

# CONVENT times

ISSUE 12  
SUMMER 2019

## ANNIE

the Musical

Page 20

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Expedition 2019

Page 16

## PLUS

*Brent Athletics Success*

*Our Own Cultural Ambassador*

*Visits:*

*Old Bailey*

*St Mary's University*

*House of Commons*

*Mandela Exhibition*

*and more...*

# PHILIP FOWKE

celebrates CJM's musical ambition.

Read the full story on page 4



# Welcome to Issue 12

Convent Times Issue 12 / Summer 2019 Edition Contents

Message from Mrs McGowan

Page 3

International concert pianist celebrates CJM's ambition to be first in England to teach using only Steinway pianos

Page 4

Brent Athletics Success

Page 6

Sports Day

Page 7

News from the RE Department

Page 8

Interview with Ms McCombe

Page 10

Chaplaincy News

Page 11

Politics students witness history being made

Page 14

Duke of Edinburgh Awards Expedition 2019

Page 16

Annie the Musical

Page 20

Research school visit to St Mary's University

Page 24

Farewell to Year 13

Page 26

Interview with Ms Williams

Page 28

We are wonderful!

Page 30

CJMLC News

Page 32

Dates for your diary

Page 43

Message from

# Mrs McGowan.



## Welcome to our summer edition of the Convent Times and a new style of publication!

We have certainly enjoyed the recent warm weather and have made the most of the outdoor life with another very successful Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver Expedition, a summer of sports, and back for the first time in a while, the Convent Summer Fair!

It is always nostalgic, at this end point of the academic year, to look back over what has been achieved and accomplished and to reflect on how far we have developed as a school. Highlights for me this year have been the times we have come together as a close school family and community to celebrate. I recall the first ever House Christmas Morning, the opening of our new Dance studio by our dance patron Josefina Gabrielle, and the first Convent Dance Show; the official beginning of our Steinway School with the amazing inaugural recital given by our Patron Philip Fowke, and the academic success and reputation we have started to build as a Research School.

The Convent has been alive with activity and remains a very special place of

learning, development and, above all, spiritual formation and devotion to faith. Our students continue to excel academically but also to embrace the opportunities that a full and creative arts education can give them.

With a busy year now reaching its end it is time to wind down, switch off for a while and refresh and re-nourish ourselves to prepare for more good things in the coming year.

I wish all our Convent students, families and friends of our beautiful school a peaceful and restful summer.

God's blessings on you all,

Mrs L McGowan | HEADMISTRESS



# International concert pianist celebrates CJM's ambition to be **first in England** to teach using only Steinway pianos.

International concert pianist Philip Fowke gave a concert in May to recognise the Convent as the first and only state funded school in England currently enrolled in the 'All Steinway School Initiative' - a commitment that demonstrates excellence in the study of music.

CJM has made a pledge to become the first state funded 'Steinway School'. Until now, Steinway pianos have only been available in England's top fee paying schools. By entering into the All Steinway School Initiative the school is demonstrating a long-term commitment to excellence by providing music students and staff with the absolute best equipment possible for the study of music.

Music students will learn and play on one of three Steinway & Sons pianos, one of which is the prestigious Model D full size concert grand piano - usually reserved for the finest concert platforms in the world. CJM is now the only state school in the country to own this latest model.

"I passionately believe in the girls in our school and I want them to have access to the best facilities and the same opportunities afforded to those in independent schools. As a pianist and ardent supporter of the arts, to have Philip come and play for the pupils, parents and CJM community was a unique and wonderful experience. I hope last night inspires our girls to be the best they can be knowing that we are all behind them. This exciting initiative not only demonstrates to the community that the Convent greatly invests in the children who attend our school but also exhibits our commitment to high level arts education."

**Louise McGowan** | HEADMISTRESS

"We are very proud that the Convent of Jesus and Mary is the first state school in the UK to own a new Steinway Concert model D."

**Craig Terry** | MANAGING DIRECTOR, STEINWAY UK



"It was a memorable, enjoyable evening. Lovely to see the girls again who helped me choose the Steinway piano for the school. We did a good job together!"

**Philip Fowke**

"Amazing. I was so glad to be invited. I hope we can encourage these sorts of performances to take place in other schools."

**Councillor Ezeajuglu** | MAYOR OF BRENT

"Uplifting, joyful and thought provoking. I feel privileged to have been invited."

**Father Andrew** | OUR LADY OF WILLESDEN

"Our community needs more concerts like this!"

**Janet Wathen** | LOCAL RESIDENT

"I enjoyed the music and couldn't stop clapping."

**Millie Burnaby** (AGED 6)

"A wonderful opportunity to hear beautifully played music. The first of many we hope."

**Danny Finnegan** | CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

"Amazing. What a privilege to be so close to extraordinary talent."

**Josefina Gabrielle** | WEST END MUSICAL STAR

Steinway artist Philip Fowke has agreed to be a Patron of the Convent and performed The Art of Encore at the school's inaugural concert in celebration of its commitment to excellence in the study of music.



# Brent Athletics Success!

"Excellent team and individual performances saw the year 7 team finish 5th and the year 9 team finish 2nd out of 14 schools from around the borough in the Brent Athletics Championship. Both year groups had a number of podium finishes with a couple of outstanding performances earning first place in their event. Three year 9 students were even selected to represent Brent at the Middlesex Athletics Championships. Well done to all!"

Mr James | PE TEACHER

**Godwin | 7M**  
Shot Put - 1st Place - 6.30m

**Sara | 9C**  
1500m - 2nd Place - 6:13:94s

**Middx Athletics  
Representatives**

**Nevaeh | 7C**  
Long Jump - 2nd Place - 3.69m

**Litea | 9A**  
Javelin - 3rd Place - 13.30m

**Roisin | 9M - Shot Put**

**Rosin | 9M**  
Shot Put - 1st Place - 7.50m

**Favour | 9S**  
High Jump - 3rd Place

**Sara | 9C - 1500m**

**Favour | 9S - High Jump**

"Brent Athletics was very fun. I got to see many people showcase their talents and feel the intense atmosphere and the area filled with competitive school kids from across Brent. For my event I did javelin and came third overall. I enjoyed being able to go to Brent Athletics and I look forward to going next year."

