

MAIDA VALE SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2024

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

## TRIPS, TALKS & WORKSHOPS

## OUTWARD BOUND YEAR 7

## SIXTH FORM PERSPECTIVE

## SUCCESS AT ISA ART AND MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

GARDENER SCHOOLS GROUP




**Individuals In Society Day 2024. All Year Groups spent the day immersed in a variety of PSHE Workshops. Full story on page 22.**



Mr Magnus Bashaarat
Headmaster, Maida Vale School

The autumn term began for me with some days of excitement and endeavor with the new Year 7 pupils at the PGL camp in Osmington Mills, Dorset, for their residential camp. Storms Ashley, Bert, Connal and Darragh have battered that part of the Jurassic Coast, and as a result there's rather more sea and a little less land either side of PGL. If unpredictable weather, and the violent and destructive storms that accompany it are as a consequence of global warming, and only gets worse, then we may end up having to run residential camps in the Scottish Highlands as we seek higher ground in 2045.

As you will read in the pages that follow, the core purpose of MVS as a well-resourced, dynamic and caring environment where learning and discovery take place, has kept us all busy and engaged this term. Our Christmas Concert held last night in the cool, columned serenity of St. John's, Notting Hill, was the creative culmination of months of planning and rehearsal, and an opportunity for singers and instrumentalists to perform some seasonal favourites given a contemporary Annie Lennox inspired makeover.

We celebrate creativity in all subject areas at MVS, not just the creative and expressive arts. Any practical experiment in chemistry will have a creative outcome, simply by creating a reaction to produce a compound, for example, that wasn't there before. Producing magnesium oxide is a creative act just as applying a paint-dipped brush to canvas is a creative act. The diversity of cultural and intellectual experience and creative expression in this newsletter is truly impressive.

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## NEWS ROUND UP


04 **Design Technology** Our designers have been hard at work this term, getting to grips with the challenge of synthesising visiting Harry Potter Studios and working on cranes and lifting structural design.

05 **Computer Science** Read all about what our computer scientists have been up to this term: computational thinking, anti-cyberbullying measures and the Bebras Challenge!

06 **Sixth Form** This term we have welcomed new Year 12 students into the our Sixth Form. Hear from one of our new students about their experiences of their first term in the Sixth Form.

07 **English** It has been an exciting start to the new academic year with a visit to Sky Up Academy Studios, Elstree, to spend some time behind the screen directing, editing and writing.

08 **Science** Our pupils have been doing exciting live experiments in Biology, Chemistry and Physics laboratories. Outside the lab they have visited 'What If?' at the Barbican for a scientific Q&A.

09 **Maths** The year has started very well indeed in the Maths department. Pupils have gone above expectations demonstrating creativity and problem solving consistently.

10 **Art & Photography** Our artists have been on 6 trips this term seeking style and inspiration of artists at Frieze Art Fair, Frameless and Francis Bacon at the National Portrait Gallery to name a few.

12 **Gallery** take a look at some of our students' work from this term. This showcases just a glimpse of the range and breadth of the Art Department's work this term.

14 **PE & Games** Our sports stars have been busy this term, learning a new racket skills - Pickleball and Spikeball - alongside playing matches and coaching in both football and netball.

16 **Drama** This term's production of Antigone 3021 took place 'in the round' to a packed audience. Meanwhile Year 10 delved into their GCSE text Arthur Miller's 'The Crucible'.

18 **History & Politics** - Find out what our students have been discussing in the History : the design and construction of Normal Castles. Politics hear about our latest success at the Model United Nations Conference.

19 **Geography and Religious Studies** Read about a splendid Autumn term in the Geography Department, including a Year 11 field trip to Brighton beach, home made volcanoes and learning about the impacts of Deindustrialisation.

20 **Music** this term culminated in two concerts, one still to go as we went to press. The Christmas Concert at St. John's church was a joyful occasion for all the pupils involved and, we hope, the parents too!

22 **Enrichment Clubs** There are almost too many to mention as our staff and Sixth Formers cater to every interest from art, sport to blowing things up in Explosions Club.

22 **Individuals in Society Day** a day dedicated to PSHE with workshops and talks for all Year Groups.

23 **PGL** The Year 7s were very fortunate indeed to have embarked upon an adventure in Dorset, packed with challenges and team building exercises. Despite the weather they had a great time.






# DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

*- RICHARD BARRETT -*

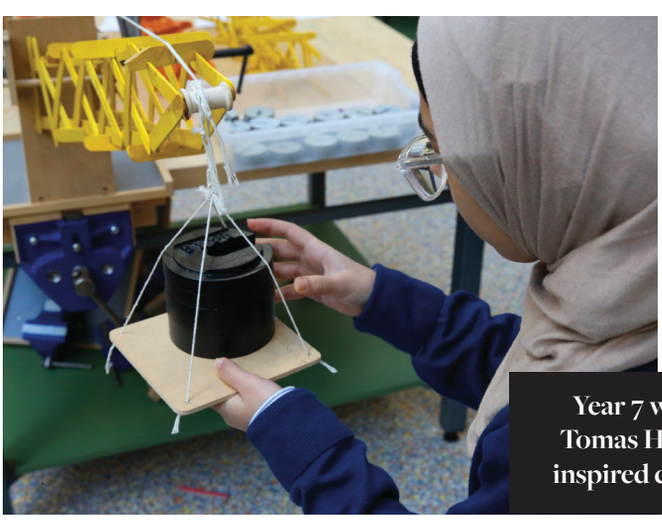
## STRUCTURAL CRANES
### DESIGN CHALLENGE, YEAR 7

Year 7 have just completed their engaging structures project, where they have explored a wide range of innovative and fascinating structures, including Thomas Heatherwick's groundbreaking Rolling Bridge, which challenges traditional design concepts. Throughout the project, students have investigated the principles of engineering and materials, applying their knowledge to build functional structural cranes. These cranes were then put to the ultimate test in a thrilling 'competitive' design challenge, where each team's creation was pushed to its limits, ultimately tested to destruction to assess their durability, creativity, and efficiency in load-bearing capacity."

