MAIDA VALE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025



TRIPS, TALKS & WORKSHOPS

EASTER MUSIC CONCERT

ZANZIBAR EXPEDITION

SPORTS ROUNDUP

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

ENRICHMENT CLUBS

GARDENER SCHOOLS GROUP



Parents and friends were treated to a lively evening of music at the Easter Concert. Full story on page 23.



Mr Magnus Bashaarat
Headmaster, Maida Vale School

The spring term began in the cold deluge of successive winter storms piling in from the Atlantic and has finished with the cherry blossom on Saltram Crescent out in full bloom; the twelve-week term feeling to me like darkness emerging into light.

My personal highlights were the trip to Stratford-upon-Avon with Y12 and 13 English students which gets a mention on Page 9. The picture shows a guide in red explaining the rise and fall of the Hathaway family to a large group of French schoolchildren, plus us, before we had a tour around the house itself. Later we saw a production of 'Hamlet' at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre that was original, thought-provoking and direct. This was immersive cultural education at its best.

As was our Cultural Capital Day on the 21st of March which saw me accompanying Y10 to Lord's, The Home of Cricket, for a combined Maths and PE trip. We played some cricket in the indoor cricket school, had a tour of the ground which included the famous Long Room, the home dressing room and the museum, and then played some real tennis. We also spent the middle of the day calculating averages and completing a Maths quiz.

The Science Fair on Page 10, was my third highlight of the term, with Y7 and Y8 presenting their science investigations to their peers, parents and staff; an excellent example of successful project-based learning.

The variety of learning and development opportunities in this term's packed newsletter are testament to the creativity and innovation that lies at the heart of an MVS education.

CONTENT

NEWS ROUND UP

04 **Design Technology** It's been an exciting term in Design & Technology, from designing 3-D Confectionary Packaging to making electric fans!

05 **Computer Science** Year 7 have been busy building websites using HTML while Year 9 have been building Apps and researching Cybersecurity.

05 **Spanish** Year 10 Spanish students visited the BFI in London's Southbank for a special workshop .

06 **Zanzibar Expedition** Over the half term break an intrepid group of our students from Years 10 to 13 travelled to Zanzibar to work with a local charity.

08 **Creative Digital Media Production** Our students have been engaging in a variety of hands-on and creative tasks, pushing their skills in both storytelling and technical production.

09 **English** We have been making the most of our proximity to the West End by taking groups to see live performances of their set texts. We also traveled further to visit Shakespeare's birthplace.

10 **Science** Our students celebrated British Science Week with guest speakers, explosive demonstrations, a dissection club, movie night, and an enormously creative Year 7 & Year 8 Science Fair.

11 **Maths** We continue to take part in UK Mathematics Trust Challenge whilst also celebrating National Numbers and Pi Days.

11 **Psychology** Two of our A-Level Psychology students review their trip to the Freud Museum in Hampstead.

12 **Art and Photography** visits to The Tate and the 80's Photography exhibitions have helped to prepare and inspire our pupils ahead of their GCSE and A-Level exams this summer.

14 **Gallery** a stunning showcase of some of this term;s creative work including submissions to the Royal Academy Summer Young Artists' Show.

16 **PE & Games** After a fun packed Ski Trip to Andora, our sports stars have been busy this term competing in a wide range of activities including Rugby, Hockey, Cross Country and Swimming..