Litea | 9A

"We had a great day on the track at Willesden Sport Centre. It was an opportunity to express our talents and see how we compared to other school athletes from around the borough of Brent."

Sara | 9C

When I attended Brent Athletics I was really nervous because I only did one practice with Ms Goodwin and I was practising with year 10s and my throws were basically nothing to theirs so I started to feel like I couldn't do it. So once I went I just had lots of bad vibes but then it was time to go and I only thought good thoughts because I knew I had to be an ambassador not only for the school but for myself so I knew I could do that. Then they were calling names from 10th place and my name wasn't called up and I was getting really low then I hear "1st goes to Godwin from Convent" and I'm like "WHAT?!" I was so proud of myself and all I did was believe in myself and try. So now I feel that if you try your hardest you'll get there!

Godwin | 7M



# Sports Day

We are looking forward to the annual school Sports Day which is always hosted at Willesden Sports Centre. This year for the first time we will be supporting our House teams and this will include a cheerleading competition! Routines are in rehearsal and teams will be performing accompanied by a live drum performance from our GCSE music students. Check next issue for photographs from what promises to be a spectacularly fun day.





# News from the RE department

## Stations Of The Cross

### Year 8

Before the Easter break Year 8 studied the topic of Paschal Mystery which investigates the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus and the links with the Catholic Mass. As part of our learning based around Holy Week and Sacrifice Year 8 visited the chapel and experienced the Stations of the Cross that Catholics around the world attend each year throughout Lent.

"I have never experienced the Stations of the Cross so this was a really helpful way to reflect on the final hours of Jesus' life and see how his pain and suffering influences the Catholic Church today."

Eva | 8C

"Year 8 were a delight and although the session was based around the most traumatic moments of Jesus' life they were able to take inspiration from Jesus' own strength and dignity in his final hours. Next year, let's hope for some good weather that enables us to experience the Stations of the Cross outside!"

Ms Maguire | RE TEACHER

"It was a peaceful opportunity to reflect on Jesus' Passion – although it is sad thinking about the pain Jesus went through I am thankful for Jesus' sacrifice."

Amanda | 8M

## Synagogue Trip

### Year 9

Visiting the Central London Synagogue each year has always been a delight and this year has been no different. Year 9 started their RE GCSE just after Christmas and that was supplemented by our annual trip to the synagogue.

"As always, our girls made us very proud and showed their already developed knowledge through their articulate and philosophical questions. One of the key topics that our girls were interested in were the different roles of males and females within Judaism. We were reminded that the diversity within Judaism goes far beyond that of just Orthodox and Reform strands and that the role of women within Judaism is one of inspiration and nurture."

Ms Maguire | RE TEACHER

"I learnt that women and men don't sit together so they don't get distracted and can concentrate on praying as it's important to them. In Orthodox Synagogues women sit at the top and the men downstairs. However, if you are under 13 you can sit where you want. In Orthodox Judaism a boy has a Bar Mitzvah when he is 13 but girls are seen as mature at 12."

Allison | 9C

"I found the synagogue trip really fun and exciting as I learnt so many new things; for example, I never knew that Jewish people weren't allowed to eat meat with dairy as it isn't considered Kosher."

Ana-Sophia | 9F

"I enjoyed the trip, I had never been to a synagogue before and now I'm interested in going again to see how Jews worship. I learnt that it's important that the lamp has to be lit always; it's called the ner tamid and is a sign of God's presence."

Trifia | 9A



## INTERVIEW *with Ms McCombe*

Hi, I'm Vanessa 12F, and I'm studying for A-levels in History, Government & Politics and Spanish. I interviewed Ms. McCombe about her highlights of this school year and her favourite things about her role as a form tutor, a History and Politics teacher and our school Parliament Co-ordinator. First things first.

How has the school year treated you so far?

*Pretty great. I've had the best classes, all the girls are great and I feel it was good for me in terms of self-development. I feel more and more grateful to be working here at the school as the girls are fantastic.*

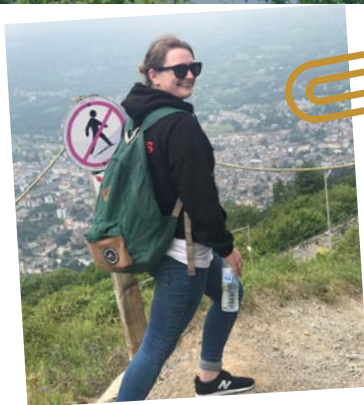
What has been your highlight of the year?

*My yr12 History and Politics class, having the BBC come in [for our Prime Minister's Questions – PMQ's]. It was nice to know that the country could see how amazing Convent girls are. Also, one of my funniest moments of the year was watching House Katherine bribe people with sweets and the get obliterated in PMQ's.*

Later, we began discussing the Parliament a little bit, and her role in its initiation.

Many people agree that the Parliament is one of their highlights of the school year. What made you want to reform the school council?

*I always thought that democracy in this country is quite exclusive, so what happens is people go through education and don't care about politics. For me, it was about the school Parliament being a learning moment and empowering them to become involved with politics.*



Who do you think is the best House Party?

*Apart from my House, Cecilia, I would have to say Katherine.*

We turned to talking about being a form tutor.

What are your highlights about being a form tutor?

*There's a lot of things, I think it is so lovely watching the students grow into young women and also, the love in that room, you start your day with beautiful people and end it with beautiful people.*

After this, I played a game of 'call and response' with Miss McCombe.

Convent	Family
Library	Books
Blue	Convent
Playground	Kids
Parliament	Great

Lastly, I asked Miss McCombe to tell a joke which she was unable to do. Fortunately!

Anyone interested in interviewing a member of staff or another student for this spot in the next newsletter please let Ms Malsher in the library know.

## Chaplaincy News

## Grenfell Memorial

June 14th this year marked the 2-year anniversary of the Grenfell fire. We had mass before school to remember all who died and all those whose lives have forever been marked by the tragedy. We prayed especially for Jessica, who was a year 8 student here at CJM when she died. May she rest in peace.

