the Camden Shield



Lastly the PE department would like to welcome Mr Maynard to the team, he has worked extremely hard this term, and our students have welcomed and responded well to him. We are delighted to have you on board!

We wish you a very merry Christmas!

PE Department.



Dear Parents,

Find below the Hegarty leader boards for most hours of learning for the last half term:

Year 7	Form Group
Kaleema	7F
Kieron	7W
Esther	7C

Year 8	Form Group
Charles	8C
Ailani	8C
Paris	8C

Year 9	Form Group
Bilal	9.5
Anika	9.5
Aline	9.5

Year 10	Form Group
Maria	10.2
Esther	10.2
Hameara	10.2

Year 11	Form Group
Shakeel	11.3
Bhavya	11.1
Asma	11.1

We wish you a very merry Christmas!

Mathematics Department

Growing together through Christ with courage, confidence and dignity

Careers Adviser

Jessica Ahmed, our new Careers Adviser, has been interviewing Year 11s individually every Tuesday.

Careers

Work in progress formulating and expanding the programme for all year groups and preparing information for the website.

Speakers for Schools have invited us to be one of their partner schools which will enable us to have more inspirational speakers and more access to good work placements.

Career Day

Year 9 students had their 'Career' day on October 2nd with workshops run by Bright Futures followed by a talk by journalist and writer John-Paul Flintoff through Speakers for Schools.

Work Related Learning

A group of Year 12 Students studying Business attended two workshops run by The Brokerage at Cushman & Wakefield, Portman Square, W1 and Forsters, Hill Street, Mayfair W1 in October.

A group of Year 10 students attended the Insight Day at The Wellcome Trust organised by Future First and were given a taste of the range of jobs available in the science sector.

Mentoring

Two mentoring schemes are running for selected Year 10s: The Big Alliance programme with the Macquarie Group and Deloitte Mentors who are focusing on group sessions related to employment. Sixth Formers who took part in the Peer Mentoring Scheme working with KS3 students have completed their sessions and will receive certificates.

Mentoring Sixth Form

The Big Alliance programme with Linked In and Arts Emergency who are mentoring 4 of our Year 12 students interested in the creative sector.

Work Experience

Sixth Formers will be doing placements during the February Half Term and Easter Holidays.

Ms. Money



Imperial College Project Review

I enjoyed being part of this project led by Imperial College because of the diversity we were presented with. There were a lot of interesting projects ranging from making bath bombs to solving crime scenes. It's nice to see Science being applied in real life scenarios.

I was challenged by the different problems we had to solve – from chemical reactions that make bath bombs, to how easy it is to light a bulb if you use Coca-Cola and electrical current and how murder scenes aren't always what they look like.

I would really recommend this project - it is attention grabbing and interesting to be a part of.

Alison Freberg

(Student)

Sutton Trust UCL Scheme

We are delighted to announce that we have applied for the Sutton Trust UCL Scheme. Some students from year 8 will be able to go to UCL in the summer term and take part in lectures and lessons that will be tailored to them.

We hope all students who applied are successful. Results will be announced in the new year.

Caesara Gill

More Able and Talented Co-ordinator

Cambridge University



On 26th November 2018 we were lucky enough to have a talk about how to apply to Cambridge University by Ian Burrows, a lecturer from the institution.

Students discussed topics such as: personal statements; interview techniques; what makes you stand out and why you should apply to Cambridge, among other things.

The talk was very well attended and students found it very interesting.

Ian Burrows was so impressed with our students that he has extended an invitation to us to visit the campus later in the year. We will keep you updated about this and other events!

Caesara Gill

More Able and Talented Co-ordinator



Published Poets

I am delighted to announce that some of our students are now published poets! Last summer, some of our students worked with the poet Christian Foley from the T.S. Eliot Foundation and, as a result, have had their work published in an anthology entitled 'I look into the water'.

We have been sent many of these anthologies so please come and find me if you would like to read some of the work.

Please also congratulate the following students:

Hannah Sahan

Riyad Abu

Paris Ballantyne

Humeira Begum

Makeda Palmer

Amanda De Costa

Alison Freyburd

Khrystyna Kostyk

Michaela Kinglsey Nyinah

Isavella Levendis-Takakis

Hieu Nguyen

Megan Reekie

Ryan Hincapie

Thank you

Caesara Gill

More-Able and Talented Co-ordinator

Westminster Model UN

Maria Fidelis are delighted to announce that we will be representing Cambodia in the Westminster Model UN competition in February. Some of our sixth formers have been working hard to prepare for this competition.

The sixth form and I have also decided to run an in-house Model UN competition for all years! The sixth form students will be helping to facilitate the debates and meeting.

