



Dear Parents and Carers,

This September we celebrated the official opening of our new school building by Sr. Claire Sykes, FCJ General Superior. We reflected on the long history of FCJ education in Somers Town, this being the first school set up by Marie Madeleine D'Houet in England when she arrived in 1830. This year we also celebrate the Bi-Centenary of the founding of the FCJ order in 1820; first we marked a 'Day of Kindness' with all FCJ schools across the world on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September, Marie Madeleine's birthday.

On Founders' Day all students were presented with a special prayer book 'The Faithfulness of God'; these contain a prayer for each day of the year, prepared by the FCJ sisters. The pupils were given time to reflect on Marie Madeleine's mission and prayers from the booklet on significant dates for them, such as their birthday. The second half of the day was our annual sponsored walk around Regents Park; a total of £2,633.30 was raised for The Passage Homeless charity and The Catholic Children's Society.

We look forward to future events to mark the Bi-Centenary in the New Year, including a drama presentation based on Marie Madeleine's life, in the Spring.



*Drawn by Alana 8C*

Our celebration of the Christmas season began with our Carols by Candlelight service when we took time to reflect on the meaning of Advent. Our new school Chaplain, Sr. Ellen FCJ, led retreats for Year 8 in the convent, accompanying the students on their journey towards Christmas. Our Pensioners' Christmas Party was the best attended yet with nearly 150 guests this year. Advent is a time of giving and thinking of others: The Sixth Form led on serving the Pensioners and have also collected hundreds of items for their "Smiles" project for the local homeless. This involves creating packages for each person, including essentials such as toiletries, socks and sleeping bags. These will be distributed by staff and students in the New Year.

We say goodbye to some of our staff this Christmas. Mr Browne from Humanities who leaves to take up a new post and three members of staff who have a combined service to the school of 82 years! Ms Lusher from the office staff, who has left to spend more time with her young son, Mrs Heffernan who has been helping to supervise the pupils at lunchtime for over 40 years is retiring and Ms Hardy who has given long and dedicated service to Maria Fidelis leading our highly successful English department, is beginning a new role in a different school. We thank them most sincerely for all they have contributed and wish them well in the future.

**We wish you and all your families a Blessed and Peaceful Christmas**

**Helen Gill**

**(Headteacher)**

**We have started the year off with two fantastic events this term;**

**Visit from Genazzano (our sister FCJ school in Australia) came to visit Maria Fidelis in September 2019**

During their visit the girls enjoyed a Netball and Basketball tournament with mixed teams consisting of both schools. The girls were then taken on a school tour by our students who were able to share their daily school routines with our visitors. The visit then consisted of cultural exchange of life experiences through group discussion, followed by a short Farewell liturgy by our chaplain Sr. Ellen FCJ.



**Visit from Palestine in November 2019**

Our second visit consisted of a visit was from a small group of girls from Palestine. These girls were part of Abu Dis Sports Club who attend wither UNRWA School or Abu Dis Girls' School, whose English teacher accompanied them. This day consisted of both a football and Basketball tournament between our Y10 GCSE PE girls. The day also consisted of a small presentation delivered by the girls' English teacher, where our students were able to learn about the life of a female student in Palestine. The visit was arranged with a local charity who our school works closely with (CADFA) who go that extra mile to give back to communities both in the UK and abroad.



We thank Sister Ellen FCJ for all her support with PE since starting Maria Fidelis, your work is truly valued!

**Growing together through Christ with courage, confidence and dignity**



**This year has started off well for both the boys and girls in the sports competitions!**

### **Year 9/10 Girls Basketball Team win the Camden Shield**

After losing in the final of the Camden Shield competition last year on a buzzer beating three point shot to Acland Burghley, the girls had to wait for redemption. This year the girls managed to go one better and win the championship, remaining undefeated with a 6-0 record. The girls won with consistent team effort, but in the final game Paloma Castillo's three point shot in the final seconds powered Maria Fidelis to victory over Parliament Hill. The girls have now only lost one game in the last two years of the competition.

### **MF Under 14's and Under 16's are the Camden Basketball Champions**



Maria Fidelis boys have had a fantastic start to the basketball season with both u14's and u16's teams winning their respective basketball tournaments. Both teams completed the tournament without a single loss playing up to 6 games in one evening. The u16's were particularly impressive as the team consisted of year 10's meaning the whole team will get to compete in the tournament next year. Mr Joseph praised the team's effort particularly Fadli and Elias who were the co-MVP's of the tournament top scoring for Maria Fidelis. Both teams will now go on to represent Camden in the London Youth Games Competition in 2020.



The Jr. NBA is the official youth basketball participation programme of the NBA. The Jr. NBA includes a free, membership-based programme for existing youth basketball leagues/organizations. The Jr. NBA aims to develop a lifelong passion for the game of basketball in boys and girls by teaching them the fundamentals of the sport while instilling core values including teamwork, respect and sportsmanship. This year Maria Fidelis have three teams in the league, Y7 boys/girls and Y8 girls. In addition, we were invited to attend the exclusive Jr. NBA Christmas clinic where the pupils received coaching from some of the best coaches in the country.