Mrs Sylvester-Charles | Chaplain



## Rosary Workshop

The Religious Sisters of Jesus and Mary developed a Liturgy for the Year 7s based on the rosary. Each student was able to participate in the workshop and knowledge was shared on the history and the meaning of the rosary. Did you know each of the Mysteries is based on an aspect of the life of Jesus? The students then had the opportunity to make their own rosary and the colour of the beads chosen was based on the Missionary Rosary; the countries where there are RJM schools in the world. Students were able to ask the Sisters questions and spend time working with their peers. The Liturgy allowed students to pray the rosary and spend reflective time with each other.

Mrs Sylvester-Charles | Chaplain

*"I thought it was a good learning experience because we got to learn where the rosary originated. I also found it fun and creative because we got to design our very own Rosary."*

Pinelopi | 7A





# Chaplaincy News

## "Let Us Adore"

Each school in the diocese was invited to attend the Adoremus Mass; the theme was Our Eucharistic Journey and it was the end of a year-long celebration allowing our faith community to have different opportunities for prayer. The mass was celebrated by His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols. We took several year 8 students to represent CJM.



## Lourdes Pilgrimage

Each year CJM encourages and supports a group of 6th form students to attend the Diocese of Westminster pilgrimage to Lourdes as volunteers, known as 'red caps'. Our journey started in September, beginning with fundraising. Through the year, with the help of the rest of the school we've raised money to fund our places on the pilgrimage. Coming closer to the leaving point, we've attended a training session where we learnt about health and safety, safeguarding and how to push wheelchairs appropriately. We then celebrated a mass which brought all the red caps together as one. We are all very much looking forward to this experience.

Chelsea | 12C



## May is Mary's month!

During May, throughout the Catholic Church, special devotions honour the Virgin Mary. It is considered the season of the beginning of new life. Every year on this day a procession is held which is a walk from Our Lady of Willesden Church to the Convent of Jesus and Mary and back to the church. This was the first time I was at the procession and I was impressed by how the community comes together to devote themselves to Mary. Parishioners from the Church in Walsingham joined us too. Walsingham is the National Shrine in England which both Anglicans and Catholics visit as a place of pilgrimage. Throughout the walk, we said the rosary and sang the Alleluia!

Daniella | 12C



"It was nice to see so many different schools join together to pray as a community."

Sionainn | 8F

"It was a wonderful experience because we got to celebrate the Adoremus mass with my friends and other schools."

Nana | 8M

"I enjoyed the experience of going to Westminster cathedral for the first time! The mass was amazing and educational."

Skyla | 8M

"I had fun travelling with my friends to Westminster Cathedral. The experience was wonderful and I will always remember going to the Cathedral representing the school."

Ashira | 8M

"It was a memorable experience to be part of the May procession as it brought the community together. It was my first time and it surprised me to see how the local people come together to devote their time to prayer. As part of the Lourdes group I got the opportunity to help out with serving refreshments after the procession as part of our fundraising efforts. We were so grateful for the support from all who attended."

Aezelle | 12



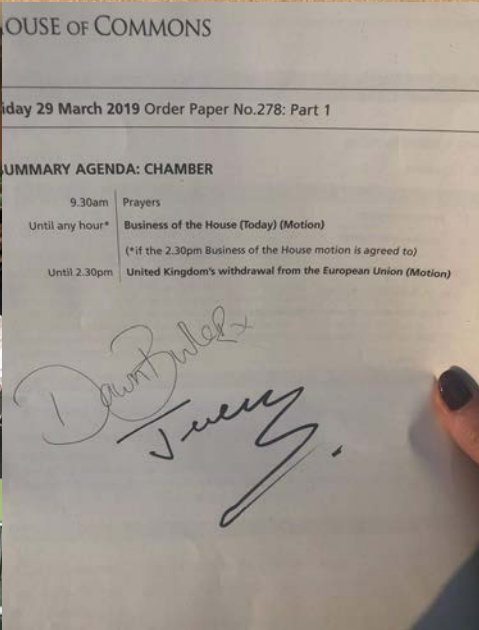
# Politics students witness history being made

A Level Politics students were exposed to all kinds of politics in our latest Parliament trip. They dodged protestors who were out in full force as it was supposed to be the day that Britain left the European Union. We visited the Supreme Court too and had a look around the museum in order to deepen our understanding of the judicial system and, of course, see where some of them will be working in the future as the top judges in the country.

We also witnessed history in action: as we sat in the chamber of the House of Commons we saw the defeat of Theresa May's Brexit deal. It was exciting seeing all the MPs in the chamber and watching them react live to the vote. This was then followed by a very informative tour of Parliament and a workshop on Select Committees.

"They were also lucky enough to speak with our local MP, Dawn Butler, who always gives generously of her time. She gave us a copy of the day's debate signed by herself and the Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn. Truly a memorable experience."

Ms McCombe | HEAD OF GOVERNMENT & POLITICS



"The Parliament trip was a great opportunity to learn more about how it works, especially the Select Committees. Understanding it better will be helpful when discussing and writing about the functions of Parliament in class."

Chelsea | 12C

"The trip to Parliament was a really great experience which brought our A-level course to life; helping us understand the workings of the House of Lords, Commons and the Select Committees. The highlight of the day was definitely witnessing history - May's deal being rejected."

Heaven | 12C

"This trip was really informative and enjoyable. It was definitely exciting to be able to visualise all that we had learnt about Parliament and to see the Brexit deal rejected live."

Abigail | 12C



# DUKE OF EDINBURGH

## Awards Expedition 2019

Due to an ankle injury my expedition was cut short but I was able to take part in most of the trek.

I enjoyed the lessons we had at school as this prepared us for what was involved. In these lessons we learnt how to use a compass to navigate the route to the campsite. We were also shown what path we would be taking to our campsite and where the checkpoints were along the way.

On Saturday 15th June 2019 we made our own way to Uxbridge Station as this is where our journey started. We met at 10am and started the walk. We got to walk past a really beautiful canal with lots of different types of scenery for us to take in. At each checkpoint there would be a different teacher waiting there to show us where to go next and we would use our compasses to navigate ourselves to the next checkpoint.

All of the groups finished their walk around 4 or 5 o'clock. When everyone was at the campsite we were left to cook our food ourselves which is good as it helps us learn new skills. On

Sunday, all the bronze and silver groups were awake at 6 o'clock so that we could leave by 8 to start our journey back to Uxbridge station.