Please encourage your child to register their interest in the New Year and we will assign them a country.



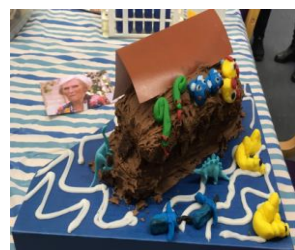
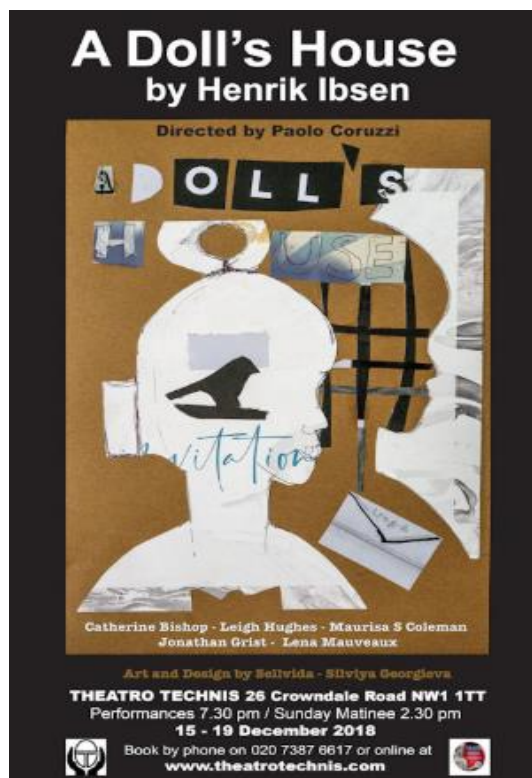
Caesara Gill

More Able and Talented Co-ordinator



Great MF Bake Off

The first ever Great MF Bake Off was a wonderful demonstration of the talents and tummies wielded by our staff. It was a pleasure to see so many creative and delicious bakes on display for our guest judges on Friday 9th October. Congratulations to our Star Bakers: Ms Henderson, for her impressive 'first bake' multi-coloured language cake; Ms James, for the unforgettable chocolate and dinosaur-infested Noah's ark; and Mr Durbin for making the stomachs of both our judges and the people sigh with delight. Thank you so much to everyone who donated their time, baking, spare change, cans and instant coffee. We managed to raise several kilos of food and £107 for Euston Foodbank! They were delighted by our efforts and have asked for continued donations throughout the winter as they prepare for the introduction of Universal Credit.



A Doll's House Theatre Trip

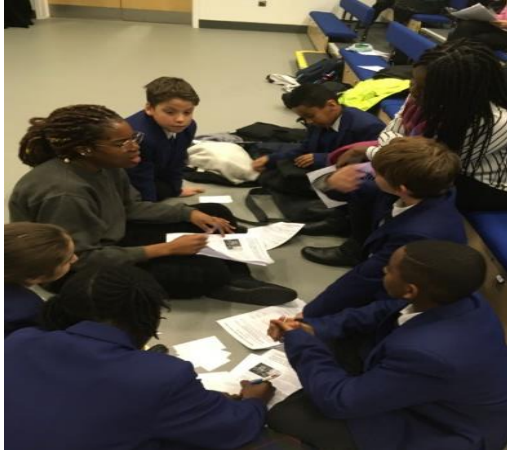
Members of our English Literature sixth form classes will be seeing the year out in thespian style this winter. Ms Watson has organised a theatre trip to see Ibsen's *A Doll's House* at Theatro Technis on Wednesday 19th December. This will be a fantastic opportunity for our students to see a live production of one of their set texts for A Level. We hope that they look back on this fondly when sitting their summer examinations!

Miss D Gelder Smith



Maria Fidelis KS3 Debate Club

A select group of students from year 7 have been preparing over the course of the term to create their own debate team. These students have spent Wednesday lunchtimes exploring what competitive debating means, discussing current affairs and planning speeches for mini-debates.



All of this hard work was in preparation for a competitive debate against La Saint Union Catholic School on Monday 17th December. Our MF students (Moriah, Ozy, Daniel, Achilles, Brooke and Jonathan) were exemplary hosts, welcoming our competitors with refreshments before the competition got underway and shaking their hands at the close of the debate. We even had some top judges chosen from our very own sixth form (Robert, Zoha, Liya, Gabriel, Enitan, Cassie and Jessica).



A massive thanks goes to them for coaching the teams when they were preparing for the debates and for making the tough decisions at the end. Although we didn't win this round, we are very excited by the prospect of competing again next term.