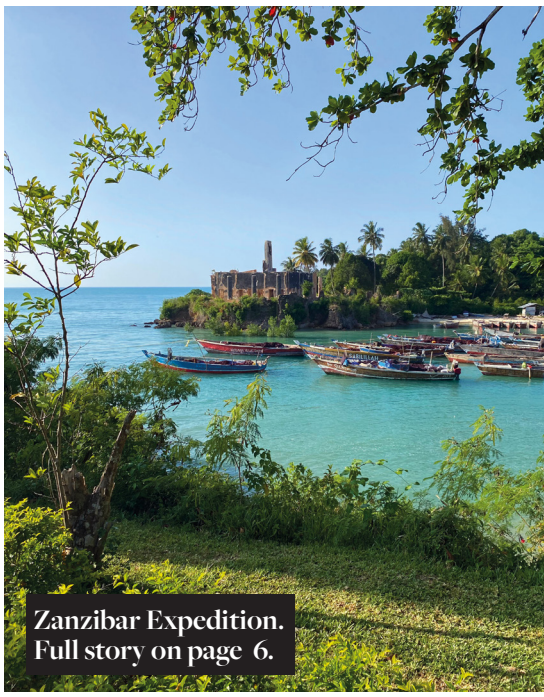
19 **Drama** This term's KS4 production was 'A Dolls House', while students across other year groups took trips to see 'Elektra' and 'My Neighbour Totoro'.

20 **History & Politics** The department organised a 'Cultural Capital Day' using the city of London as a map against which major events in the past and politics could be explored and investigated.

21 **Geography** Read about a splendid Spring term in the Geography Department, where our students have studied Urban Environments, Population Change as well as Coastal Landscapes and Diverse Places.

22 **Enrichment Clubs** Our staff and Sixth Formers have created clubs and activities that cater to every interest from leather and woodworking to dissecting hearts in Explosions Club!

23 **Music** This term culminated in a wonderfully eclectic Easter Concert, while the Year 7 Orchestra focus has been on violin playing.



Zanzibar Expedition. Full story on page 6.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

- RICHARD BARRETT -

It's been an exciting term in Design & Technology as KS3 Y7 students have been embarking on a 3-Dimensional Confectionary Packaging project where they are not only designing the packaging, but are thinking about branding, fonts, livery and graphics to create a sophisticated piece of design.

Y8 have been busy making their electric fans, whilst he Y9 students have been undertaking to learn more sophisticated machinery ready for building their LightBox in the Summer Term.

Y10 have been developing the creative first half of their coursework, including their consumer research, influential designers and creative ideas for their project.

Y11 are coming to the end of their GCSE programme including their coursework, including the making of their final products.

Our first Y12 cohort have been developing in a range of new materials and techniques, exploiting expertise in textiles and leather as well as our advancement in polymer (plastics) technologies.

Enrichment has included Leatherworking for the first time and our offer holders were all able to product their own personalised bespoke MVS products. Our connection with a leading leather tannery (and supplier to boutique brands) and with the expertise of our new technician Ms Rogers will only enhance our leather provision.

We look forward to taking our Y7 students to a roller-coaster building workshop at Legoland Windsor on 23rd May, where they will get the change to build and test roller coasters whilst also learning about the design principles behind them.



Year 9 putting the finishing touches to their 'push sticks'



INSIDE THE COMPUTER SCIENCE LAB

Spring term has been a busy and exciting period for our pupils across all year groups.

Year 7 explored the main components of a computer and demonstrated their creativity by constructing models using recyclable materials. They also learned how to build a basic website using HTML, gaining foundational web development skills.



Year 10 exploring robotics with LEGO

COMPUTER SCIENCE

- INGRID MAHDI -



Year 8 immersed themselves in networks and data representation, mastering the conversion between binary and denary, as well as binary addition. These skills provided them with a strong understanding of how data is stored and processed in computers.

Year 9 showcased their creativity by designing posters on social engineering, malware, and cybersecurity using magazines, newspapers, and online sources. They then presented their findings to the class, reinforcing their understanding of digital threats and protection methods. Additionally, they engaged in an exciting project using Applab, developing mobile applications focused on health and fitness. Their innovative apps were presented to their classmates, demonstrating their programming and design skills.

Year 10 enhanced their problem-solving skills by learning about searching and sorting algorithms, Python programming, and robotics with LEGO. They also explored ethical, cultural, and environmental issues in technology through detailed research and presentations, fostering critical thinking about the broader impact of computing.

Year 11 have worked diligently to complete their syllabus, tackling past paper questions and developing efficient solutions to problems using Python. Their hard work and dedication will prepare them well for their upcoming exams.