Most of the groups were able to get really nice pictures of the 'moon walk' whilst they were navigating. The groups got back to Uxbridge station at around 3/4 o'clock. In my opinion, it was a really good opportunity to have and I would recommend everyone trying it.

The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award helps build confidence and improve social skills.

Phoebe | 9F





# DUKE OF EDINBURGH

## Awards Expedition 2019

"My DofE expedition was a great experience which taught me to take responsibility for myself, but it also was a really fun time to have with my friends. When we were going along the route we would be singing songs and taking beautiful pictures of the things we saw throughout our travels."

Daniella | 9K

"Exhausting but exhilarating. I would definitely do silver."

Layan | 9F

"It was an incredible experience. It was difficult at some points, but as a team we worked through it and achieved. I definitely want to do silver."

Laura | 9F

"It was an amazing experience that I will never forget and it helped me get out of my comfort zone and learn new skills."

Hermela | 9M

"It was very fun and we had a great time. We managed to take good pictures on the 'moon walk'. And we were the first group at the campsite, and one of the first groups to finish the trek."

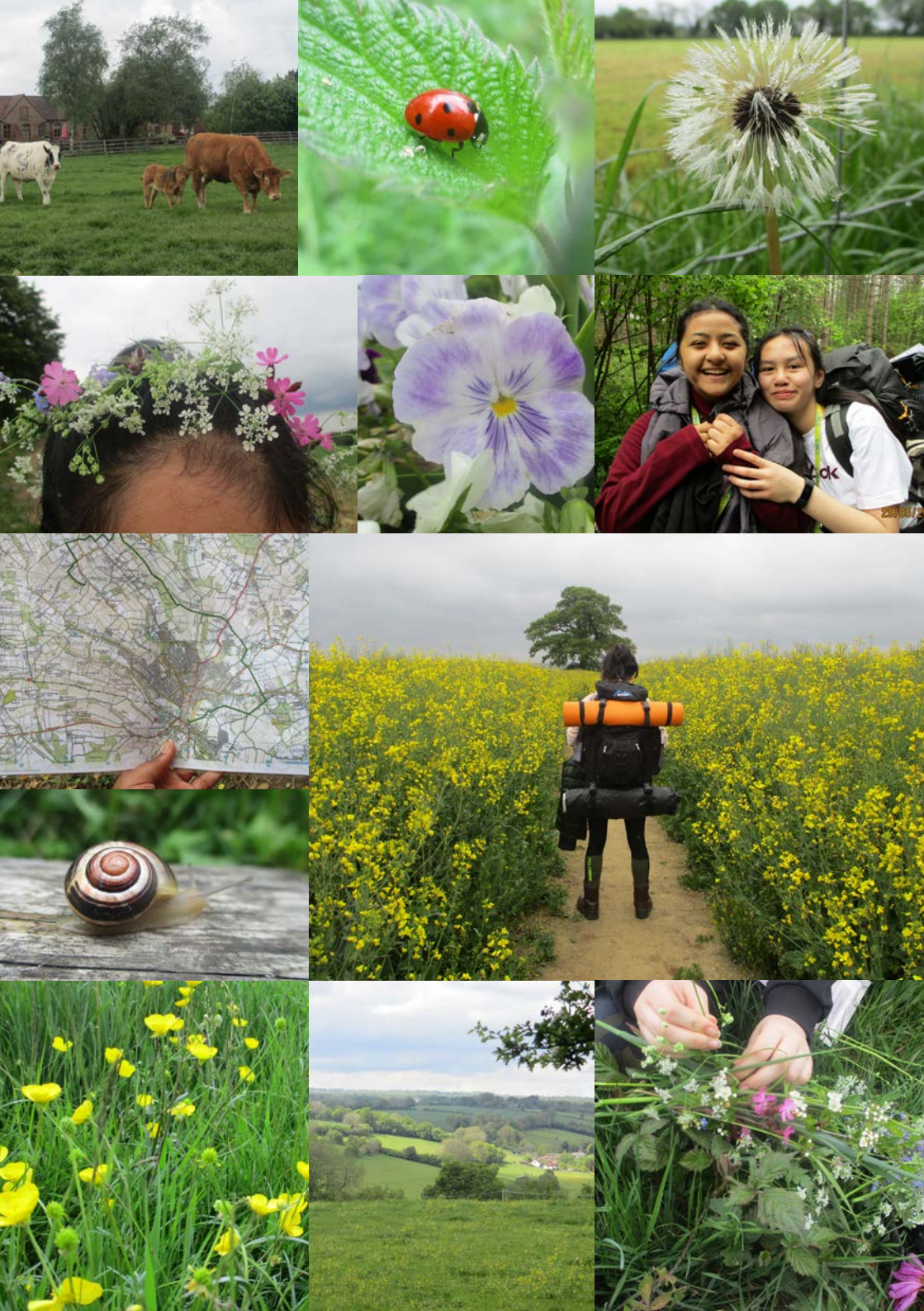
Rebecca | 9F

"Our favourite part of the expedition was the camping. We enjoyed being able to spend time together after hours of walking. Our team showed great endurance and it was a fun experience."

Ramisha & Adriana | 9K

Peyton & Alisha | 9M

Astra & Raizel | 10F







Producing Annie has been such a privilege. I have enjoyed watching veterans like Calicia and Kayla in year 9 perform with precision and take the younger ones under their wings. The year eights have astounded with their performance ability; I think we have all stood in wonder as we watched Medofo morph into a convincing 35yr old Miss Hannigan! Our lovely year 7s have shone in their first secondary school production. Danisha, our Annie, has a beautiful and sweet singing voice that truly fits the role.

The whole cast have worked incredibly hard since last October rehearsing up to four nights a week come rain or shine. They have made the process an absolute joy, through their sheer energy, smiles and constant stream of creative ideas. I couldn't have asked for a more caring and supportive group of girls; they have danced, sung and acted their socks off and they have made me incredibly proud. I hope that being a part of the Annie family will be an experience they will always treasure. Rock on team Annie!