## SOLIDWORKS™
### FOUNDATIONAL CAD, YEAR 9

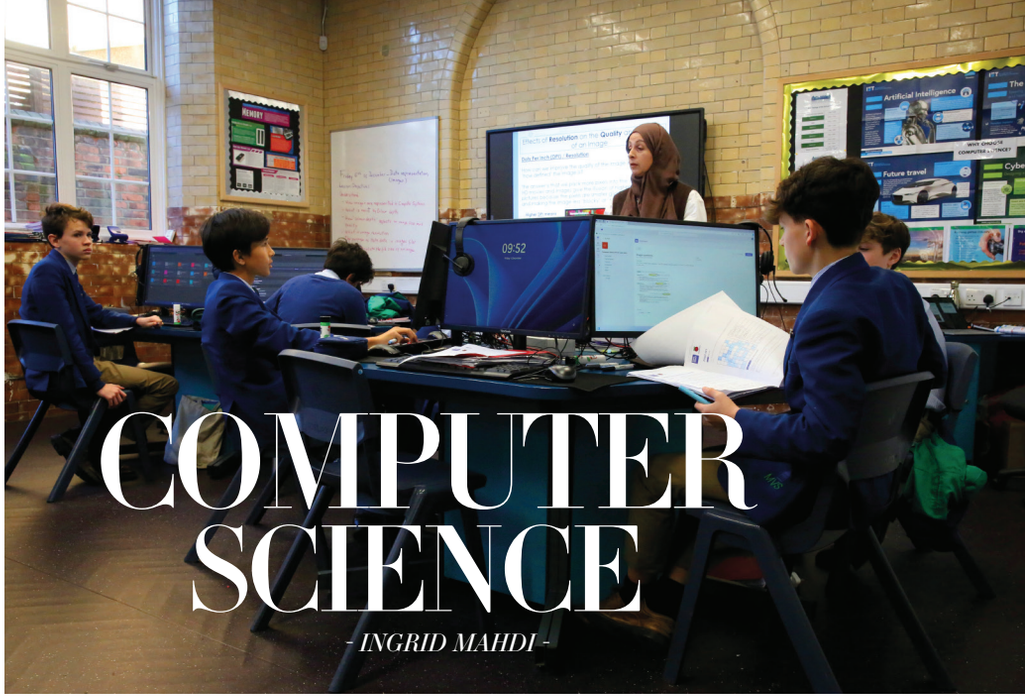
Year 9 have successfully completed their introduction to SolidWorks, gaining foundational skills in 3D design and computer-aided drafting.

They've learned to navigate the software's powerful tools, creating detailed models and exploring the capabilities of digital prototyping. In the upcoming year, they will be delving deeper into advanced manufacturing techniques, where they will apply their knowledge to real-world design and production processes, preparing for more complex projects that involve the intersection of design and industry standards.





**Year 7 working on Tomas Heatherwick inspired cranes in DT**



# COMPUTER SCIENCE

*- INGRID MAHDI -*

## GCSE DT PROJECTS
### WORK BEGINS, YEAR 10

Meanwhile, Years 10 and 11 have plunged into their GCSE coursework with a strong focus on practical and theoretical skills. Over the course of this term, they have begun intensive work on their projects, refining their design concepts and building prototypes. They are honing their technical abilities, conducting research, and preparing to present their work as part of their final assessment. This stage marks a critical point in their academic journey, where they begin to demonstrate both creativity and precision in their work, setting the foundation for their GCSE exams

## WARNER BROTHERS STUDIO
### HARRY POTTER TRIP

Year 8 travelled to Warner Brothers Studio to visit the Harry Potter Set and take part in a 'Set Design' Workshop. Here they were able to interact with real props and take a look behind the scenes. Students were able to see the new exhibits and experience the special and visual effects that were used in the Harry Potter films, see the models and get an appreciation for the whole design process: from artwork and drawings, card and foam models, through to the real props, sets and effects. Including prosthetics and robotics/ animatronics.



**Through these activities, students across all year groups not only honed their technical skills but also developed critical thinking and problem-solving abilities that will serve them well in their future academic and professional endeavors.**

## UK BEBRAS INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE

In early November, the entire school participated in the UK Bebras International Challenge, a prestigious competition that encourages students to develop their computational thinking and problem-solving abilities. This challenge provides a platform for students to engage with a variety of tasks that help them think critically and apply logical reasoning to complex problems, enhancing their skills for the digital age.

## YEAR 7 MICROSOFT & ONLINE SAFETY

Year 7 students focused on mastering key Microsoft Office applications, including Teams, Class Notebook, Outlook, and Word, to enhance their digital literacy and collaboration skills.

Additionally, they explored important online safety topics, including the dangers of cyberbullying, learning how to identify a threat and how to respond if they ever become victims as well as strategies for protecting themselves online.

## YEAR 8 & 9 WICK EDITOR & CPU

In Year 8, pupils delved into the core concepts of computational thinking, where they learned about essential problem-solving strategies such as algorithms, decomposition, abstraction, and pattern recognition. They also explored the structure and flow of problem-solving processes using tools like pseudocode and flowcharts. Their participation in the Bebras challenge was particularly impressive, as they demonstrated exceptional resilience, creativity, and strong problem-solving abilities. To round off their month, Year 8 students enjoyed an exciting educational trip to Harry Potter Studios on the 26th November, where they explored the intersection of technology, storytelling, and film production.

Year 9 students deepened their understanding of the central processing unit (CPU), its functions, and key hardware characteristics, alongside crucial concepts - memory, storage, and data representations.

Using Wick Editor™ they put their creativity into practice learning the fundamentals of animation design.




## YEAR 9 & 10 COMPUTATIONAL THINKING

Year 10 and 11 Pupils have developed their computational thinking skills, algorithms, decomposition, abstraction, pattern recognition, pseudocode, and flowcharts for complex problems; and data representation. Year 11 also worked on testing, defensive design, compilers and interpreters.