If you think you might have what it takes to win people over with your words or just want to see what debating is all about, join us in the New Year every Wednesday lunchtime in room 2, Gower Street.

Miss D Gelder Smith

Growing together through Christ with courage, confidence and dignity

Biology Fieldtrip



The Year 13 Biology group visited the rocky seashore at West Runton on the North Norfolk coast on the weekend of the 5th to the 8th October. The students investigated this site of special scientific interest as part of their practical endorsement. The weekend started with an introduction to the local landscape and some team building sessions. This was followed by lectures, planning and data collection which resulted in a range of interesting hypotheses and reports. This annual trip has become an important event in the calendar for the Science department and is an excellent opportunity for students to study a new environment as well as learning about scientific processes and investigative techniques. The students are excellent ambassadors and a credit to our school.

Many thanks to Ms. Byford for her time and support of this visit.



A paramoudra

Miss. Gamble & Miss. Byford

(Science)

Year 10 Technopreneurship Project

Solving a murder case, making aromatic bath bombs and powering LED lights using salt and water, all these exciting activities have been taking place over at Drummond Crescent as part of a techno entrepreneurship programme run by Imperial College London. A huge congratulation to all the Year 10 students involved for showing commitment, enthusiasm and creative flair throughout each session. Also wishing them good luck in January when they will compete with other schools in creating their own product using all the skills learnt during this programme to win the opportunity to visit the sponsoring company.

Ms. Hussain

Year 10 Enrichment Science

As part of the enrichment programme for Science, a group of 20 Year 10 and 11 Science students visited the Francis Crick Institute on Tuesday 9th October.

This event was specially targeted at girls and gave the students the opportunity to think and talk about the variety and vast potential of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) based careers.

A carefully chosen group of women from the world of science, maths and business spoke at the event to an audience of girls from Secondary Schools in Camden and beyond.

What unites these women is that their careers and businesses have a foundation in STEM. Finding solutions to complex problems is what drives them and the talks on their own personal career story were truly inspirational for the students.

Many thanks to Ms. Hussain for supporting this trip.

Miss Gamble
(Head of Science)

MFL Vocab Express success!



League of Champions 2018

We are thrilled to announce that Maria Fidelis gained a top 20 place in the Global Challenge for French in October 2018. Our top three French scorers were Desmond Feta (who also won last time), Ruhon Ahmed and Eliza Akther.

French scoreboard:

School	Score
1 Mill Hill County High School	366,985
2 The Latimer Arts College	358,925
3 Palmers Green High School	317,025
4 Southend High School for Girls	295,835
5 Howden School	286,060
6 Radcliffe School	259,395
7 International School of Toulouse	195,920
8 Burntwood School	187,350
9 British Overseas School of Karachi	186,685
10 Ashcroft Technology Academy	145,580
11 Belper School and Sixth Form Centre	143,215
12 Maria Fidelis Catholic School	124,925
13 Landmark International School	109,140
14 Magdalen College School - Northants	108,995
15 Abbeywood Community School	107,040
16 Colonel Frank Seely Academy	105,050
17 St George's Academy	96,790
18 St Ives School for Girls	94,535
19 Judgemeadow Community College	88,850
20 Charters School	88,275

The top three students for Spanish were Isabella Zapata-Duque, Natalia Marvlanda Toro and Basant Radwan. All students should be congratulated on their impressive performance.

Please encourage your child to continue using Vocab Express, which can be accessed on a computer or via the app, during the Christmas break. Their username and password can be obtained from any MFL teacher.

15 minutes on Vocab Express every day will really make a difference to their language learning.

www.vocabexpress.com

MFL department

Sixth Form Update

Community Service

The Sixth Form are excelling themselves this year, making a real difference to both the school and local community.

Euston Foodbank



We have teamed up with the Euston Foodbank, providing food to families who need it most. Maria Fidelis is now a drop-off point, and Sixth Formers take this over every week to the Foodbank.



In 2018, Maria Fidelis is making a concerted effort to help the local community and area, part of this effort is dedicated to The Euston Food Bank. The Food bank, located in Lancing Street, just down the road from the new school, aims to tackle food poverty and homelessness in the local community. Through 2017 the Trussell Trust's Foodbank Network, which the Food bank is a part of, provided 1,332,952 three-day emergency food supplies and support to UK people in crisis, of which the Euston bank was a significant part of. I myself have both donated to the Foodbank and have seen how it works. Each time I have gone, I am shocked at the amount of families, children and homeless people I have seen there, but at the same time it's hard to not also be warmed at the realisation that all these people will soon be fed and helped. If you would like to help out the Foodbank please feel free to donate food at the new buildings reception area, where there is a dedicated box for donations to the Food bank. Canned food and non-perishables are preferred when donating (Peanut butter, canned foods and canned fruits etc.) however other types of food will also be accepted. Moreover, donations of baby formula, nappies, toilet paper, toothbrushes and other key quality of life items are essential and gladly accepted.