This term's sport at Maria Fidelis has got off to a great start with a lot of early success for our teams and individuals. The girls football teams continue to improve every year with some great performances this year in their Camden Shield competition which has led to a larger number of girls being invited to train at the Arsenal Football Hub. The boys football competition will continue in the new year. In October students from year 7, 8 & 9 competed in the annual Camden Schools Cross Country competition which took place at Parliament Hill; The highlight to a competitive day was an 8th place finish for Tom (Y9) in a race against 50 other students from other schools in the borough.

### **Arsenal V Bristol City**

On 21st November, a group of us went to watch Arsenal Ladies play Bristol City in the WSL Cup and we had the honour of leading the teams out on to the pitch. It was really good fun and we all enjoyed it. It was even better because we were able to see Arsenal score seven goals!

Vivianne Miedema scored two goals in the second half to make sure that there was no way back for the opposition. Jennifer Beattie scored their final goal two minutes into extra time.

We would like to thank Mr McDonald and Ms Lawal for organising the trip and we hope that we can get another opportunity to watch them play again.

**Basant Radwan, Rowan Radwan and Judy Ahmed**

## TRIPS



Students were able to attend the England match against Montenegro at Wembley stadium (courtesy of Mr McDonald and Mr Anthony) the students had a wonderful experience of live International football and were able to experience England's victory in the qualifiers. A huge thank you to Ms Barrett (Maths) Ms Barret (Assistant Head) Ms Morris (Head's PA) and Mr Aldridge (Art) for attending the trip.

## Holiday Activities

There is a Christmas Sports Festival (free activities) at Sobell Leisure centre on 20th December 10am-3pm (please see leaflet attached) for your child to engage in and remain active during the Christmas period.

On behalf of the PE department, we wish students and teachers a very merry Christmas and a happy new year! We look forward to more successes in PE in 2020!

**Physical Education Department.**



# Christmas Sports Festival

10AM - 3PM | FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2019

SOBELL LEISURE CENTRE, HORNSEY RD, N7 7NY  
BOOK ONLINE [WWW.ACCESS2SPORTS.ORG.UK](http://WWW.ACCESS2SPORTS.ORG.UK)



AGES  
8-16

## Activities

Trampolining	10am – 3pm
Non-contact Boxing	10am – 11.30am
Badminton, Tennis & Fencing	10am – 12pm
Archery	11.30am – 1pm
Dodgeball, Multi-sports & Baseball/softball	12pm – 3pm
Dance	1pm – 3pm
Ice Skating:	12pm - 1pm
(Limited spaces! Book Online!)	

## Tournaments

**5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL**  
SCHOOL YEARS 5&6  
10am (registration 9.30am)

SCHOOL YEARS 7 & 8  
1pm (registration 12.30pm)

**3 V 3 BASKETBALL**  
UNDER 10S & 12S  
10am – 12pm

UNDER 16S  
12pm – 3pm

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

020 7686 8812 | [info@access2sports.org.uk](mailto:info@access2sports.org.uk)

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### **D&T: Textiles is back!**

This term Year 7 students have been developing their sewing skills whilst making their own monster toy. They have made their toys by hand using the running stitch and backing stitch as well as the decorative technique Applique. Students produced some fantastic work and are looking forward to making more products in Textiles.



**Miss Hylton**

**Technology**





## **Careers Information for Parents News Letter December 2019**

**Expanded Provision for Careers, PSHE and Citizenship:** Five off-curriculum 'theme' days have now been planned within the academic year in order to offer more provision and also to introduce students in Years 7 to 10 to Unifrog which is already being used in the Sixth Form so that they can log what they have done during these days and progress can be tracked through the year. The Year 8s will have a Careers Day on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020 with Financial Literacy sessions arranged by Deloitte and sessions from Career Ready and our teaching staff to help them prepare for their Options in March. We are also introducing special career related workshops for SEN students with the help of Costain Skanska and hope to offer KS3 and 4 more career talks through the year. The London Enterprise Adviser Network (LEAN) assigned to us a new enterprise advisor called Rod Dubitsky. This should be in the first paragraph where I mention more theme days for Careers.

**Career Day Tuesday November 26<sup>th</sup> 2019:** The Year 7s 'Careers' Day on Tuesday November 26<sup>th</sup> included a Financial Literacy Workshop run by Deloitte and sessions on Engineering, Design, the Commercial sector and Interview Skills and Networking run by Costain Skanska. Do please ask your children about these sessions and encourage them to write down what they have learnt in relation to future careers and how their work at school gives them the skills that they can use in the world of work.