Miss Gardiner | DRAMA TEACHER

"I have really enjoyed being in the cast of Annie. My favourite part of the production are the songs and dances. I love watching the cast members get into character. I would definitely do it again!"

Chelsea | 7C

"Annie has been an absolutely fantastic experience. Working on the performance here at my new school has been breathtaking. It's been hard work at times but I've stayed strong and committed. We all get our time to shine on stage, even in the smaller roles, and dancers, singers and backstage crew are all valued. I have really had a lot of fun working with my friends who have come to feel like family!"

Shandi | 7K









Research school visit to

# ST MARY'S UNIVERSITY



Students from our Research School here at CJM were invited to spend a day soaking up the atmosphere at our partner institution; St Mary's University in Twickenham. They spent some time looking around the campus, including the extraordinary Strawberry Hill House – designed and created as a Gothic fantasy between 1747 and 1792 by Horace Walpole, historian, writer, collector and son of Britain's first Prime Minister Sir Robert Walpole.

They were able to ask questions about student life at St Mary's e.g. the opportunities for international study, which programmes are most popular and how to go about getting a sports scholarship.

They saw the chapel, which is the size of an actual church and home to an icon gifted by Pope Benedict XVI during his visit in 2010 and some beautiful abstract stained glass windows. The chaplain took them down to the

crypt underneath the chapel and led them in a guided meditation, which provided a lovely moment of calm and reflection at the end of a hectic summer term.

Other highlights were visits to the refectory (they served good chips) and the chaplaincy, which had an impressive array of board and card games.

The students left with a good impression of St Mary's as a possible destination post A-levels and more generally an insight into campus life.

"Visiting the university was very interesting and enjoyable as it was filled with fun activities. We did meditation which was relaxing as we were able to be mindful and spiritual. The chapel was beautiful because of its amazing stained glass."

Martina | 9K Ifa | 9A  
Valentina and Hannah | 9M

"We all had a wonderful time at St Mary's; we enjoyed seeing round the beautiful buildings and learning about their history. We got a tour of the campus, visited the chapel and had a guided mediation. We hope to go there again."

Pinelopi | 7A Jeanne D'Arc | 7C  
Jessica and Irsa | 7F

"This visit was very calming and beautiful. I am considering going there in the future."

Hermela | 9M

"Visiting St Mary's university was a very fun and educational trip. I really enjoyed it because it gave me a chance to step into the footsteps of a university student which I hope to be in the future. What I enjoyed the most was the meditation because it was calm and a chance to really connect with Jesus. We also got to go all around the campus and soak in all of the area and the green lands. Overall, this has been a truly wonderful visit and one to remember."

Shandi | 7K







## Farewell to Year 13

The end of an academic year always brings a degree of sadness as we say goodbye to our year 13s. These quotes are from the farewell messages in the yearbook that the students compiled as one of their enrichment activities.



"You have all worked so hard and shown courage and determination throughout your years at CJM. You have not only experienced yourselves countless surprises, joys, trials and triumphs, but also taken delight in and gained personal growth from supporting each other along the road. I truly see you as a very special group of people with whom I have been privileged to work and I wish you all happiness and fulfilment."

Ms Pearce | HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

"Our lives are filled with endings. But every ending brings a new beginning. Reach out and grab every opportunity that life offers you; embrace both change and challenge; shine your light and never allow anything or anyone to dampen the spirit that is your true self."

Mrs McGowan | HEADMISTRESS



# INTERVIEW

## with Ms Williams

Ms Williams has led the Art Dept. here at CJM for 13 years. She has decided to step down from her role as Head of Department but we are thankful that she will still be with us teaching on a part-time basis. It seemed a good time to find out more about her!

When did you realise you wanted to teach art?

*I was working as a freelance photographer shooting creative people; actors, models, dancers. They needed portraits for their portfolios and I discovered I had a knack for giving them confidence in front of the camera. It occurred to me that I really wanted to build young people's creative confidence. I was offered some teaching experience and made a particular connection with one boy who was very disaffected, occasionally aggressive, but very excited by fashion. I helped him build a portfolio that got him into fashion college. And that was me hooked into teaching.*

What have some of your CJM students gone on to achieve?

*We always get A-level students into the top London art colleges; Camberwell, Central St Martins, Chelsea Art College. If the girls have chosen art as their pathway and their future then we only aspire to the top for them.*

*Last year we had a student get into De Montfort University on a direct entry for architecture.*

*We've had students go to Pearson College which is a world leader in games, animation and graphics.*

*And one of our students is a top prosthetic designer and maker working on shows like Game of Thrones. She has come back to run workshops for us which the students love – all the blood and gore!*

Which gallery do you most enjoy visiting with students?

*I'd say Tate Britain for its mix of contemporary, traditional and progressive art in all media. You can find something to capture your imagination whether you're more into sculpture, painting or installation. It has a very open vision and gives students a window into so many different cultures and experiences. It's accessible. I like to tell the students to take their parents with them to a gallery!*

What art moves you?

*J.M.W (William) Turner. He was a visionary. He created visions with his play on light. He's sometimes classed as the first impressionist but I feel he differs from them in his spiritual connection to his art. His work is transcendent – more like a meditation or a prayer.*

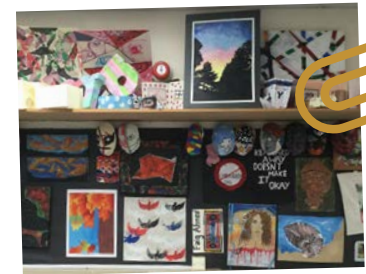
What's your preferred medium and subject when you make your own art?

*I trained as a sculptor so have good spatial awareness and a flair for 3-dimensional works. But more recently I have been going back to working with colour; storytelling through paint. I will be spending some of my new-found time trying to rediscover in myself what it is I try to draw out of the girls – a spark, an individuality, a creative spirit – that can be expressed artistically.*

You start your lessons by getting the girls to shout out "I AM WONDERFUL". What other words would you like to pass on?