# SIXTH FORM

*- DENA DEEDAT -*

This term marked a significant milestone as we have a full compliment of sixth formers in Year 12 and Year 13 for the first time. Here are just a few highlights from their busy and productive term:

Year 13 students have been diligently researching and submitting applications for post-18 options, including our first-ever applications to US and UK universities. Some students will also apply for Art Foundation courses in the Spring term.

Year 12 students participated in the 'UNLOC' leadership boot camp, enhancing their ethical leadership skills, and many have become trained peer mentors, supporting younger students in their personal and academic development.

Our Sixth Formers have also contributed to the community through various volunteering roles: Maia and Isaac have helped at the Community Art Café, Alex J and Todd assist at Laurence's Larder, and Alex V, Ned, Max O'K, and Libby are teaching assistants in Key Stage 1 and 2 classrooms.

This term also featured opportunities for career exploration, with representatives from UAL Art School, Bentley University, the Swiss Hotel Management School, and the European School of Economics, as well as visits from the University of Tampa and Bennington College.

We are incredibly proud of our Sixth Formers for their hard work, initiative and commitment, setting a strong foundation for the future.




Creative Digital Media Production

**Sixth Form lessons and independent study in the ILC**



## FIRST TERM SIXTH FORM

JOSH E, YEAR 12

My first term in Sixth Form has been both challenging and rewarding. Transitioning from GCSEs to A-Levels has been a significant step, but the support from the school has made the process manageable. I am studying DT, Economics, and Psychology A Levels, and it's been fun to begin new subjects. I've also started my EPQ, a 5,000-word dissertation critiquing Wes Anderson's directing style, which has been an exciting opportunity to delve into a subject I'm passionate about. Additionally, as a DT Scholar, I have some extra responsibilities which have been a rewarding part of my Sixth Form experience.

The smaller class sizes have made it easier to understand complex topics, and the approachability of teachers ensures that I can seek help whenever needed. The increased independence in Year 12 is refreshing and feels like valuable preparation for further education. It's been fun to get to know all of the new students who joined in Y12; they've settled in quickly, and it feels like everyone's been here for years.

I've also had the chance to learn how to use the sound and lighting rig at the Carol Concert, and I hope to work on more performances in the future. From volunteering trips to Zanzibar to Gold Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and various clubs, there are plenty of chances to develop new skills and broaden horizons. Overall, my first term has been a positive experience.

# ENGLISH

*- ABIGAIL GAMMON -*




On 16th October, 30 of our Year 9 students were taken to Sky Studios in Elstree to partake in an immersive learning experience that places young people centre stage as media creators.

The visit to Sky Studios gave our English students the opportunity to explore the dynamic intersection between writing, storytelling, media production, and creative expression.

It helps them understand how the skills they develop in the classroom translate into real-world contexts, and fosters a deeper engagement with both the literary and media worlds.

On arrival at Sky's TV studios our students were first given a tour of the lot. After this they were given the opportunity to create their own film trailers. Using Sky's cutting-edge technology, they each took on a specific film making or TV role within their separate groups, from: producer, editor, director to actor.



Together they learnt what it was really like to work behind the scenes in a studio with hints and advice from a team of experts in the industry. Over the day they learnt essential skills such as creativity, communication and collaboration.

The trip was enjoyed enormously by all.

Frank said, 'I loved the teamwork and how fun it was. It was really cool seeing the film sets. I learnt how to be more creative from the experience and how to work better in a team.'

Seb also said, 'They staff made sure that everyone was include and I felt that I bonded with my classmates on a really enjoyable trip.'

The trip was not only educational but also incredibly fun and inspiring, and it was clear that everyone involved thoroughly enjoyed the experience. This hands-on opportunity has sparked a passion for media creation in many of our students, leaving them with lasting memories and a deeper understanding of the possibilities in the world of television and film. The English Department look forward to taking the next group at the start of 2025.

*"I loved the teamwork and how fun it was. It was really cool seeing the film sets. I learnt how to be more creative from the experience and how to work better in a team." Frank*







**Year 9 getting behind the screen - directing and editing content.**




# SCIENCE

*- JESS HUNT - MATT GREENFIELD - CONOR NICOLL -*

## TOP OF THE BENCH CHEMISTRY COMPETITION

We also had 9 pupils in KS4 take part in a national chemistry competition organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry 'Top of the Bench'. It is designed to inspire and challenge young chemists while promoting teamwork and enthusiasm for science.

One team just missed out on a top 10 place out of over 100 teams, which was already a huge achievement in itself. It was a good challenge and encouraged team work between pupils, which is what scientists rely on in the real world to solve real world problems too.



Dissecting eyeballs in Explosions Club with Mr Nicoll



## EXPLOSIONS CLUB

Explosions Club, run by new member of the Science Team - Conor Nicoll. He has given students in KS3 an opportunity to extend their curriculum learning by experimentation.

This term club members have seen a variety of experiments take place. From exploding bottle rockets to the careful dissection of eyes.

They're also working on building a flood-resistant house as part of a wider ISA competition.