**9A trip to the New College of the Humanities Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019:** 9A took part in a workshop at NCJ run by The Transformation Trust in partnership with Dell where they joined students from another school and were put into groups. There was a brief presentation on Law and the purpose of Law and a talk about advances in Technology. The students were told that they had landed on an island with plenty of supplies to keep going but would need to organise themselves as a society choosing the laws and technology necessary for co-existence. They had to prepare a presentation on the Dell laptops provided for each group and speak briefly about their ideas in front of all the students and volunteers from the University. A mixture of scenarios both serious and comic entertained us: punishments for breaking rules including in some cases cutting off fingers and toes. In comparison school punishments appear very civilised indeed. We even had a dictatorship in action when the concept of a holy camel as the ruling force of one island was imposed on a group in spite of dissenters.

**Deloitte Group Mentoring for Year 10s and 11s.** An introductory session took place this term for interested Year 10s and 11s and there will be monthly sessions of an hour from 3.00 to 4.00pm on a Thursday that will cover the following topics:

**16.01.20: Post-school landscape** - What are the post-GCSE paths (e.g. A Levels, college, university, apprenticeships etc.), benefits to a gap year, challenging obstacles to achieving ambitions:

**27.02.20: Introductions and interview** - Preparing for an interview, how to introduce yourself, making a good first impression, practice interview questions

**19.03.20: Effective presentation** - What makes a good presenter, developing presentation skills and addressing presenting challenges e.g. body language, managing nerves, framing the presentation, answering questions,

**23.04.2: Resilience and adaptability** - Understanding the difference between school and post-school environments, how to adapt to change (e.g. going away to university, being in the workplace), life skills development (e.g. time management, self-discipline), building resilience to change and how to manage difficulties.

### **Speakers for Schools**

We are hosting a talk by Matthew Reed, CEO of Marie Curie, who will be addressing the Year 10s on January 16<sup>th</sup> 2020.

Kanbar Hossein Bor, Deputy High Commissioner for Bangladesh spoke to a group of Sixth Formers on the 1<sup>st</sup> November and a very interesting discussion took place about his mother moving to England, his upbringing here, studying Law and then moving to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. We hope he will stay in touch with the school.

Speakers for Schools are improving their work experience platform so I hope we will be able to make more use of the opportunities that they offer.

**Work Experience:** Year 12s will be starting to do work experience placements during either the February half term, a week in the Easter Holidays, May half term, the last week of the Summer Term or Summer Holidays, though there are one or two students who have managed to find their own placements over the Christmas break. We would be very grateful if parents are able to help their daughters and sons find a placement to expand what I can offer from my database. We would like to encourage students to research possibilities, prepare CVs and then email providers who are more likely to respond if they have some information about the student and will appreciate the student showing some knowledge of the company or organisation.





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**Ms. Money**



### **More Able provisions thus far**

1) A group of students have been selected by Ted Baker to take part in a challenge by Ted Baker that looks at how to revive Britain's high streets. We were able to present our findings and ideas to some of the most important people in the company.

Students are now invited to take part in further activities based on this topic.

2) Our students have been lucky enough to attend talks by two university lecturers this term. The first talk was by Natalie Sedacca from UCL who told students about the life of a lawyer and how to apply for Law. Ms Sedacca works at University College London and was thrilled to meet some of our students. She commented on the fact that they asked excellent questions and she was very impressed with them.

The second talk of the term was by Dr James Rosbrook Thompson who came to deliver a lecture on Criminology. Students were very interested to find out more about this topic and about the job prospects presented to them afterwards. Again, they impressed Dr Rosbrook Thompson with their enthusiasm.



3) Ongoing activities for More Able students have been taking place all term such as:

\*Model United Nations: students meet weekly to discuss issues such as climate change, human trafficking and the state of modern politics.

\*Debate club- students from years 7 and 8 have been meeting to prepare for a debate championship in February.

4) A trip to Oxford is being organised for some of our More Able pupils for 30th January. This is organised by Oxford University and should prove to be an exciting day for our students.

**Miss Gill**

## Biology Fieldtrip



The Year 13 A Level Biology group visited the rocky seashore at West Runton on the North Norfolk coast on the weekend of the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> 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 for this trip.

Students at work





## Maria Fidelis celebrates European Day of Languages 2019



Students at Maria Fidelis started European Day of Languages with a guess the teacher competition in French, German, Latin, Portuguese and Spanish. The celebrations continued with a Y7-9 tutor group quiz about Europe and the many languages on offer with 7A taking the top spot! Well done, 7A! We also had stickers, pencils and wristbands to help celebrate how wonderful speaking another language is!



**Merci / Danke / Gracias**

MFL department

## Year 12 MFL exam board success!

We are thrilled to announce that Giovanna in Year 12 has been asked to help shape the future of MFL exams with AQA. She has been selected to join their Student Advisory Group to help them make key decisions, including how future exam papers might look. This is a fantastic opportunity for Giovanna where she will develop valuable skills that will help her in her future career. Well done!