*Be true to yourself. There are no limits. If you really want something you need to be like a sharpshooter: focus, take aim, shoot for the stars!*

Painting: JMW Turner Snow Storm - Steam-Boat off a Harbour's Mouth, 1842





# WE ARE WONDERFUL!

## *Praise for Ms Williams*

"Ms Williams has been an inspiration for all art students at CJM: GCSE, A-level or otherwise. She convinced me to pick Art at GCSE, and it stands firm as one of my favourite subjects. I've learnt to become more confident about my ability under her guidance as well; where I was once embarrassed to display my art, I now approach each lesson with confidence.

She goes out of her way to create a positive attitude in her classrooms, and the resulting work ethic is outstanding. She's always smiling and open, and all her students would agree that she is an easy person to talk to, and a fun, inspiring and greatly valued teacher. I'm so glad she's coming back next year – even if it's part-time!"

Madeleine | 9C

"Ms Williams is a caring, confident and creative teacher and has been an inspiring Head of Department. She really cares for our well-being and is a "mother figure" for a lot of girls in the Convent. Thank you so much for your patience and guidance all these years and I wish you a happy "part time" retirement!"

Julia | ADT TECHNICIAN

"The thing that I will remember the most about Ms Williams is her positive manner in starting a lesson, by getting the girls to shout out "We are Wonderful!"

Mr Murphy | ART TEACHER

"Ms Williams has improved my skills in art and through the techniques she has taught me she has enabled me to flourish as an artist. I would like to thank her for all her hard work."

Calisha | 12C

"Since the beginning of this year I've had the opportunity to work with one of the best art teachers ever. Ms Williams has helped me to get out of my comfort zone and become a much better artist."

Joao | YEAR 12 CONSORTIUM

"I have worked with Ms Williams for 15 years but it feels like we met yesterday. A great teacher is a great artist and she is one of the great artists of the teaching profession. She has made a lasting impression on her students. I would like to say Thank You for being a great friend, mentor and leader in the ADT department."

Ms Shakes | FOOD TECH TEACHER

"Ms Williams has been such a wonderful role model and is very encouraging. She's sweet and helpful and makes me want to do art every day!"

Angelica | 12C



"Ms Williams has been the life and soul of the ADT department since I've worked at CJM. Her classroom is always the most welcoming place to be in the school not to mention the coolest.

She's an amazing Art teacher who has done so much for so many over the years and she's not finished yet!"

Mr Grant | ART TEACHER & HEAD OF YEAR 11





## Our own Cultural Ambassador!

One of our sixth formers, Eunice, has achieved an amazing accolade. Her creative work in the Drama department at school and her support of students and staff led to her being nominated for the role of Cultural Ambassador for the Brent London Borough of Culture 2020 project.

She was selected for this role and attended meetings and workshops, where she was asked to speak publicly about many issues affecting young people in this area. She spoke at the launch event for LBOC in front of hundreds of people, and because of how impressive she was, she has been promoted to the role of Cultural Trailblazer, where she will now lead Cultural Ambassadors in their work throughout the Year of Culture. We are very proud of her remarkable achievement!

Ms Burgess | HEAD OF PERFORMING ARTS

"Being part of the Young Ambassadors 2020 and the Trailblazer 2020 is a great opportunity because it's the start of something new, wonderful and inspiring. Ever since I've joined the Young Ambassadors 2020 doors have immediately opened for me as I've been given the chance to meet and talk with great people and inspire a wide range of young people. I believe being part of this team will be a blessing as opportunities will be given out to more people and positive energy/ vibes will spread around the whole of Brent."

Eunice | 12C

## Inspiring Alumni

Dr Louisa Egbunike and Dr Jenny McGovern, ex-students of the Convent, came to talk to the Sixth Form about their careers as academics. They were very engaging and taught us a lot about working and researching at university. Dr Egbunike is an expert on African literature, currently working at City University and Dr McGovern is a research associate in the Faculty of Biology at UCL.

They told us about their experiences here at the Convent and how much has changed. It was a great opportunity and really inspiring to be able to interact with people who have come from the same place as us and had the same schooling and to see what hard work and perseverance can accomplish.

They encouraged us to push through towards our goals no matter how many setbacks we are faced with – a message we have definitely taken on board!

Ellie | 12F



## British Sign Language

Year 12 spent last half term learning British Sign Language. It was a fantastic experience, learning the basics of a language to empower the girls to be able to communicate with a wider range of people. It was so eye opening too, raising awareness of the difficulties that deaf people face as well as how services offered to them have been cut to the detriment of the deaf community. I hope that they will be able to make use of this important skill at some point in their future.

Ms Pearce | HEAD OF SIXTH FORM



"Doing sign language with Emma was great and refreshing as I learnt a lot that I didn't know about it. Emma made the lessons fun and interactive"

Niromy | 12F

"I found that doing sign language with Emma helped open my mind to a new perspective. She was such a kind teacher."

Erica | 12F



# CJMLC News

## Acting Workshop Yr 9 Performing Arts



Our former Head Girl, BTEC Performing Arts student and current Drama School student, India McGuirk, paid us a visit and did an acting workshop with our current Performing Arts students. We had a great time exploring different acting techniques linked to Naturalism, and she was good enough to answer questions about the acting industry and what life is like at Drama School.

Ms Burgess | HEAD OF PERFORMING ARTS

"The workshop with India was really fun. To hear about her journey from the Convent to where she is now was inspiring. Thank you India!"

Christianna | 9A

"It was interesting to hear about someone following their dreams of acting and how we can do the same."

Grace | 9C

## Year 12 Theology Essay Competition

**This year's Year 12 class has no fewer than three potential candidates who are interested in studying Theology and/or Religious Studies at university.**

The RE Department loves a competition so Year 12 have brushed up on their essay-writing skills and signed up to take part in the national St Mary's University Theology Essay Competition 2019. The first place award is £250 and 5 honourable mentions will receive £20 book vouchers.

The essay title is:

**'Philosophical arguments for the existence of God alone cannot lead to belief in God.' Discuss.**

We will know who the winners are in mid-September, so the next newsletter could include one of the winners and their essay!

## Young mathematicians in the making

In April, thirty of our year 7 and 8 students took part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge. CJM was one of over 3700 schools that took part in the challenge. Over 260 000 pupils from across the UK sat the Junior Maths Challenge where students had 60 minutes to answer 25 varied multiple-choice mathematical problems which were designed to provoke their mathematical thinking and test their problem solving skills in an accessible and yet challenging way.