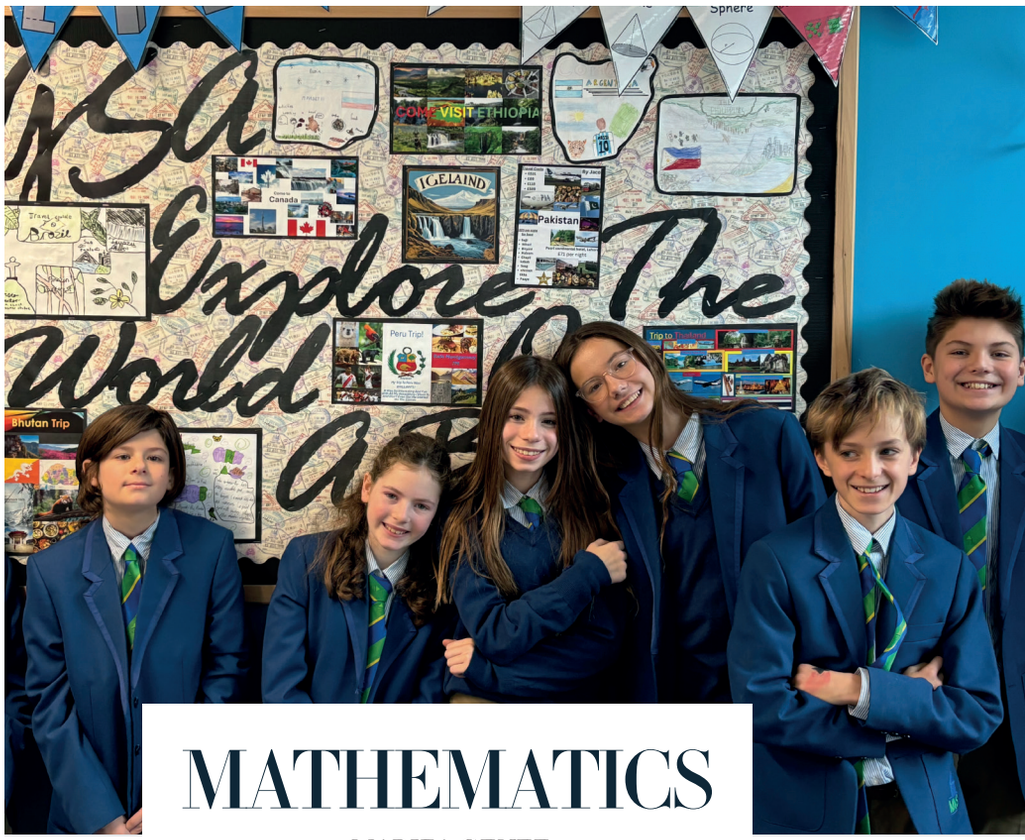

In November we kept a watch on how global leaders addressed climate change at COP29. To mark the event we ran a plant growing competition between PT groups. Congratulations to Queens Lower - the winners, dutifully watering their plant daily and taking it out for walks in the fresh air!



## BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

We're looking forward to British Science Week in March 2025. The Science Department will plan lots of engaging activities. We will also invite Year 5 pupils from local primary schools alongside MVS pupils for an explosive show by Dr Ken Farquhar on 'How to Save the Planet in 45 minutes'.

We will also host an American Style Science Fair with KS3 pupils, who will showcase their hard work in the run up to British Science Week. They do this by working in small teams of 3 or 4 to create a three dimensional presentation of a particular scientific topic. Last year we had stands featuring Octopus, Marine Life and Diet.




# MATHEMATICS

*- MARIZA GENEE -*

The Maths Department have had an excellent Autumn term, where Pupils have gone above expectations, demonstrating creativity and problem solving consistently in lessons.

Year 7 got off to an excellent start, completing their Gardener Award strand 'Exploring our World on a Budget' in collaboration with the Geography Department. Pupils picked their location and planned their trip, taking into consideration budget and limitations, inducing problem solving and forcing them to think outside of the box. Their Maths and Geography skills were put to practical use, thinking about prices, currency, temperature and populations. Some Pupils also thought about current global issues and how this would impact their travels and plans. It was great to see the Pupils' final project after weeks of hard work.

There have been some very impressive Pupils completing Further Maths alongside their GCSE. These Pupils have shown dedication to their studies, pushing themselves outside of the classroom to gain an extra award. Further Maths deepens and broadens understanding of many challenging GCSE topics and it is great to see so many Pupils showing such enthusiasm for the subject. Keep up the good work!




## 'WHAT IF?' TRIP

In October we enjoyed a trip to the Barbican to hear Randall Munroe, author of 'What If' a book that gives serious scientific answers to absurd hypothetical questions. He is also the creator of the webcomic xkcd, which features humour, science, and math-related topics.

He answered ridiculous questions about the universe with an extreme application of the Laws of Science. For example, he discussed the height at which a steak would need to be dropped for it to fully cook upon landing into the Earth's atmosphere.

# ART & PHOTOGRAPHY



It has been a packed Autumn term in the Art Department. We entered the ISA London West Art competition where Libby L's Sarah Lucas inspired dress achieved 2nd place and Marcus F's heat press bug was 'highly commended'.

Year 7 pupils have studied the basic elements of art, looking at collages by Patrick Caulfield and creating collages inspired by Romare Bearden and Deborah Roberts for Black History Month. For the Gardener Award, the pupils made terracotta tiles on the natural world to mirror what they had learnt in Latin (how Romans lived) Year 8 have studied Abstract Art and Surrealism, creating mix- media work and using Photoshop and photomontage. Year 9 have been studying key skills and techniques in drawing and painting. Yr10 have been studying Portraits and Self-Identity and using Ale Casanova's watercolour techniques. Yr 11 have been working towards their mock exams, while Yr12 Photography students have been on their 'Reflection's final pieces. Yr12 Art students have been making pieces based on Flesh. They have experimented with SPFX over the term. Yr13 Art and Photography13 have been working on their Personal Investigations.



Taking inspiration from Turner Prize Nominee Pip Abad at The Tate.



## 8TH OCT YR11 ART MOCK EXAM 'TURNER PRIZE', TATE BRITAIN (SJZ)

Our Yr11 pupils looked to find inspiration amongst the four chosen candidates for the Turner Prize (winner announced on 3rd December) for their chosen exam themes for 'Celebration', 'Image and Word', 'Place and Spaces', 'Integrate' and 'Curves and Straight'. Some pupils had strong opinions on what constituted art.



## 6TH NOV **YR10 - 'FRANCIS BACON: HUMAN PRESENCE', NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY (SJZ)**

The Year 10s were bowled over by the incredible work of Francis Bacon. A painter known for his raw, emotionally charged unsettling images.