MFL department

## MFL Vocab Express success at Maria Fidelis...again!



We are thrilled to announce that Maria Fidelis gained a **top 10** place in the Global Challenge for French and a **top 20** place for Spanish in October 2019. Our top eight French scorers were Ruhon, Alison, Sumayyah, Henri, Joanna, Abesalat, Josphe and Eliza. Our top two Spanish scorers were Emilia and Nadia. All students should be congratulated on their impressive performance in the following languages: **French, German, Spanish, Latin, Hebrew, Mandarin, Arabic, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Urdu and Russian.**

### French scoreboard (3<sup>rd</sup> place):

### Spanish scoreboard (11<sup>th</sup> place):

French Challenge Cup Medio

Spanish Challenge Cup Medio

School	Score
1 British Overseas School of Karachi	213,925
2 Baobab College	156,780
3 <b>Maria Fidelis Catholic School</b>	<b>142,850</b>
4 Northfleet School for Girls	126,560
5 St John's College School	94,675
6 Ardingly Prep	89,140
7 St Dunstan's School	77,215
8 The Brakenhale School	61,905
9 St Marys School	61,105
10 Wellington College Shanghai	53,760
11 Newcastle-under-Lyme School	39,850
12 Ernulf Academy	38,030
13 St Bede's and St Joseph's Catholic College	36,410
14 Manor Church of England Academy	34,940
15 King's College Taunton	33,945
16 Aloha College Marbella	32,540
17 Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School	30,645
18 Sarah Bonnell School	30,500
19 Archbishop Sentamu Academy	26,045
20 The Lammas School and Sports College	23,475

School	Score
1 Northfleet School for Girls	165,480
2 Tudor Grange Samworth Academy	165,300
3 Newcastle-under-Lyme School	158,075
4 St Bede's and St Joseph's Catholic College	75,855
5 St Marys School	54,935
6 Wellington College Shanghai	33,955
7 Sarah Bonnell School	33,670
8 Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School	25,080
9 King's College Taunton	20,485
10 Ardingly Prep	19,230
11 <b>Maria Fidelis Catholic School</b>	<b>18,535</b>
12 The Lammas School and Sports College	14,280
13 Sinai Jewish Primary School	14,240
14 St Catherine's School	13,300
15 Boston High School	11,525
16 Elizabeth College	10,665
17 Heanor Gate Science College	9,905
18 St George's International School Switzerland	6,080
19 St James School	5,960
20 St Gregory's High School Warrington	2,600

### Maria Fidelis scoreboard:

Student	Score
1 Ruhon Ahmed	20,000
2 Alison Freyberg Teran	17,135
3 Sumayyah Rahman	10,175
4 Henri Alonga	9,680
5 Nzeako Emilia	9,165
6 Afrin Nadia	7,005
7 Joanna Peralta Naranjo	6,255
8 Abesalat Genene	5,385
9 Joseph Musingay-Alexander	4,600
10 Eliza Akther	4,440



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. [www.vocabexpress.com](http://www.vocabexpress.com)

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

MFL department

Growing together through Christ with courage, confidence and dignity

## Berlin / Auschwitz trip – July 2019



Miss Speller, Mr Coombes & Miss Henderson accompanied 25 Year 10, Year 11 & Year 12 students to Berlin from 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> July. The trip was enjoyed by all: new friendships were made, words in new languages learned, and superb weather appreciated!

### ***In the words of Reyah (Y12):***

The trip to Berlin and Kraków was short but sweet. The fact that it was relatively short meant that there was no time to waste and each student that came along had to appreciate every piece of architecture they saw, every bite of food they took and every step they took on hallowed ground...before the moment was over!

After a very early start at Heathrow, we finally arrived in Berlin where we caught a glimpse into the very socialist life of East Germans, upon a trip to the DDR museum, in the heart of the 'Museumsinsel', which is a very important part of what makes Berlin. Following this, we took a walk through the city in the heat and admired the edifices of Berlin as we made our way to Checkpoint Charlie...another prized piece of history that shapes the city. The duration of our time in Berlin was spent sightseeing – we visited well-known tourist attractions like the Reichstag, the Brandenburger Tor and Alexanderplatz, where we spent 3 long hours enjoying the city, shopping for souvenirs and trying German delicacies like Currywurst and Berliners! One of the highlights of our time in Berlin was most definitely our ascension to the top of the Fernsehturm, where we fully got to appreciate the city in all its beauty and clearly see the effects of a key point in history – the east-west divide, through seeing the differences in the buildings of the city.

With a 6am start the following day, we slept our lives away along a bumpy highway on the coach to a whole new city. After 7 hours, we finally made it to the beautiful city of Kraków. We were greeted by a friendly tour guide who took us all around the city and showed us the key parts of the heritage there, such as the Wawel Castle and the Collegium Luridicum, whilst teaching some students Polish along the way. This was followed by a pleasant evening meal of traditional Polish food (tradycyjne polskie potrawy) back at the hotel. The next day, which was sadly the last day of the trip, was a very humbling day for most, with a trip to Auschwitz-Birkenau, the place where over 1 million people met their tragic death under Hitler. The aspects of the Auschwitz Museum really put into perspective just how spine-chilling this era of history was and how many people it truly affected. Although distressing, this part of the trip was definitely a once-in-a-lifetime experience! The afternoon was spent enjoying the city of Kraków, where some students decided to ride electric scooters through the town centre, whilst others preferred to spend some time by the lake and absorb the atmosphere...which brought us to the end of our time in Poland, and the end of a very enjoyable trip.