SPANISH

- FRANCISCO NAVARRO -

BFI WORKSHOP

In February, our Year 10 GCSE Spanish students visited the BFI in London's Southbank for a special workshop. Conducted mainly in Spanish, this interactive study day used short films to explore themes of identity and culture, introduce students to new vocabulary and provided them with opportunities to practice their listening, speaking and writing.

The event was designed to support the Spanish AQA GCSE specifications using Spanish short films curated with KS4 students in mind. The morning consisted of a presentation interspersed with short film screenings, clip analysis and lesson activities aimed at introducing students to new vocabulary, supporting them with their critical film analysis skills and encouraging them to discuss the issues raised in the films in the target language.

In the afternoon students sat back and watched a screening of the 2022 Spanish language film, *Llenos de Gracia*, a film that was never released in the UK.





ZANZIBAR EXPEDITION

On 13th February, Ms. Deedat and Ms. Gammon set off with 13 intrepid students for a ten-day expedition to Zanzibar.

The students spent the first two days exploring the Jozani Forest and the southern shores of Zanzibar, followed by seven days of teaching and construction volunteer work.

JOZANI FOREST

We woke up on our first day excited for what was to come. We prepared ourselves for the adventure that lay ahead. We arrived at the Jozani Forest, walking through twisting and overlapping mangroves, observing the glistening sea filled with an array of bugs that we had never encountered before. Our expert tour guide, Amore, spoke to us about the necessity of mangroves for the preservation of Zanzibar, saying, "no mangroves, no Zanzibar." As we had learnt about in our Geography lessons, mangroves protect the island from costal erosion.

We made our way deeper into the forest, encountering the endangered red Colobus monkey. Many of them roamed freely through the jungle, we observed them leaping from branch to branch, interacting with their natural habitat, eating vegetation and playing joyfully. As we continued our trek, we tried to spot blue colobus monkeys, but they weren't as easy to see being much more elusive, we were lucky to even spot one.

The day was incredibly hot, but it was an exhilarating experience to see monkeys in their natural habitat.

- Michael H



OCEAN SAFARI

The next day, we went on an ocean safari. This included snorkelling, exploring nearby islands such as Kwale Island, seeing dolphins and eating delectable seafood. We headed to the beach to get our equipment and boarded a traditional Zanzibarian dhow boat. As we travelled towards our first stop, we were lucky enough to see bottlenose dolphins through Menai Bay. After this extraordinary sight, we headed towards a small island where we could swim and feel the warm Indian Ocean.

At our next stop, we snorkelled and saw a variety of colourful shoals of fish, sea cucumbers, coral, starfish and jellyfish. After this, it was time for lunch. We docked at Kwale Island where we had a delicious seafood lunch. This has an assortment of food from tuna to lobster and a variety of native fruits such as baobab. At our final stop we were able to swim through mangroves, seeing them even closer than the day before.

- Alix R E S

VOLUNTEER TEACHING

On our first day volunteering, we ventured across the sandy roads to Zanzibar's Floral Primary School and Nursery. After a warm welcoming ceremony of songs, dancing and cheers of excitement, we finally approached our classrooms to teach. With glistening smiles before us, Josh and I began to teach our students Science. The lesson covered both plants and soil, which allowed us to better connect with the class through our mutual love for the native flora and fauna of Zanzibar that we had seen days before. The first day was brilliant, which had us all eagerly excited to continue for the rest of the week.

- Max O K

VOLUNTEER CONSTRUCTION

In the sweltering 30-degree heat, our students constructed an outer wall of the school to stop it from eroding in the rainy season. The work was certainly strenuous and the sheer energy and effort it took to construct in the heat is not to be underestimated; their work truly was admirable (having led the construction, I know firsthand!).

The students set to work lifting bricks from a loaded lorry, while others began to dig out the foundation. They then manually began to mix concrete ready for the foundations to be laid. From there, brick upon brick was piled to create the outer wall, followed by a final layer of cement.