Robert Langley

(Student)



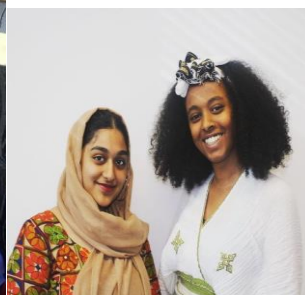
Macmillan Coffee Morning



We held this event in October as part of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning, raising money for cancer research. We raised a phenomenal £187.76! There is a video, made by our Y12 student Aiseosa, on the Sixth Form News section of the website.

Cultural Day

We also held a Cultural Day, organised by our Head Girl, Hermon. Students came in wearing cultural dress and also brought in traditional food which we sold at lunchtime. It was a true celebration of diversity and we raised £101.48 to put towards the students' graduation prom.



Supporting Other Students



Several Sixth Form students have been helping Year 11 students with their upcoming GCSEs. Having been through it already, they are perfectly placed to provide revision tips, exam technique and support with the material. The Sixth Formers are either helping in lessons, or attending booster sessions, or running their own booster sessions. Shania (Y12) runs a French booster for Year 10 twice a week. (see photo).

Enrichment

PrizeGiving



Several Sixth Form students received prizes at this year's whole school prizegiving ceremony. It also seemed that D'Houet students were leading the way in Year 12!

Senior Citizens' Party



Our annual Senior Citizens party is traditionally well-supported by Sixth Form students, and this year was no different. Together with some students in Year 11, they were outstanding in their service to our guests, ensuring no-one's glass was empty and no request went unfulfilled. We are extremely proud of their exemplary conduct.





Staff-Sixth Form Quiz Night

We held, by popular demand, a quiz night with each of the four House teams composed of both staff and Sixth Formers. It was a tough battle, with Mr. Anthony setting the hardest questions yet, but Loyola came out the winners! This was such a popular event that we have planned another one for January.

Film night

The first movie night of 2018 hosted by the Sixth Form (in partnership with the MFL department) was an encouraging start to the chain of movie nights that will be hosted by the sixth form. Joyeux Noël, the film that was shown, is an emotional film about the truce during World War I, in which the three sides stopped fighting on Christmas Day as a sign of peace. As Christmas is approaching fast, this movie was a brilliant way to heighten the viewers' Christmas spirit, as well as give them a way to relax and momentarily forget about the stresses of school. The movie night was also used as a means of funding the Sixth Form prom at the end of the year, by charging the viewers £1 for entry. The relaxed atmosphere of the movie night is a trait that hopefully will attract more and more viewers to the next movie!

Reyah Stephen, Year 12

Mocks

These will take place over a two-week period from Monday 7th – Friday 18th January for Year 12 and Year 13. Lessons will be suspended. Good luck to all students!

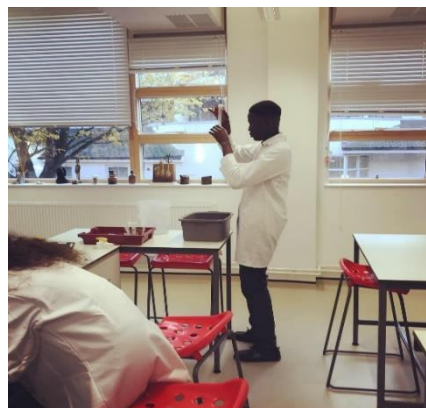
Berlin Trip 2019

We are offering this trip to Year 12 and Year 13 students in July 2019. It will also include a trip to Auschwitz Concentration Camp memorial in Krakow, Poland. Students wishing to attend should collect a letter from Miss Speller.

Year 11 Taster Day



We held a Sixth Form Taster Day for current Y11 students on 14th November, when they were allowed to dress as Sixth Formers and use the Common Room, and they benefited from three taster sessions in subjects of their choice. The feedback to this was overwhelmingly positive and we hope it boosts applications to our Sixth Form come September. Students wishing to apply can obtain the necessary forms from the Sixth Form office, or they can be downloaded from the website.





Eurostar Homework Club

Our partnership with local businesses through Urban Partners is thriving and completely full to capacity at Eurostar. It has really taken off and is going from strength to strength, and we are incredibly proud to be the only school they are working with.