**Reyah (Y12) hat auch geschrieben:**

Die Reise nach Berlin hat mir als Deutsch-Studentin eine ganz neue Perspektive gegeben. Ich studiere einen Film mit dem Titel "Goodbye Lenin" und kann nach meinem Fahrt ins DDR-Museum die Aspekte des Films und die "Ostalgie" (Nostalgie für den Osten), die sich durch den Film zieht, voll und ganz einschätzen. Durch den Besuch des Brandenburger Tores, des Reichstages und des Fernsehturmes ist es jetzt einfacher geworden, den Kontext meines Studiums zu verstehen, da ich den Unterschied in der Landschaft Westdeutschlands und Ostdeutschlands mit meinen eigenen Augen von oben der Turm sehen konnte. Die Reise nach Auschwitz hat mir geholfen, mich mit den Juden und ihren Erlebnissen während des Holocausts vertraut zu machen und hat mir die Augen geöffnet, warum Deutschland so wie heute ist - zum Beispiel gibt es heute das Holocaust-Mahnmal im Herzen Berlins. Diese Reise hat nicht nur meine Ausbildung verbessert, sondern auch meine Liebe zur deutschen Kultur vertieft, indem sie mich neuen Dingen ausgesetzt hat. Ich durfte mit Deutschen interagieren und deutsche Köstlichkeiten wie Currywurst und Berliner probieren ... Dinge, die ich vor dieser Reise wahrscheinlich nicht getan hätte.

**Abesalat (Y10), who studies French, also impressively kept a diary whilst on the trip, an excerpt of which we have included below:**

Aujourd'hui c'est mardi le deux juillet 2019 :

08h00 : Mon lit est très confortable mais c'est difficile de descendre ! A cause de ça, j'étais en retard.

08h45 : Je suis arrivée au rez-de-chaussée et Mademoiselle Speller était énervée ! J'avais peur !

13h30 : Nous avons visité le Reichstag et le Brandenburger Tor. Nous sommes restés jusqu'à 16h00.

17h30 : Nous avons visité le 'TV Tower' et c'était vraiment magnifique ! Il y avait une vue panoramique !

21h00 : Nous sommes arrivés à l'hôtel. Nous n'avons eu qu'une heure pour préparer nos valises pour demain (nous irons en Pologne). Aujourd'hui était le meilleur jour ; nous nous sommes très bien amusés !

Editor's note: Miss Speller only had to make three minor corrections! – Très bien fait, Abesalat !

## Y13 Graduation – June 2019



On 21st June, we celebrated Year 13 students' achievements as they completed their time with us at Maria Fidelis. Along with a video montage of their time here, all students received awards, their Leavers' Hoodies, and then all Sixth Formers celebrated outside with drinks and a pizza van! We wish the Y13 students all the best with their A-level results and with their futures.

## Y12 German students' scholarship to Germany



We are extremely proud of Reyah and Shania who have both won a German government-sponsored bursary to spend two weeks with a German family in the summer to improve their linguistic abilities. Only 25 students in the country were chosen, and it was on the basis of an outstanding essay, so they have done really well! Miss Speller won the bursary when she was in Year 12 (hence the newspaper article) so we are all extra delighted. Sehr gut gemacht, Mädels!



## New Sixth Form Leadership Team – May 2019

Following a rigorous election process, we are delighted to announce the new leadership team as follows:



### Sixth Form Leadership Team 2019-2020



**HEAD GIRL**  
Aiseosa Eweka-Okera



**HEAD BOY**  
Gabriel Marchant Parma



**DEPUTY HEAD GIRL**  
Reyah Stephen



**GUILLEMET HOUSE CAPTAIN**  
Nazifa Hussain



**LOYOLA HOUSE CAPTAIN**  
Dominika Mamla



**D'HOUET HOUSE CAPTAIN**  
Shania Sergeant



**FABER HOUSE CAPTAIN**  
Enitan Momoh





### **FCJ Social Justice Project**

As part of the FCJ Bicentenary celebrations, Maria Fidelis' Sixth Form Leadership Team, along with their counterparts from Gumley House, Upton Hall School and Bellerive, have come up with social justice projects that they are putting into action in the school.

#### ***Aiseosa (Head Girl) explains:***

Over the last couple of weeks the newly-appointed members of the student leadership team have been working on two social justice projects. This includes working to support rough sleepers (and reduce the stigma) whilst simultaneously aiming to introduce a zero waste canteen in the school.

The first project would involve distributing bags which contain hygiene products and non-perishable foods around the area. The student leadership team have written to various businesses in order to request for financial assistance. Businesses such as Ted Baker are willing to help, with donations coming in from other local businesses too.

The zero-waste canteen has involved meeting with Caterlink, the catering provider for Maria Fidelis, which has allowed the team to suggest ways of significantly reducing waste. The school's Business Manager, Ms Ewins, attended the meetings. As a result Caterlink have agreed to allow hot and cold leftover food to be given to Euston Foodbank and using a compost bin.