A few members of the public commented on how well behaved our pupils were and how lucky they were to experience such a show.

Emilia S was so moved she cried when seeing Francis Bacon's work depicting George Dyer and his memory of the death of his boyfriend triptych. She was overwhelmed by the greatness of the artwork. This is what Art should do. She was moved in its presence. This is the reason why I am an art teacher. Mrs Jimenez

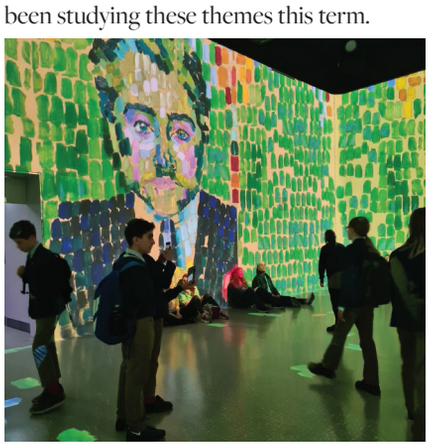


## 26TH SEPT **SIXTH FORM ART & PHOTOGRAPHY - 'ZANELE MUHOLI', TATE MODERN (SJZ)**

The students were wowed by the impressive scale of the monochromatic portraits that celebrated the lives of the LGBTQ+ community. The Yr12 Photography students looked for 'Reflections' in the photos for their project. The Yr12 Art students looked for images that captured 'Flesh' for their project. The Yr13 students found inspiration for their 'Personal Investigations' on 'Environmental Portraits', 'Everyday Portraits', 'Colour in Photography', 'Fashion Photography' and 'Myths and Legends'.

## 14TH NOV YR8 - **'FRAMELESS', MARBLE ARCH (PWN)**

The whole of Yr8 went to see Frameless – four rooms of immersive Art experience. More than 40 artists are featured. The Abstract and Surrealism rooms were the most interesting for our pupils, as they have been studying these themes this term.



## 4TH DEC **SIXTH FORM ART & PHOTOGRAPHY PLUS TALENTED YR10 PUPILS – 'EDUCATION IN ACTION – ART AND DESIGN IN ACTION', EMMANUEL CENTRE (PWN)**

The Sixth Formers and Yr10' More Able and Talented 'pupils were able to meet and ask questions of the four acclaimed artists: Cornelia Parker, Lakwena Maciver, Stuart Pearson Wright and Simon Roberts (Photographer).



## 11TH OCT **SIXTH FORM ART – 'FRIEZE ART FAIR', REGENTS PARK (PWN)**

We were lucky to get into the famous Frieze Art Fair to soak up the atmosphere and be inspired by the contemporary work on display.

# GALLERY

Top left: 'Octopus' Nessie H Y10. Top right: 'Muted', Sara A Y11. Middle left: Zara R Photoshop Landscape. Middle right: 'Stuffed' Libby (ISA 2nd Prize). Bottom left: 'Surreal', Eli F Y8. Bottom right: Plant Collage (after Patrick Caufield) Reza Y7.









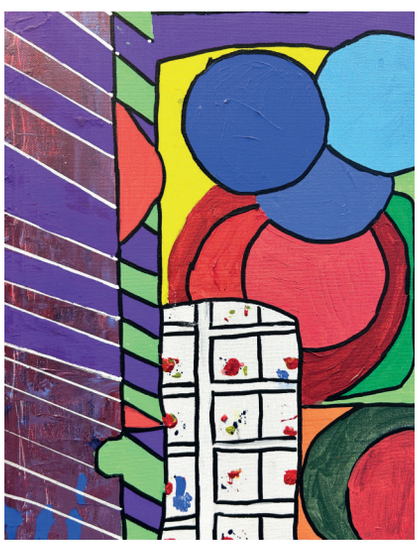
















Top left: Maia H, Medusa Shield Y13. Top right: Traffic Lights, Maia H. Middle left: Voices Unbound, Lulu G Y11. Middle centre: Abstract Mixed Media, Felix F Y8. Middle right: Bug, Marcus F (ISA winner). Bottom left, Lines of Nature, Hettie W Y11. Bottom right: Pride and Light, Thandie C Y11.



# PE & GAMES

## FOOTBALL AT MVS:
### A RECORD-BREAKING SEASON

This year marked a historic football season for MVS, with every year group playing the highest number of competitive fixtures ever. Across all teams, we've seen incredible progress, resilience, and passion, making it a rewarding journey for players and coaches alike.

### Year 7 & 8

The Year 7 & 8 teams combined development with success, kicking off with a 14-0 win over Kew House and a follow-up 6-2 victory in the return fixture. Despite challenges in their league campaign, they finished strong with two impressive wins.

Standouts: Harry R, Walter S, Folayemi W



(Year 7); Arthur S, Zane R, Bella F (Year 8).

### Year 9 & 10

This group brought unrelenting passion and energy to every game. With a balanced record of 4 wins, 4 losses, and 1 draw, they started strong and rebounded from mid season challenges to close with fast-paced football.

**Standouts:** Jackson H, Otto KM, Adam B (Year 9); Matt W, Jasper P, Chris K (Year 10).

### 1st XI

The Seniors showcased grit and growth, achieving notable 2-2 draws against tough opponents KPS and Ibstock Place. Luca W shone in midfield, Anthony kept defenses on edge, and Isaac G and Jervaan E ended their final year as key contributors.

Standouts: Todd D, Devan S, Arthur KG.

### Looking Ahead

This season's achievements reflect the hard work, talent, and determination of our teams. Here's to building on this success next year!

## MAIDA FOOTBALL LEAGUE:
### A TERM TO REMEMBER

This term, students participated in the inaugural Maida Football League, a unique competition featuring six teams: Leicester, Spurs, Ipswich, Everton, West Ham, and Bournemouth. Each student took on roles such as Physio, Kit Person, Manager, and Captain, fostering teamwork and strategy in pursuit of victory.