Those who constructed worked with fortitude and resilience and their work will be left, nearly permanently, at Flora Primary School, a true testament to their work.





ABOUT FLORA SCHOOL

Flora Nursery and Primary School was founded in 2003 to give those less fortunate in their community an education and a chance of a better future.

The school educates around 150 students between the ages of 3 to 14. Without Flora Nursery and Primary School, it is unlikely that some local children would receive an education at all.



STUDENT REFLECTIONS

Zanzibar was an eye-opening experience. We experienced the vibrant culture and helped to educate and inspire children that were eager to learn. We not only shared our knowledge but also gained a deeper appreciation for the power of education and the challenges faced by under-resourced areas. The experience left us all feeling inspired and more committed to making a positive impact in the world.

- Elina S

Zanzibar was a great learning experience but lots of fun too. I really enjoyed teaching English at Flora Primary School. One boy in my class that I won't forget was called Abdul – he was always happy and smiling. He even made me a drawing to take home. I enjoyed seeing what their learning environment was like – very different to ours at MVS! I really admired how the children made the most of school life, even though they had few resources.

- Louis L





The Reed Centre Camera Workshop

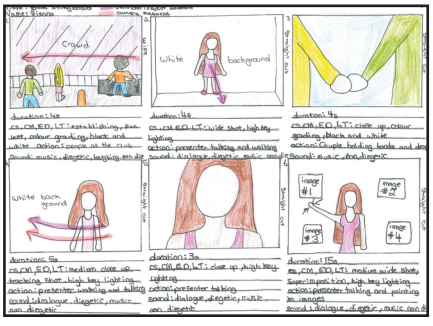
CREATIVE DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION

- NANA ABOAGYE -

STORY TELLING & TECHNICAL PRODUCTION

This term, our students have been engaging in a variety of hands-on and creative tasks, pushing their skills in both storytelling and technical production.

A major focus has been on developing their storyboarding abilities. Storyboarding is an essential part of pre-production, helping students visually map out their ideas and scenes before they start filming. The students have been crafting detailed storyboards for their projects, experimenting with shot compositions, camera angles, and transitions to ensure their visual narratives come to life in the most effective way possible. This has been an exciting process for them, as they've been able to take their initial ideas and transform them into a visual representation, giving them a solid blueprint for their upcoming projects.



REED WORKSHOP

Recently, we took a trip to the Reed Centre, where the students had the opportunity to get hands-on experience with professional cameras and editing software. During this trip, they worked together to create a food advert, putting their skills into practice by filming and editing an engaging and polished advertisement. The students were able to familiarise themseleves with some amazing equipment, including Blackmagic cameras, which allowed them to capture high-quality footage and experiment with various filming techniques.

They also learned key technical skills such as adjusting white balance to ensure accurate color reproduction, understanding aperture to control the amount of light entering the camera, and changing lenses to achieve different effects and focal lengths. In addition, they had a deep dive into understanding exposure, ensuring that their shots were correctly lit for the best visual results. One of the exciting tasks involved performing whip pans, a dynamic camera movement that created smooth transitions between scenes, helping the students enhance their storytelling through creative motion.

This hands-on experience at the Reed Centre was invaluable in helping them connect the theory they've learned in the classroom with real-world, practical skills. It was a fantastic opportunity to engage with industry-standard equipment and learn essential filming and editing techniques that will serve them well in future projects.

Looking ahead, next term, the students will be diving into sound editing skills. This is an exciting area where they'll learn how to enhance their projects with high-quality audio. They'll explore techniques such as sound mixing, syncing audio to video, creating and adjusting sound effects, and mastering the levels of dialogue, music, and ambient sounds to create a balanced and immersive soundscape. They'll also learn about noise reduction, equalization, and using software like Pro Tools or Adobe Audition to refine and perfect their audio tracks. Sound editing is an integral part of digital media production, and the students will gain the skills they need to take their projects to the next level in terms of both visual and auditory impact.