The Maths department are delighted to announce the results of the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge. Six students achieved Silver awards and four got Bronze awards.

Our mathematical superstars are:

**Bianca and Dharsika | 7F**

**Angela | 8M**

**Chloe, Amelia and Julia | 7M**

**Mollie and Jenessa | 8F**

**Nitusha | 7K**

**Payal | 8C**



Very well done to these students on their success and particular congratulations to Bianca in year 7 and Anna in year 8 who achieved the best-in-year scores.

Mr Amer | MATHS TEACHER



## Linnean Learning

Year 9 took part in a competition run by Linnean Learning. Our project was based on plastics and how they affect the world in different ways. I was in a group of three with Seyam, 9A and Kayla, 9C. We made an animation and in it we demonstrated how fish are affected when people put plastic in the sea. Towards the end of the animation we gave statistics about how plastic is currently destroying our world, as well as the impact it will have in the future.

On winning the competition we were presented with a certificate and an animation set. With this we can pursue other ideas we have and convey them through new animations.

Danielle | 9K



## CJMLC News



## Mandela exhibition inspires

Year 12 History students were fortunate enough to receive some free tickets to the first stop of the touring Nelson Mandela exhibition. This was a great opportunity to broaden their understanding of such an influential figure in the struggle against Apartheid in South Africa, supporting their understanding of their A Level unit. As always the girls did the school proud, they were so engaged in the exhibit and wrote a beautiful group comment in the exhibition book.

Ms McCombe

"An inspirational trip that strengthened our understanding of the importance of Nelson Mandela's life. The exhibition was an amazing and interactive way to revise our knowledge of South Africa. It was also a great way to enjoy revision outside of a classroom."

Giovanna | 12C

"I loved the trip a lot. The exhibition was so eye-opening and truly one of a kind. We got to learn about Mandela's life in a more interactive and engaging way, getting a closer look at key events and some of his possessions. I think the trip was one of the best I've had and very educational."

Ana | 12F

Enhanced Learning  
Department NewsCongratulations  
on your hard work!

Well done to Denisa and Gabriela in 7S for completing their first Enhanced Learning Reward card and receiving their blue certificate as a result. These pupils have worked extremely hard over the term and have high attendance to homework club and group interventions which has improved both their speaking, written and comprehension skills. They are now working towards receiving their bronze certificate. Keep up the good work and commitment towards your studies!

Well done to Disha Kishorkumar in 7 Seraphina for making outstanding progress in her Maths programme and achieving her progress certificate. We have 25 pupils who are currently taking part in the 123maths programme which is really helping them to develop numeracy skills and confidence in tackling numeracy problems.

Learning  
through LEGO®

I run a LEGO® club twice a week with some students from years 7 and 8. In groups of three they take it in turns to be the Supplier, the Engineer and the Builder. The girls develop a range of skills but most importantly, they have fun!

Ms Torr | Learning Support Assistant

"I love, love, love Lego Club! The reason I like to do Lego is to support people and build the pieces together. My favourite one is the Engineer because I like to talk to people."

Anisa | 7S

"I really like to do Lego Club because we can create stuff. My favourite is being the Builder."

Izabelle | 7S





# CJMLC News



## Sociology visit to the Old Bailey

Year 12 Sociology class visited the Central Criminal Court, commonly known as the Old Bailey, as next year we will be doing a module on Crime and Deviance. This was an opportunity for them to experience and observe the court system first hand and see how the process works. This helps them to understand that these cases are real and the system has to follow due process – it is not like what you see on TV!

The girls got an insight into a part of the system that we don't often get the chance to see, and in addition it is always good to be able to apply theory to real life and vice versa.

Thank you to the girls who were great ambassadors and made my job of looking after them very easy.

Ms Juerakhan | SOCIOLOGY TEACHER

"After being to the Old Bailey I have a clearer idea of how our court system works. I am so grateful I was given the opportunity to witness real life court cases and how those in the judicial system tackle these cases."

Marianna | 12F

"Visiting the Old Bailey gave me an insight into how the justice system works, and how court cases are carried out."

Emmanuella | 12A

"The trip to the Old Bailey was not only educational in seeing how a court works but it had me on the edge of my seat as I listened to the cases presented."

Gale | 12A

"This visit was a brand new experience – seeing the course of justice in a criminal court room was thrilling and mentally stimulating. We were given the opportunity to analyse the sociological forces at play and apply our knowledge in real time to a situation we would not have had the chance to do otherwise."

Nafartiti | 12C

"Our trip to the Old Bailey was fascinating. It was incredibly interesting to see the cases which would eventually become statistics, which our sociology class often discusses. It seemed that much of what we have learnt this year in class could be applied 'right before our eyes'."

Kristina | 12C

## Youth travel ambassadors

Dr Patel has run a series of YTA events this year including road-safety and travel-buddy campaigns and the ever-popular 'Wear your own shoes to school day', which ties in with the national 'Walk and Bike to School' week.

"Through YTA I have gained the confidence to present to others in assembly. Now I know that being in assembly isn't that bad; that even if you mess up, it doesn't matter."

Jemma | 8A

"Through being a YTA I learnt to be more confident and work in a team. Also the public speaking we did during the assembly about road safety in walk to school week was really helpful"

Samuella | 8A

"Since becoming an YTA I have become more confident in public speaking and speaking to people I don't know; this is due to all the presenting we have done in other schools like Maple Walk Primary School."

Meagan | 8



"It was a pleasure working with such enthusiastic pupils. They have been so **dedicated** and represented a positive image of our school."

Dr Patel



# CJMLC News

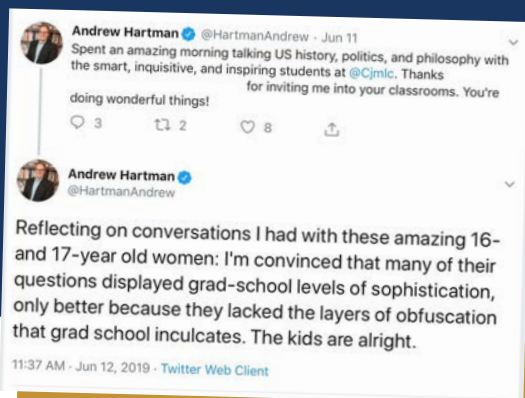
## US Scholar visits our historians

It's not every day we have an internationally renowned historian and scholar in our classrooms, but we recently had the pleasure of inviting Professor Andrew Hartman, an American historian, to spend a morning discussing American history and political ideas with our brilliant Year 12 students. Andrew teaches History to students at Illinois State University. He has written books on the Cold War and Education and the Culture Wars in America. He is currently based in the UK to research a new book he is writing on Karl Marx in America.