Bournemouth dominated the league, topping the table with 93 points, an impressive 23-point lead over second-place Ipswich. However, the knockout Maida Cup provided a twist, as underdogs West Ham defied the odds to claim the trophy, defeating league leaders Bournemouth in an exciting final.

**MVPs of the Season:**

- Bournemouth: Felix – For relentless effort and securing crucial points.
- Spurs: Finn – Ensured his team was always game-ready as Physio.



- Everton: Anya – The team's linchpin, tirelessly connecting defense and attack.
- Ipswich: Jojo – For dazzling skills and relentless runs at opposition defenses.
- West Ham: Rafe – Exceptional sportsmanship and leading the memorable cup run.
- Leicester: Reza – Consistent 100% effort and determination in every match.

It's been a fiercely competitive and rewarding term of football for all involved!

**YEAR 9 & 10 MAIDA LEAGUE:**
AUTUMN TERM HIGHLIGHTS

The Year 9 & 10 Maida League has been a resounding success this autumn. Pupils formed small teams, taking charge of warm-ups, tactics, and match analysis, fostering independence and teamwork.

The term featured competitive matches, often decided by slim margins, with students displaying impressive teamwork and sportsmanship. A popular addition was the Year 9 vs. Year 10 games, producing thrilling encounters—a 4-4 draw with a last-minute equalizer and a narrow Year 10 victory.

**Special Mentions:**

- Finn Nealon: For selfless teamwork, often stepping in as goalkeeper.
- Adrian Hunyak: Outstanding progress and top-notch defensive skills.
- August Wijsenbeek-Sakovsky: A true midfield general, orchestrating play.
- Noah Feuer Garcia: Blazing pace on the wings, creating attacking chances.

A fantastic term of football showcasing growth and enthusiasm!



# NETBALL





**NETBALL**
END OF SEASON SUMMARY

**U13A:**
The U13A team had a season full of growth and determination. We had several wins, came third place overall in the Quad Series and many challenging games. The players consistently showed up motivated and gave their best effort. Every match, win or lose, was a chance to learn and improve, and the team's unwavering spirit and teamwork were truly commendable. Excellent work U13A!

**U13B**:
The U13B team demonstrated incredible determination and enthusiasm throughout the season. Despite facing tough competition and securing only a few wins, the players always approached each game with motivation and a positive attitude. Every match provided valuable lessons, and the team grew stronger with each challenge they faced. Well done U13Bs!

**U15A:**
The U15A team brought boundless energy and enthusiasm to the court this season. Despite not securing many wins, their bubbly personalities and unwavering motivation to play made them a joy to watch. Each game was approached with positivity and a determination to improve, showcasing their love for the sport. Well done U15As!







# RACKETS

## LOWER RACKETS:

This year introduced Rackets to Games, giving students the chance to explore a variety of racket and net games. Pupils engaged in badminton, short tennis, pickleball, table tennis, and spike ball, learning rules and techniques before competing in tournaments.

## MIDDLE RACKETS:

Students embraced traditional sports like badminton and table tennis, as well as newer ones like Pickleball and Spike Ball, with a focus on learning skills and tactics. Pickleball, a rapidly growing sport, was a highlight, particularly mastering the 'kitchen' zone. Weekly tournaments were fiercely contested, with different winners and standout performers showcasing their versatility across sports.

**Lower Rackets Highlights:**

Dylan B: Consistent across all racket sports.
Zima: Exceptional movement in badminton.
Joe G: Dominant in table tennis tournaments.
Katya: Patient and determined in Pickleball.
Julian W: Gave 100% effort and regularly challenged the top players.

**Middle Rackets Shout-outs:**

Koki Takemoto: Outstanding skill and positivity.
Lincoln Gamble: Dedicated across all sports, excelling in badminton.
Freddie Hopkins: Relentless rallies and intense effort.
Zuzu Abboud: Positive attitude and perseverance in every game.
A fantastic start to the Rackets program, with students developing skills, teamwork, and a love for these exciting sports!

## MAIDA VALE SKI TEAM SHINES AT ISA CHAMPIONSHIPS

In September, the Maida Vale School Ski Team competed at the ISA Ski Championships at Hemel Hempstead's Snow Centre. Two teams participated: one of Year 8s and another of Year 9s and 10s. Despite early delays due to a lift issue and a challenging course, all MVS racers completed their runs successfully.

**Standout Performances:**

Alfie: 9th in the U16 Girls with a fastest time of 16.59 seconds.
Arthur: 14th in the Boys U14 with a time of 18.14 seconds.
Well done to all participants! We look forward to an even larger team next year!





# DRAMA

*- ANASTASIA ARGYROU & ANDY MCNAMEE -*



## ANTIGONE: 3021

Earlier this term, the Drama Department hosted auditions for our production of Antigone: 3021. Shortly after, 20 talented students from our KS3 cohort were cast and began rehearsals!

Over the next 10 weeks, our KS3 pupils met every Wednesday and most Tuesdays to dive into their characters, stage key scenes, and bring to life the timeless tale of Sophocles' Antigone. This re-imagined version, adapted by Nina Mansfield, is set in the year 3021 and offers a futuristic twist on the classic story.

On December 4th, we were thrilled to welcome friends and family to experience our interpretation of Antigone. The performance explored themes of family conflict, honor, loyalty, and the rebellion against an unjust ruler, delivering a powerful and thought-provoking evening of theatre.







## CRUCIBLE SET DESIGN

This term, our Year 10 Drama students delved into Arthur Miller's The Crucible, combining practical and creative exploration to bring this powerful play to life. Through dynamic rehearsals, they developed an in-depth understanding of the key characters and the intense conflicts of the Salem witch trials.

Alongside performing, students showcased their creativity by building detailed set models and crafting thoughtful costume and lighting designs that reflected their unique interpretations of the text. The term culminated in a stunning performance of Act 3, presented in an end-of-term showcase for parents and friends. The students' hard work, both on and off the stage, truly captured the tension, emotion, and timeless relevance of Miller's masterpiece.