Overall, the students are progressing wonderfully in CDMP. They're developing their storytelling abilities through storyboarding and putting those skills into action with the hands-on camera and editing work at the Reed Centre. It's been great to see their creative ideas come to life, and I'm excited to watch them continue to grow in their digital media skills, especially as they start mastering the art of sound editing next term.

ENGLISH

- ABIGAIL GAMMON -



The Bard's birthplace visit to Stratford Upon Avon

It has certainly been a busy and enriching Spring Term for the English Department, where our students have had a term filled with theatre visits, literary exploration, and opportunities to bring their studies to life outside the classroom.

One of the highlights of the term was our series of theatre trips, which provided invaluable insight into some of the key texts we study here at Maida Vale on our A-Level English Literature course. We began with a production of **'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof'**, starring **Daisy Edgar-Jones** and **Kingsley Ben-Adir**. This gripping performance brought to life Tennessee Williams' themes of truth, mendacity, and social expectations. Seeing the play performed by such talented actors deepened students' understanding of Williams' dramatic techniques, rich symbolism, and Southern Gothic elements.

Following this, we attended the opening night of the Olivier Award-winning production of **'A Streetcar Named Desire'**, featuring Oscar nominated Paul Mescal as Stanley Kowalski, something that deeply enthused and excited our students. The electrifying adaptation intensified the dramatic tension and character dynamics, reinforcing the complexities of Blanche DuBois and the brutal realism of Stanley. Watching such a powerful production brought fresh insights into Williams' critique of social structures, making our classroom discussions even more engaging. The night didn't end when the show ended, as some of our students waited eagerly to behind to meet Paul Mescal at the stage door, and their patience paid off, certainly a highlight of their year!



Sixth Form visit to Hamlet at the RSC

In addition to these American classics, we also attended a stage adaptation of **'The Lonely Londoners'** at The Kiln Theatre, **Sam Selvon's** seminal novel exploring the experiences of the Windrush generation in London. The adaptation, while not wholly true to text, certainly provided a valuable extension to their textual analysis of the novella.

> *"We have been on multiple English trips this term....My personal favourite was going to see A Streetcar Named Desire, because we were able to meet Paul Mescal at the stage door - a very memorable experience."*
>
> ***Cecily H***

Our literary adventures did not stop at the theatres of London. We also took a day trip to visit Stratford-upon-Avon, the birthplace of **William Shakespeare**, to complement their study of **'King Lear'**. Students toured Anne Hathaway's Cottage and Shakespeare's Birthplace, gaining a deeper appreciation for the historical and personal contexts that shaped his works. Seeing these sites helped students to make connections between Shakespeare's life and the themes explored in his plays, reinforcing the importance of historical context in literary analysis. We ended the day by seeing **Rupert Goold's** production of **'Hamlet'** at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, where students were able to deepen their understanding of the tragedy genre.

Finally, we end with World Book Day, which was celebrated with a wide array of events. Throughout the week, students demonstrated their literary knowledge in our quiz: Battle of the Books, with Mrs Jimenez's PT coming out victorious. On the day itself, some students participated in a creative writing workshop where they wrote alphabet and six-word stories led by our talented Ms Banks. To end the day, a host of students partook in our **'Bookery'** event where they created their own Wonka inspired chocolate bars following an immersive reading. While all the bars demonstrated creativity and flair, a huge well done to Harry A and Dylan B who produced the best scrumdiddlyumptious bars that Roald Dahl himself would have been proud of.

> *"We had an amazing opportunity to see 'A Streetcar Named Desire', 'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof' and 'Hamlet' in one term....we study both 'A Streetcar Named Desire' and 'King Lear', getting to see them performed live in the theatre was incredible...to watch these plays come to life and interpret them in a new way."*
>
> ***Larkin C***

SCIENCE

Dr Ken Science delivering his captivating '45 Minutes To Save The Planet' show



- JESS HUNT-
- ALEX MAUGHAN-
- MATT GREENFIELD -
- CONOR NICOLL -

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

In early March, MVS celebrated British Science Week with guest speakers, explosive demonstrations, a dissection club, movie night, and more!