Andrew shared his insights with the class and they quizzed and engaged in meaningful dialogue with him. Scholar-activism is a really important ideal for our students, and Giovanna 12C, asked Andrew about the role of teachers in social activism. Andrew quoted the historian Howard Zinn who said "you can't be neutral on a moving train." This is a maxim that our students have taken on board and they were inspired by Andrew's commitment to using his scholarship and teaching for social justice. Andrew was so impressed with the intellect of our students that he sent out these tweets.

We are really proud of the commitment & intellectual development our classes in Year 12 have made this year. They are brilliant young scholars in the making.

Mrs Aninakwa and Mrs McCombe  
| HISTORY DEPT.



## Dance Workshop explores gravity

We hosted IJAD Dance Company on the 21st of June in our school dance studio! This was an exciting and unique opportunity for the girls to work with professional dance artists and a renowned dance company which specialises in exploring the combination of dance, science and technology, including understanding of the human body and highly-skilled movement techniques.

Ms Anastasiou | DANCE TEACHER

"I challenged myself during this dance workshop. We were taught advanced movements of contemporary dance."

Ruby | 8K

"It made me see dance in a different way. We were all connected together through partner-work exploring gravity in Dance"

N'Danhba | 8A

"I really enjoyed the workshop, especially learning about the different ways Dance relates to Science."

Sumaya | 8K



We are delighted to announce that from September our school will be offering a new street dance after-school club to our girls. Professional dancers from E.P Academy will be running this dance club for us, supported by Sport at the Heart community charity in partnership with Brent council.



## Common & Kind

### Inspiring communication, collaboration and cohesion through music

CJM was selected through our contacts with the London International Gospel Choir to take part in this huge event. Girls from our Gospel Choir sang with over 400 people made up of choirs from London, Vietnam, Malaysia, America and India. The event joined schools, refugees and groups from a diverse range of backgrounds across London to work together to challenge prejudice, enhance social cohesion and make music!

Our students were an absolute credit to the school. They were full of energy and voice despite having had a very long day. Well done to you all!

Ms Burgess | HEAD OF PERFORMING ARTS

"I was lucky enough to be able to perform on stage with soloists from other schools. It was a great experience."

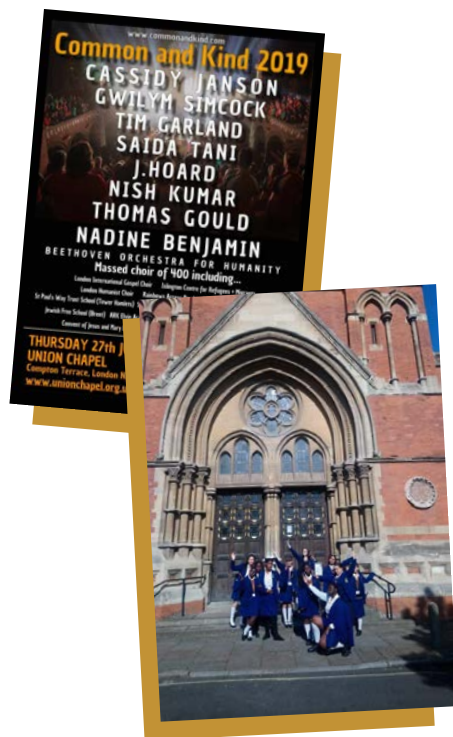
Kirsty | 9A

"It was emotional being surrounded by many different communities coming together for such a worthwhile cause. I feel so privileged."

Kayla | 9C

"Spending time with Ms Burgess was really fun and it was great to be able to see her talents in real life at this event. She is amazing."

Maria | 10A



## Dates for your diary

TEAR OUT AND KEEP



**JULY 19**

Last day of term | Early closing 12:40



**AUGUST 15**

A Level results day



**AUGUST 22**

GCSE results day



**SEPTEMBER 4**

Start of term for Yr 7 & 6th Form enrolment



**SEPTEMBER 5**

Start of term for all other year groups



**SEPTEMBER 12**

Yr 11 Parents Information Evening 5-6:30pm



**SEPTEMBER 17-19**

Year 13 retreat to Felixstowe



**SEPTEMBER 19**

Yr 12 Parents Information Evening 5-6pm



**SEPTEMBER 26**

Yr 9 Parents Information Evening 5-6pm



**SEPTEMBER 27**

School photographs (years 7, 11 & 13)



**OCTOBER 3**

Open evening 5-7pm | Early closing 12:40



**OCTOBER 8-11**

Open mornings 9:15-12:30pm



**OCTOBER 9**

Yr 7 Parent - Form Tutor Evening 4-6:30pm



**OCTOBER 15**

PE Dept Presentation evening



**OCTOBER 17**

Last day of half term



**OCTOBER 28**

Back to school



**NOVEMBER 5-8**

Year 11 Geography field trip



**NOVEMBER 13**

Year 8 Parents' Evening 4-7pm



**NOVEMBER 21**

6th Form open evening 5-7pm



**NOVEMBER 25-29**

Scholastic Book Fair (in library)



**NOVEMBER 28**

Yrs 12 & 13 Parents' Evening 4-7pm



**NOVEMBER 29**

Yr 7 trip to Bruges Christmas Market



**DECEMBER 2-13**

Yr 11 and Yr 13 Mock Exams



**DECEMBER 17**

Christmas Concert 5-6:30pm



**DECEMBER 18**

End of term: Early closing 12:40



**JANUARY 6**

Start of term



**JANUARY 6-10**

Assessment Week Yrs 7-10 & 12



**JANUARY 17-24**

Ski trip





# Convent of Jesus and Mary

*Laudentur semper Jesus et Maria*

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