# HISTORY & POLITICS

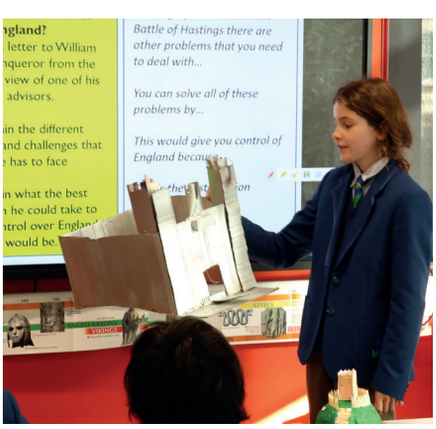
*- EDWARD HOPKINS & TANJA BIALOJAN -*

## HISTORY
### INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Overall, this term, Students have covered topics ranging from Life in the Medieval Ages and the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade to Parliament and Native Americans in the USA.

There have been lots of exciting developments in the History and Politics Department over the Autumn term. In terms of enrichment, we have two exciting new opportunities to get involved in. In the Model UN, students can engage with global politics and issues that affect them as they explore important issues such as conflict, poverty and climate change. In addition, the Mysteries in History club explores the more secretive events and enigmas throughout World History.






Students have been engaging in the creative side of History, including building their own model castles (Year 7), creating podcasts on the Slave Trade (Year 8) and manufacturing their own stained-glass windows (Year 7). There have also been some interesting trips this term including a visit by Year 13 Politics Students to the Supreme Court to investigate its role in balancing the role and responsibilities of Parliament and the Executive.

## MODEL UNITED NATIONS
### COMPETITION WINNERS

Our Model United Nations (MUN) club is up and running and always looking for new members! After participating successfully in two prestigious conferences in London – LatyMUN and WSSMUN – our students have gained invaluable experience in global diplomacy, debate, and problem-solving.



Currently, we are preparing for an exciting internal crisis committee, involving students from Year 9 upwards. This interactive exercise will challenge participants to address urgent global issues, building teamwork and public speaking skills. In addition, we are already planning for our Sixth Form trip to SPLIMUN in Lille, France, in March 2025, where our senior students will engage with international peers in high-level MUN discussions.

The MUN club meets every Thursday from 16:15 to 17:30 after school. Whether you are a seasoned debater or new to the world of MUN, we invite all students to join us and be part of this exciting, dynamic group.

If you're interested or have any questions, please contact tanja.bialojan@maidavaleschool.com. Come along and start making your mark on the world stage!



# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

## EXPLORING BIG QUESTIONS

### INTRODUCING A LEVEL RS

We are excited to offer students the opportunity to study A Level Religious Studies (RS), a subject that delves into life's biggest questions through the lenses of philosophy, ethics, and theology. From exploring the rationality of belief in God to grappling with moral dilemmas, students will analyse these topics through a dialogue with Christianity, developing critical thinking and debating skills along the way.

Our students recently experienced this firsthand at the Year 12 RS Masterclass in London, organised by EthIQa's Academy Learning. They joined peers from across the city to engage with lectures by renowned scholars from Oxford, Cambridge, and King's College London.

Highlights included "The Politics and Philosophy of the Embryo" by Julie Arliss, which tackled ethical questions surrounding the beginning of life, and Professor James Orr's exploration of arguments for and against belief in God. Students also delved into death and the afterlife with Professor Tom Greggs, the role of women in religion with Professor Daphne Hampson, and debated Natural Law to end the day.

This inspiring event brought the themes of RS to life, offering a taste of the rigorous and thought-provoking discussions that await students in this exciting new subject.

# GEOGRAPHY

*- CAROLINE KNIGHT -*

The Geography Department has had an action-packed term filled with exciting projects, hands-on learning, creative activities, and even some advanced statistical analysis for added depth!

### YEAR 7: ADVENTURERS IN THE MAKING

Our Year 7 students launched into Geography through the Gardener Schools Group Award Scheme, working in conjunction with the Mathematics department, they planned detailed holidays to extraordinary destinations: Lesotho, Mongolia, Costa Rica, and Argentina. They explored human and physical attractions, created itineraries, calculated travel budgets, and delivered inspiring presentations. All were awarded bronze, merit or distinction which will count towards their final GSG Award. They have honed their map-reading skills using Ordnance Survey maps and made their own 3D model compasses incorporating everything from knight's shields to pizza boxes!

### YEAR 8: FROM ENERGY TO ERUPTIONS

Year 8 explored the fascinating world of energy, presenting on diverse energy sources, energy insecurity, and the controversial practice of fracking. Moving through the Earth's geological history, they delved into plate tectonics and showcased their creativity with volcanic models. These impressive creations, complete with labelled cross-sections, even erupted in the school grounds!

#### Year 9: Battling the Elements

This term, Year 9 studied Hazardous Environments, learning how hurricanes form and tracking real-time storms along the USA's coastline. They also explored the devastating power of earthquakes, comparing Japan's 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami with Haiti's tragic earthquake of the same year.

### YEAR 10: DRAMA IN DEINDUSTRIALISATION

Year 10 tackled economic activity and energy, culminating in imaginative plays on the impacts of deindustrialisation in Redcar after the steelworks closure. Their thoughtful scripts and performances showcased empathy and understanding of the human and economic consequences.

### YEAR 11: FIELDWORK IN BRIGHTON

Year 11 geographers headed to Brighton for their physical geography fieldwork, investigating beach sediment and coastal processes. The day ended with some well-deserved fun on the pier – a great balance of learning and leisure!

### YEAR 12: EXPLORING GLOBALISATION AND DISASTER VULNERABILITY

Year 12 geographers embraced university-level challenges this term, producing academic posters on the AT Kearney Globalisation Index and diving deep into plate tectonics. They also analysed factors affecting vulnerability to natural disasters, applying advanced statistical methods such as Spearman's Rank Correlation Coefficient to make well-supported judgements from data sets. Their impressive work demonstrates their growing expertise, analytical skills, and critical thinking.