We aim to launch both projects officially in September.

### **Keir Starmer visit – 14th June**

On 14th June, Y10 and Y12 attended a talk given by Sir Keir Starmer, who is our local MP (for Holborn & St Pancras) and Shadow Secretary for Brexit (Lab). Students grilled him on a range of topics, from his time as a lawyer acting in the McLibel case, to his time as an MP – even answering a question on whether he would challenge Jeremy Corbyn to be leader of the Labour Party if there were a Labour leadership contest similar to that of the Conservatives!



## Speakers for Schools high profile talks



Through Speakers for Schools, the Sixth Form had a talk from Rachel Jupp, the Editor of BBC's Panorama, in May. Rachel discussed the ethical and moral challenges she faces in her role, as well as some of the dangerous and libellous cases she's taken on. The students were captivated and there may be many a journalist inspired after the talk!

We also had a talk from the Rt. Hon. Lady Nichola Mendelsohn, CEO of Facebook in Europe, the Middle East & Africa, and "the most powerful woman in the British tech industry", according to the Daily Telegraph. She spoke about her career, and answered questions about her role in the Jewish community, in the Labour party and as a mum of four! She was inspiring and interesting and both Year 10 and Year 12 students were captivated.

### Sixth Form Lecture Series

We have had an enormous variety of speakers for the Sixth Form and for some further down the school.

- **Pushpinder Saini QC** delivered a talk on the Human Rights Act
- **Professor Hugh Montgomery**, Professor of Intensive Care at UCL, spoke to us about what climbing Mt Everest and other extreme activities does to the human body
- **Dr Helen Glew** from the University of Westminster spoke to us about the evolution of women's rights
- **Jess Wade** spoke to us about getting women into science and how she creates a new Wikipedia page about female scientists every day.
- **Peter McDonough** from Ted Baker spoke to us about the Death of the High Street and the impact of online retailers on our society.
- **Dan Kelly** from Ted Baker launched a campaign about nut allergies via social media which went viral, and he explained how and why this came about.

These talks are designed to broaden the students' minds and give them food for thought outside of their daily classroom studies. We are hugely grateful to these speakers for giving up their time to talk to our students.

### King's College London MFL Visits

In June, Y12 French and Y12 German students were lucky enough to be visited by academics from the MFL departments at KCL. They had 3-hour workshops, developing their knowledge of Francophone/German culture which will help with their A-levels, as well as conversing entirely in the language!

**Donna et Dominika (Y12 French) ont écrit :**



Lors de la séance de révision avec le professeur de français à Kings College de Londres et avec une ancienne étudiante, nous avons parlé du cinéma français. Avec Monsieur Pascal nous avons développé notre vocabulaire sur ce sujet en apprenant des nouveaux mots et leurs synonymes. Ensuite nous avons parlé des nouvelles techniques cinématographiques que nous avons pu lier à notre analyse du film étudié en classe - "Au Revoir les Enfants" de Louis Malle. Par contre, avec l'ancienne étudiante nous avons fait un jeu de rôle pendant lequel nous avons pu améliorer nos expressions orales tout en utilisant le nouveau vocabulaire. Cette séance nous a été très utile puisque nous avons eu l'opportunité de pratiquer notre français avec des 'native speakers', mais aussi de développer une meilleure connaissance et appréciation de la culture du cinéma français.

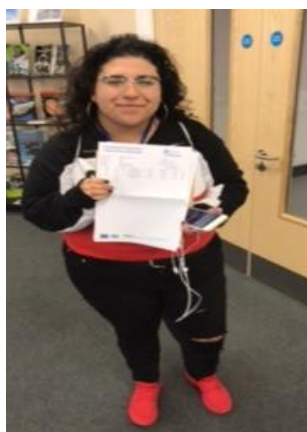


## A-level results 2019

We celebrated some really fantastic A-level results this year which also demonstrated a massive improvement. The main headlines were:

- 100% pass rate (94% in 2018)
- 48% A\*-B grades (22% in 2018)
- 76% A\*-C grades (53% in 2018)

## **University destinations**



**Bryanna (L)** obtained ABB in Biology, Chemistry and Maths respectively and is off to UCL to study Pharmacy.

**Mya (L)** received ABE in Sociology, Biology and Chemistry and is off to the Royal Veterinary College to study Animal Biology.

**Dulcie (R)** received BBC in Psychology, Art and Maths and is off to Oxford Brookes to read Psychology.

**Daniela (R)** who arrived here in Y9 speaking no English, obtained ABC in Spanish, French and Sociology and is off to KCL to read French and Spanish.

**Aziza (not pictured)** received AAB in Psychology, Sociology and Biology respectively and is also off to UCL to read Psychology.

**Shabnam (not pictured)** received BCD in Psychology, Biology and Chemistry and is off to Royal Holloway to read Biology.

**Hermon (not pictured)** received ABC in Psychology, Biology and Chemistry and is off to Queen Mary, also to read Psychology.