Visiting speaker Dr. Ken captivated students with creative ways to combat climate change—who knew that just a little gas could produce so much heat when burned?!

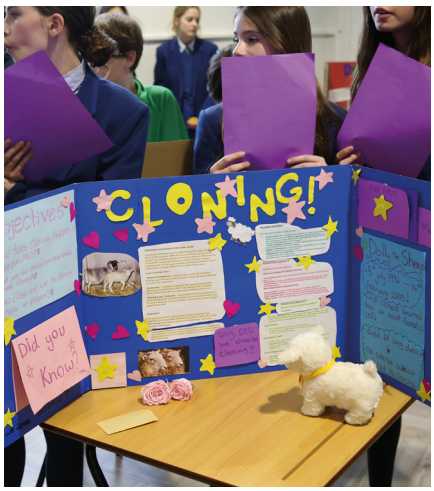
On Friday, 14th March, parents and family friends enjoyed the Science Fair, where Year 7 and Year 8 pupils showcased their group projects.

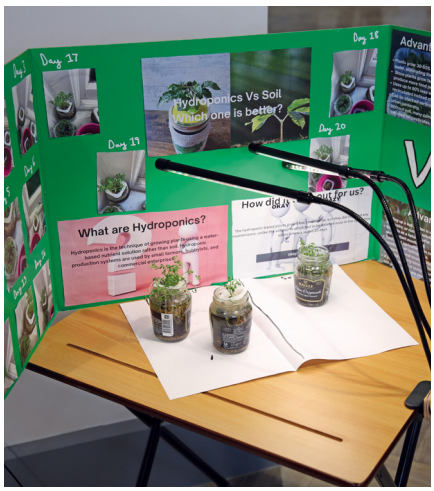
Their topics ranged from "What is Cloning?" to "How Can You Throw an Accurate Dart?"

Year 9 pupils also came to visit the Fair and were busy asking questions and explanations, engaging with younger students and exploring their fascinating research.

A fantastic week of discovery, curiosity and hands-on science!







MATHEMATICS

- MARIZA GENEE -

MATHS IN ACTION

Our Year 9 pupils attended the annual Maths in Action event at the Emmanuel Centre. They enjoyed sessions from broadcaster Emily Grossman on "Lies, Damned Lies, and Newspapers", Alison Kiddle, a maths communicator, on "The Maths of Luck", which explored real-world applications of probability, and author and broadcaster Alex Bellos on puzzles and mathematical conundrums. They also attended a session by maths communicator Zoe Griffiths on "Shapes and Smoke Rings."

During the event, Dylan G in Year 9 was invited on stage to participate in the Maths Game Show.



NSPCC 'NATIONAL NUMBER DAY' CAKE SALE

Our pupils showcased incredible creativity, baking number-themed cakes to raise an impressive £254 for the NSPCC! A huge thank you to everyone who took part, choosing the winners was no easy task!

1st Place – Saul L
2nd Place – Sophie T
3rd Place – Nicholas K|G

Well done to all who baked, donated, and supported this great cause!



UK MATHEMATICS TRUST CHALLENGE

We're proud to share some fantastic achievements from our Year 9 and Year 10 pupils in the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Challenge! A huge congratulations to all our participants for their dedication and mathematical excellence.

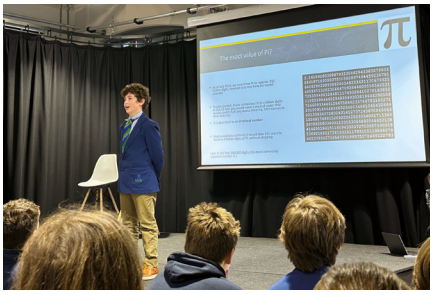


Year 9 Results

Gold & Best in School Nancy W
Silver Dylan G, Zima L
Bronze Toby G, Clementine V, Julian W

Year 10 Results

Silver & Best in Year Group Ashley L
Silver Alfie L, Bailey B
Bronze Dylan B, Gabriel G, Joe M, Aaron N, Dylan N,



PI DAY

Ms Hill and Ms Proctor delivered a Maths Assembly for pi day on its history, origins and how pi is still used today – such as in navigation. Saul L in Year 7 impressively was able to recite the first 60 digits of pi!