# MUSIC

*-JANE STOTT-*

## YEAR 7 ORCHESTRA

As part of their musical journey, every student who joins MVS in Year 7 is being taught the basics on a range of orchestral instruments. This term, our Year 7 cohort have started this process, spending the term learning violin, flute/ clarinet, or trombone/ trumpet, led by a team of specialist teachers. This is not only an exciting opportunity to learn and develop a new skill, but also benefits them both musically and academically. Pupils performed a piece on this instrument in the Key Stage 3 Recital on Thursday 12th December.

Working as an orchestra they will explore different musical styles, gaining insight into the structure, rhythm, and emotional depth of various compositions. They will also development teamwork, as they rehearse and perform together, learning the importance of collaboration and communication. We are incredibly proud of the progress they've made and can't wait to share the fruits of their dedication with the rest of the school community.

## MUSIC PRODUCTION

GCSE Music students in years 9-11 have been using Logic software to compose music in a range of styles this term. It is important for their development as musicians that they can realise their musical ideas using technology, and this will also help ensure good outcomes at the end of the GCSE course.
Topics covered this term have included composing music for a documentary about space exploration, bhangra and cool jazz.






GCSE Music students working on Logic Pro compositions.

## **THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT** A FESTIVE END TO THE TERM

This year's Christmas Concert took place at St. John's Church in Notting Hill, a new and lovely venue for us. The varied programme was led by a choir of 40 Pupils and Staff, who sang Carol of the Bells by Leontovych and a gospel-inspired version of Silent Night, with a beautiful solo by Finlay K in Year 7. The choir also led congregational carols and songs, including See Amid the Winter's Snow and In The Bleak Midwinter as recorded by Annie Lennox. Soloists Verena S and Lavinia C from Year 8 were accompanied by a band of Pupils, including Leo B and Joseph C on piano, Shaan R and Clementine V on keyboard, Adrian H and Bailey B on guitar and Finn N and Joe M on percussion. The orchestra played Starlight Prelude by Wilby, and an ensemble of Year 10 musicians performed a bespoke arrangement of Cavatina from The Deer Hunter by Myers, with complex classical guitar parts performed by Bailey, Tobias and August.

One highlight of the evening was the chamber choir's a capella performance of Gaudete, with solos from Katya K, Emilia S, Edoardo C and Dylan N. The audience enjoyed readings from four Pupils and the Headmaster, and the evening ended on a jazzy note, with the congregation joining a jazz band and Isla F (solo vocals) in a rendition of Jingle Bells. Many thanks to Jane Stott, Director of Music for arranging the music and rehearsals for the event.









# ENRICHMENT & CLUBS

*- RICHARD HAMMOND -*




Enrichment this term has been a hive of activity, from casting precious metals in Jewellery Making Club on a Monday night with Miss Popescu to unearthing the truth in some of history's most cold cases with Miss Wilkes on a Thursday lunchtime.

With just over 40 clubs on offer throughout the week, the students have plenty to choose from.

Model UN (MUN) which was started by Mrs Bioaljan this year has seen some outstanding success. With Maida Vale students being recognised at both the conferences that were attended with Michael earning 'delegate of the conference' on both occasions, while Zak in Year 13 secured the job of Liberal Democrat Prime Minister, something I am sure we can agree is quite a feat!

Meanwhile the students who will volunteering with Africa Adventures Foundation in Zanzibar later this year have been hard at work raising funds for the trip. They ran a bake sale in the restaurant and took part in a sponsored row with staff.

Mr Nicol has been teaching our young scientists how to go out with a bang at the Explosions Club. Dissections, bottle rockets, Jelly Baby canons and acid rainbows are but a few of the investigations much have taken place.

Alex in Year 12 has been leading our younger students on campaigns through dangerous sewers, thieve's guilds, busy villages and lush fields in the world of Dungeons and Dragons.

While the early risers have taken advantage of Miss Pocock's British Sign Language lessons and Miss Maughan has been guiding students to deliver their TED Talks in the summer term with Cassie Taylor Swift influenced power of celebrity topic or Zara's looking into feminism and equality. To name a few.

## POPPY APPEAL

This term members of our Year 7 came to school early to pick up trays of red poppies to sell outside Queen's Park Tube Station to raise money for Remembrance Sunday.

It was nice to see how keen they were to volunteer to raise money. In the end their were well rewarded with a total of £417.74




## INDIVIDUALS IN SOCIETY DAY






Individuals in Society Day, September 2024. At the beginning of term all Year Groups spent the day immersed in a variety of PSHE Workshops.

Each session was delivered by external specialists, covering the topics 'Anti-racism', 'Online Safety & Screen Time', 'Sex & Relationships' and 'Study Skills & Revision'. Workshops and talks were given from lots of different organisations such as Every Future Foundation and Positively You.

# PGL YEAR 7 OUTWARD BOUND

In September, Year 7 visited PGL Osmington Bay and spent an amazing week forming friendships and getting to know each other and their new teachers. All the students who attended had great fun developing their understanding of the MVS community with some pupils conquering their fears.

It was great to see all those on the trip support each other and show great bravery to ride the giant swing and climb the vertical challenge.

Other pupils showed their just how precise their aim was with a competitive series of corridor games, axe throwing and archery tag. It was really exciting to see our Year 7s show resilience and overcome challenging weather conditions (with a bit of help from hot chocolate) when visiting Portland Bay's Olympic venue to experience paddle boarding and raft building.

With so many action-packed days there were still moments of relaxation. Students had the opportunity to reflect on the memories made throughout a brilliant week and their new friendships with a beach walk, where they took in the beautiful Jurassic Coast discovering sea glass on the pebble beach.



















GARDENER
SCHOOLS GROUP

The Gardener Schools Group, one family, four schools one vision

KEW GREEN
preparatory school

KEWHOUSE
SCHOOL

MAIDA VALE SCHOOL

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