**Isidore (not pictured)** arrived here in Y12 with no GCSEs owing to past issues, and left us with A\*BB in Art, English Lit and French, and is off to the Royal Drawing School to study Art.

**Marina (not pictured)** obtained ABB in Sociology, Psychology and French and is off to the University of Warwick to read Sociology.

Other destinations included the Universities of Kent, Coventry, Northampton, Brunel, Queen Mary, Cardiff, Roehampton and London Met.

Only one student has decided not to accept a university place and take a gap year, and one is doing an apprenticeship.

## Macmillan Bake Sale – 27th September

The Sixth Form, with the help of Ms Johnson, made this a phenomenally successful bake sale! In what we consider must be an MF record, we raised £468.10!

## The Smiles Campaign

This project is led by half of our Student Leadership Team. It involves distributing tote bags which contain hygiene products, sanitary items and non-perishable foods to rough sleepers around the area. The girls will assemble the bags and distribute them themselves; this was based on an idea by their friend Tahiyat Khan, who Ms Speller nominated for a Jack Petchey Award in 2017 for a smaller-scale version of this project.



In October, the girls in the Leadership Team working on the Smiles Campaign pitched their ideas to the Urban Partners Executive Committee, which was composed of representatives from local business such as LNER, HS1, HS2, St Pancras Hotel Group, Eurostar, Springer Nature, Lendlease, Argent, Ted Baker, The Guardian, The Office Group, Green & Fortune and Havas. This was a big challenge for the girls but they rose admirably to it, as well as answering some seriously difficult questions, and in so doing secured £1000 in funding from the UP Board. This is an enormous achievement. They also managed to persuade Havas to print the tote bags for them, and all businesses are now also donating items to go into the Smiles bags.

In addition, Lendlease were so impressed that they offered to run a professional project management style 3-week course for the team, which includes financial budgeting among other things.

There is a donations box in Reception and the students also delivered assemblies to all year groups to encourage them to get involved with our Smiles Campaign.



At the beginning of this month, donations collected by the businesses started arriving:

- 285 socks from DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton
- 100 shower gels & 40 hairbrushes from HS1 and Green & Fortune
- 500 food products from Ted Baker & Argent
- Toothbrushes from Havas
- Gloves from Lendlease

We have been completely overwhelmed the generosity of our local business partners and the students cannot believe how successful their campaign has been. Reyah commented: "I did not imagine this could get so big!". Well done, girls!

### **Sixth Form Trips**

We took a group of students to Gumley House for their annual Sixth Form conference, which this year was on the theme 'Under 16 – Do I Count?' There were some prolific speakers there, including the local MP Ruth Cadbury.

The next day, some students were accompanied to Harrow School by Ms Speller for a talk by Cherie Blair on Women and Education. Labib (Y12) was a big fan:



On the 16th October, we attended to a talk by Mrs Cherie Blair CBE QC at Harrow School. It was a fantastically enlightening and enriching experience where she discussed her passion for the topic 'Women and Education' to students across the whole of North London.

After hearing her wonderful words, I delved into the depths of modern and past inequality in women, how they are treated in their line of work today, and their virtual 'expulsion' from opportunities that men are 'more entitled' to even in modern day society; I was able to learn about the injustice that they faced, and face, on an academic and human scale.

Gently and gracefully, she discussed the notable achievements of various women from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, including the likes of Florence Nightingale and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Her impassioned speech called us to create change for how women should be treated by being given the same opportunities, particularly in the world of work but also in life in general, in a manner that was nothing less than inspiring.

Her talk was uplifting, and has encouraged me to learn more about topics and problems in the world such as these, which I hope will be improved in the future by the youth of today, so ably inspired by voices such as Mrs Blair's today.





## **Two Y12 students head to Auschwitz**

Meadow & Tory (Y12) were lucky enough to win places on the Lessons from Auschwitz project. Before a day trip to the infamous death camp, they had a day's workshop in which they explored themes surrounding the Holocaust. Meadow wrote us her account below:

My Auschwitz visit was a real eye-opener to say the least. I know it sounds cliché to say that the visit opened my eyes but in all honesty I've never really taken on-board the real consequences of what happened to these people. I am very grateful to the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' project for giving me the opportunity to visit this place where so many innocent lives were taken from this world, as I feel I gained a real connection to the individuals persecuted by the Nazis; not just the '6 million' that we hear of in the classroom.

From the outset, I felt the dark atmosphere surrounding us in the camp. The feeling of our footfalls on the stones being only the shadows of those who walked barefoot whilst their feet began to blister was traumatizing. I could only think of the mothers who could not help, let alone heal, their children and the elderly who could hardly walk as it was alongside the cuts on their feet with the Nazis pointing their guns and shouting for the herds to hurry up. We reached a point where in the distance I could see the entrance reading the words 'Arbeit Macht Frei' in English meaning 'work will set you free'; unfortunately, this could not be further from the truth and the further we walked I got the impression the further away from freedom we were getting. Ironically, we were just visiting and yet I felt like I was trapped in the walls separating man from man - after all we are all people. The exclusion from the general public was the stepping stone for the Nazis to turn a man into a beast but also another man into an animal, a scavenger that would do anything for a piece of bread. The separation between luxury and necessity turned into a very fine line between these walls and I almost felt guilty for eating my dinner that night and leaving that what I didn't want, as my scraps would've been another's treasure.