PSYCHOLOGY

SIGMUND FREUD MUSEUM

The Psychology class visited the Sigmund Freud Museum in Hampstead to learn more about his work on psychoanalysis, and personality, for their A-Level.

While Freud had some controversial opinions about the 'unconscious' mind, specifically the Oedipus complex, his past career as a neurologist helped him to be greatly scientific. To try to test some of his theories he developed strong connections with clients where he spoke to them regularly on his famous sofa, which had its dedicated room alongside his large collection of antiquities from a variety of time periods.

His study in Hampstead was designed to replicate his previous one in Vienna which Freud had to flee during WW2. The museum also contained many of Freud's personal items, a cabinet outside his study housed his jacket, umbrella, and cigars, amongst other things, allowing us a closer look at him as a person.

It was a truly enriching experience which helped us all to see those who we study in school as real people rather than just figures in a textbook.

Josh E & Max O



ART & PHOTOGRAPHY



'Isaac as Icarus' by Maia H Y13

SPRING TERM IN THE ART ROOM BY YEAR GROUP

Year 7 – Pupils have been making Modroc masks inspired by gargoyles and grotesques. For their ISBL (Independent Study-Based Learning) project, they created self-portraits in the style of Frida Kahlo. During LGBTQ+ History Month (February), 7V collaborated on a large group drawing inspired by graphic-style artwork.

Year 8 – This term, they have focused on Japanese and Chinese art, illustrating Chinese New Year animals and crafting clay dragon eyes and hybrid creatures. Currently, they are designing and making Uchiwa Japanese fans. For Black History Month, pupils created individual batik panels inspired by African fabrics and the artist Jamele Wright Sr. His art often incorporates textiles, found objects, and mixed media to reflect themes of memory, migration, and heritage.

Year 9 – As part of their key skills and techniques course, pupils have been exploring various printmaking methods, including monoprints, drypoints, polyprints, and lino prints, to create repeat textile patterns.

Year 10 – Pupils have continued their Self Portraits and Self-Identity project, using the grid technique to accurately draw their likeness and experimenting with different media on copies of their sketches.





Left: Self Portaigt by Teymour F. Right: Kimono by Zara R.

For LGBTQ+ History Month, they created portraits of famous figures in the style of Marlene Dumas. As part of their mock exam preparation, they have chosen exam questions on themes such as Messages and Textures.

Year 11 – Since January, pupils have been working on preparatory studies for their exam questions.

Year 12 Art – This term, students created installations, site-specific sculptures, and performance art based on seven emotions. For Happiness, they transformed a space by upturning tables and filling it with balloons, inspired by the works of Yayoi Kusama and Martin Creed.

Year 12 Photography – In their satellite project, It's All in the Timing: It's All About the Story, students captured candid street photographs, conducted fashion shoots, experimented with light drawing photography, and created cyanotype imagery.

Year 13 Art – Maia has completed her personal investigation on Greek Myths and Legends, creating a corset and a maze inspired by the Minotaur's labyrinth.

Year 13 Photography – Students have completed their personal investigations on Portraits, Fashion Photography, Everyday Scenes, and Colour.



Set design for 'A Doll's House'

SET DESIGN FOR 'A DOLLS HOUSE'

The play is primarily set in a middle-class home in Norway. The setting is crucial in illustrating the themes of domestic life, gender roles, and societal pressures.

The set backdrop, see photo, was painted blue by Yr9 Valida A, Katya K, Harry A, Sid H, Yr 10 Nessie H and S Kelesoglu. The birds and pomegranate design were made and spray painted by our Head of Art Ms S Jimemez.



ROYAL ACADEMY YOUNG ARTISTS' SUMMER SHOW ENTRIES.

