

Dear Parents, Guardians, Carers, Staff & Governors

Welcome back to the new half term. It feels decidedly more Spring like and we are no doubt all grateful for it!

Before half term there was a flurry of activity - trips out of school, workshops in school, house events and opportunities for sharing work done over the past half term.

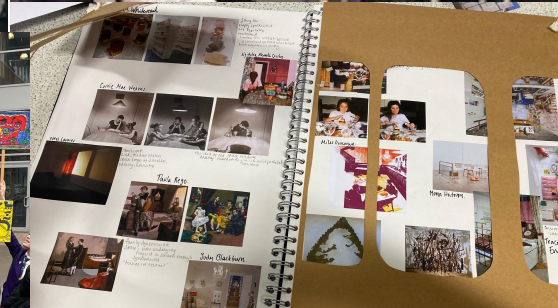
We saw a lot of Visual Arts work - from protest artwork placards in Year 8 to the individual art research going into final projects in Year 13. What struck us was the opportunity for personal expression and the engagement our students have with their artwork.

Our Heads of Houses were engaging yet more students in their house competition activities. The row off was an exhausting affair with Mr Wolstenholme leading the charge. Alongside this, a different race was taking place in the gaming club with competitive Mario Karts absorbing everyone's attention.

We also had opportunities for students to demonstrate their creativity and engineering ingenuity through the annual Faraday Challenge which pitted teams of Year 8s building prototype machines against each other. Strategic thinking and savvy budgeting had to be on show, as well as the final products. Above all, there was fun being had.

Best wishes

Niki Clemenger & Richard Cole
Co-Headteachers



Highlights of the Week

On Wednesday, February 5th, our U19 Women's team delivered an incredible performance to secure a hard-fought victory against an established basketball program, The Canterbury Academy. This win was particularly special as it marked a dramatic turnaround from our first meeting, where we suffered a 62-43 loss on the road.

Ms Quay and Ms Goodman took our bursary and sixth form students to Trinity Laban to watch the third-year students' performance. They had a fantastic time and were truly inspired especially by one particularly creative piece that left them all guessing!

VA Bursary students enjoyed the Manga workshop with artist Chie Kutsuwada. They learnt many techniques such as how to draw facial features and body proportions. Travis in Year 10 was excited to share his own manga drawings with Chie and the other students.

Yr 9 girls took part in a Women's Wellbeing workshop supported by Holland and Barrett and the Women's Health Community Fund. This was led by Gynaecological Nurse Marie Katherine, Kodjo Founder of Nurse Diaries UK and Jenni Steele from the Yana Project.

Important Dates

- Year 11 Mocks Week 2 24th February
- Year 12 Play 27th February 7-9pm
- Year 9 Parents Evening 6th March 430-7
- A Level Assessment W/C 10th March
- Y12/13 VA Mocks W/C 17 March
- Y11 Information Evening 11 March 4:30-7

Hot Chocolate with the Heads this week

Congratulations to:

- Felipe Sanches Reis (7JLT)
- Ella Hiles (8IKA)
- Cassandra Fowlin-Kamara (9MCL)
- Mikolaj Serwotka (10GFW)
- Jonathan Asenguah (11MBL)
- Elsa Bendel (12JFR)
- Aohdan Brown (13VBU)



Highlights of the Week

Mr Oxford and Ms Underwood took a group of year 9 art students to a practical ceramics workshop at the V&A. Students learned about how ceramics have historically been used to tell stories of people's achievements, before creating their own clay artworks based on achievements of their own.

There was a great day out for Y12 visual artists at the Hayward gallery seeing both exhibitions in prep for the gallery take over. Mickalene Thomas: All About Love and Linder Sterling: Danger Came Smiling two very different takes on the representation of women and feminism.

Year 9 listened to Augustine and Lucie who spoke about their experience of visiting Auschwitz and speaking to survivors as part of the Holocaust Memorial Trust's Lessons from Auschwitz project. Thanks to Mr Isitt for facilitating the important project and supporting the work to become a UCL Centre for Holocaust education Beacon School.

And finally, the students thoroughly enjoyed themselves on their recent Outward Bound expedition. Thank you to all of the staff who accompanied them on the trip. They were certainly enjoying the scenery!



The National Saturday Club

The National Saturday Club programme is FREE, has no exams and offers 13–16-year-olds a unique opportunity to build their skills, develop their confidence, and discover pathways to further study and future careers.

Saturday Clubs are held at Universities, Colleges and cultural spaces, and are currently offered in eight subjects: Art&Design, Craft&Making, Fashion&Business, Film&Screen, Performance&Theatre, Society&Change, Science&Engineering and Writing&Talking.

They have a range of clubs in London ([click here](#) to see the map of clubs). The nearest club is the [Film&Screen Club](#) at The BRIT School, Croydon. The club starts this Saturday, and runs until 12th July, 13:30-15:30.

Please see the posters below and for more information and to get young people involved, please click the following link: saturday-club.org/join to join.

NATIONAL SATURDAY CLUB Art & Design

I'M GOING TO SEE MY DESIGNS COME TO LIFE

IT STARTS ON SATURDAY

Free local Saturday Clubs for 13–16 year olds

Find your Club
@natsatclub
saturday-club.org/join

Supported using public funding by
Department for Education
LOTTERY FUNDS
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

GAMING AND GAMBLING AWARENESS AND INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR PARENTS, CARERS AND GUARDIANS



METROPOLITAN
POLICE

Ygam are working with the Metropolitan Police to offer an online information session to help develop your understanding of gaming and gambling harms, enabling you to have open conversations with your children.

Workshop overview:

- **Gambling: exploring the influences on children and young people**
- **Gaming: discussing the benefits and concerns**
- **The blurred lines between gaming and gambling**
- **How to spot the signs of harm**
- **Useful tips to create a healthy gaming balance**
- **Where to get help and support**

WHAT
MIGHT INFLUENCE
A YOUNG PERSON
TO GAMBLE?

WHAT IS
A LOOT
BOX?

WHY ARE
IN-GAME ITEMS
SO IMPORTANT
TO YOUNG
PEOPLE?

We also have a dedicated Parent Hub which aims to provide information and guidance to help you safeguard your children against the potential harms of gaming and gambling. Find out more here: parents.ygam.org

Book your **FREE** place now!

DATE: Tuesday 6th May 2025

TIME: 19:00 - 20:15

VENUE: Online via Microsoft Teams

To register, please scan the QR Code or click [HERE](#)