I feel very emotionally connected to the Holocaust since my visit and I've been really interested in finding out more. I'm currently reading a book called 'The Tattooist of Auschwitz' and watched a film called 'The Pianist'; it again reminded me of the individuals that were tragically a part of this monstrosity. The titles themselves show that these people could 'tattoo' and play the piano; they were humans and they walked and talked, got hungry and thirsty, celebrated birthdays and Christmas just like the rest of us with just one major difference; a huge majority of them died due to one man's anger and hatred. On the flip side, we must take into consideration the persecutors who were also humans with emotions. The persecutors alongside the persecuted were normal people with families and it's a thrilling thought that the same ingenuity and intellect that built these great trains that travelled from a wide spread of destinations in Europe, and those architects that designed these great buildings, when flipped on the side of evil, were able to create a train that people paid to get on into a camp of death (allegedly paying for their own death). The architects that built these gas chambers that killed hundreds of people within twenty minutes withheld the intelligence of creating buildings that people admire, yet they chose to use this intelligence for the good of evil. In this way, they are responsible, though not directly involved in persecuting the Jews; they are partly to blame for the death of mothers, brothers, grandparents etc. This experience was key in highlighting this for me because I never really thought of it this way, in the classroom we only learn about

the Nazis and we haven't much time to think about all the others involved in the death of the Jews.

A survivor of the Holocaust, Elie Weisel, once said, 'To hear a witness, you are now a witness' and after hearing a testimony from Eve Kegerl I feel as though it is now my duty to educate those on the lives of the Jews and not just the number but the individuals that left their glasses and keys behind that still remain behind the cabinet glass at the camp - and because of this, they will be remembered. I know it is impossible to remember 6 million people but what I ask is that you find the links between you and them and once you have, they will be remembered. For example, if you have a sister or a mother or a father you love dearly, you can find a link between yourself and the families who slept on wooden beds with a hunger far worse than an empty fridge and in this way they are being remembered. Leaving the camp, the cold chill that hit us in puffer jackets with our layers underneath was only a fraction of the snow/winds that killed these beaten people in stripped pyjamas.

The LFA project is so important and I highly recommend it as it inspires those to remember, after all 'those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it'.

### Christmas comes to MF Sixth Form!



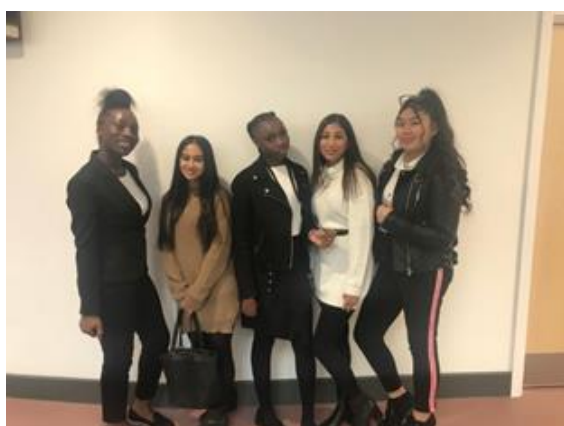
On Monday 1st December, Reyah, Eni and Deja helped to put the Christmas tree up in the Sixth Form common room.

We are also looking forward to celebrating Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 13th December, and to celebrating our students' achievements in their Rewards Assembly on Thursday 18th December.



### Y11 Sixth Form Taster Day – 20<sup>th</sup> November

We held this annual event to give Y11s an idea of what the Sixth Form is like. The students wear dress code for the day and select 3 subject sessions to attend. It was a huge success and all students applied to the Sixth Form at the end.



### Miss Speller – Head of Sixth Form

Growing together through Christ with courage, confidence and dignity



 *Merry Christmas* 

**Students return to School on:**



**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January at 10.20am**



*And a*  
 *Happy New Year!* 



# Met Police Christmas Tree Appeal



## Give a child a gift

Pick a gift for a child aged between one-week to 17-years-old and deliver it unwrapped to Kentish Town or Islington Police Station.

Your gift will be given to a child living in Camden/Islington, before Christmas Day, who is currently being cared for by foster parents, in a residential care home, in a refuge, in hospital, or from a low-income family

## Thank you



#MetXmasTree

# *The Metropolitan Police's* **CHRISTMAS TREE PROJECT**

**This Christmas, donate a present to a child in your borough who might not otherwise receive one.**

**To take part visit our website and choose your local area**

**[www.met.police.uk/christmastree](http://www.met.police.uk/christmastree)**

**If you would prefer to donate money to provide presents, visit**

**[www.met.police.uk/donate](http://www.met.police.uk/donate) or text METX99 £2/£5/£10 TO 70070**

*Thank you*

*Help a child have a better Christmas*