Eurostar has 35 students signed up, and a waiting list almost as long. Students can complete quiet study or can have tutorials in virtually any subject. The Science publication Springer Nature are also providing a Homework Club for students doing Maths and Science, which allows Eurostar to increase its capacity.



Wishing you a Merry Christmas

Miss Speller

(Head of Sixth Form)



Annual prizegiving Evening

This year's prize-giving evening was a wonderful celebration of a wide range of achievements from our pupils. The music department provided the entertainment and we were grateful to Ms Bagnall and the heads of houses for putting it all together. A list of the subject prize winners is given below:

Nadia Afrin, Tamara Donbraye, Erza Krasniqi, Tasnim Rahman, Farhana Ahmed, Dea Drenova, Isavella Levendis-Takakis, Camila Rivera-Velez, Irkan Ahmed, Sophie English, Man Chung Low, Alketa Sadriu, Mehreen Ahmed, Jayda Evlad, Precillia Maduda, Eman Saidi, Joseph Alexander, Aiseosa Eweka-Okera, Yahya Mahammed, Daniel Santangelo, Henri Alonga, Flora Fowkes, Gabriel Marchant Palmer, Mursal Sarwary, Nafisah Amran, Dylan Frederick, Marina Miatudila, Shania Seargent, Paris Ballantyne, Abesalat Genene, Harry Militello, Poppy Seddon, Aziza Begum, Pamela Guzman, Jack Minto, Reyah Stephen Samuel Bentil, Fadli Hashi, Giovanna Motta, Jia Er Tee, Edward Bergado, Asma Hossain, Emelia Nzeako, Sefanit Tsegai, Goshen Bibila, Belesther Huberson-Abie, Rebecca Oakes, Shah Arafah Uddin, Jack Bland, Nazifa Hussain, Christina Oyalegan, Paloma Varon Castillo, Deja-Rose Bryan, Stacey Hyseni, Ines Pacheco Lopes, Charles Webb-Carey, Jessica Cheung, Isaac Kiros, Isha Patel, Chloe Wright-Dove, Weng Choong, Serana Kiros, Jessica Pinches and Mansil Yoon.

House full colours were awarded to:

Hannah Sahan, J'Deanne Lestrade-Shaw, Jake Lee, Alusione Conteh, Shah Arafah Uddin, Humaira Begum, Derrick Do Vale, Martin Quach, Sami Musham, Yasmin Odame Boateng

Sports colours were awarded to:

Chidinma Okeke, Derrick Do Vale, Dylan Frederick, Paloma Varon-Castillo, Rania Harding

Congratulations to all our winners! We hope to see many more next year.

Mr. Anthony

(Deputy Headteacher)

Heads of Houses



What an exciting start to the house system this year, there have been new events such as pumpkin carving, Christmas card competitions which have displayed the fine artistic abilities of our students and even a staff Treasure hunt to contribute to the house competition!



It has been action-packed with sports this term within the house system – with boys and girls football and basketball competitions! D'Houet took the win in the boys inter-house basketball competition, whilst Loyola grabbed the win in the football competition. With such a great number of students taking part in these events, it was a huge success. Well done to all who participated. In our pumpkin carving competition, Guillemet and Faber shared the spoils of first place in what turned out to be a tightly contested and enjoyable evening after school.

More exciting events await us in the New Year, Maria Fidelis' Spelling Bee. An exciting opportunity for our younger students to test their spelling prowess! As well as a FIFA tournament for our gaming students and other various sports events.

Have a lovely Christmas and Happy New Year,

Mr. O'Dowd, Ms. James, Mr. McCracken and Mr. McDonald



School Police Liaison Officer

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to introduce myself having just started this academic year at Maria Fidelis school as the Safer Schools Officer. In Camden we are fortunate to have an officer present in nearly every school and we also provide cover to primary schools and universities. I have been working on the School & Youth team for 6 years and have worked in a number of schools in Camden. My role primarily consists of educating the students around the law, giving assemblies and class talks, being supportive to students where the police may be involved with them or their families outside of school, running police cadet sessions, working with other agencies such as British Transport Police and Camden Council and most importantly helping to strengthen the relationship between young people and the police in London.

I am in school Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and you will see me in uniform before and after school patrolling the area of the Upper and Lower sites. During the school day I am in and around both school sites.

If you need to report a crime you can do so by calling 999 or 101 or online here; <https://www.met.police.uk/>

If you would like to contact me to discuss any other matter or if you are interested in your child attending Police Cadets please get in contact here; PcLuty@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk

I look forward to meeting you in the future,

PC Sarah Luty





Merry Christmas



Students return to School on:



Monday 7th January at 10.20am



And a



Happy New Year!