This an annual exhibition showcases artwork from young artists aged 4-19. It provides a fantastic opportunity for students to have their work displayed at the Royal Academy of Arts in London and featured in an online gallery.

We entered a portrait painting from Nancy W, our Year 9 Art Scholar (above), alongside pieces from Sophia T, Celeste C and Atty D.

The RA judges will make their decisions by the end of May.

Fingers crossed for our artists!

YEAR 12&13 PHOTOGRAPHY 'THE 80S: PHOTOGRAPHING BRITAIN'

The 1980's is a critical decade for photography in the UK with the rise of photo journalism, the development of creative techniques and the proliferation of glossy magazines all set against a backdrop of social turmoil and cultural change. This is the decade where photography really emerges as a fine art.

The exhibition provided a rich mine of ideas and inspiration for our A-level photography students who took particular interest in images they could link to their chosen exam themes: **'Active and Relaxed'** and **'Self-Portraiture.'**

The curation juxtaposed **Martin Parr's** photos of the 'well off' against images taken by photojournalist **Don McCullin** of 80's miner's strikes and dole queues showing the social upheaval and providing an insight into class structure.



The self-portraits by **Joy Gregory** and **Jo Spence** gave Kitty plenty of ideas to explore for her exam question.

Year 12 students are currently deciding on their chosen area for the start of their Personal Investigation. Kiara is particularly keen to explore the advertising-style photographs she saw with text and typography. .

YEAR11 ART EXAM PREPARATORY TRIP TO TATE MODERN

The Year 11 pupils went to the Tate Modern for the afternoon to find inspiration for their chosen GCSE exam question. The most popular questions that have been selected by this year's cohort are - **'Human Beings,' 'Remnants,' 'Landmarks,' 'Narrative,'** and **'Flora and Fauna.'**

During the visit our pupils took photos, made sketches, and bought postcards for their sketchbooks.



They were particularly impressed by the large kinetic installation entitled **'Open Wound'** by **Mire Lee** (part of the Hyundai Commission in the Turbine Hall); unveiled in 2021 and known for its intense and striking visual and emotional impact.

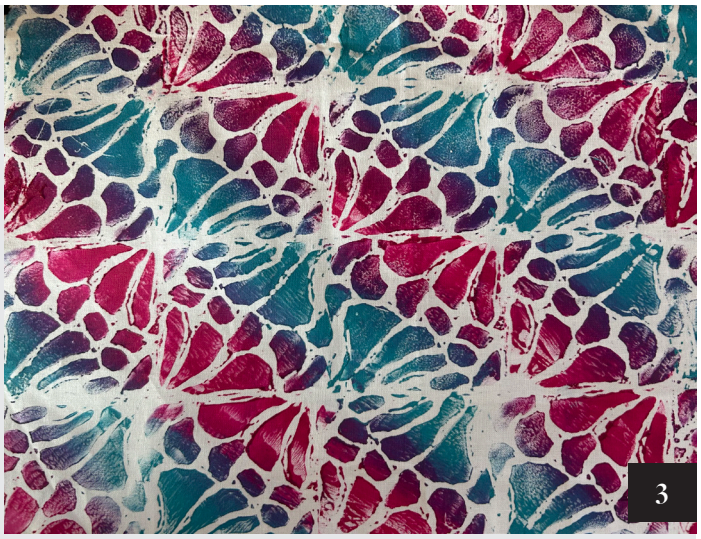
This huge installation features moving sculptures and mechanical elements that interacted with the Turbine Hall space in a dynamic and almost organic way. His sculptures are designed to evoke feelings of tension, vulnerability, and discomfort, and they explored themes of trauma, healing, and the human body. All of which is useful inspiration for most of the questions raised by the GCSE Art choices.

GALLERY

1. Drypoint etching by Nancy W, Y9.
2. Casting by Charlie B, Y10.
3. Lino pattern by Sid H, Y9.
4. Nordic Magazine by Kiara F, Y12.
5. Drawing by Emilia S, Y10.
6. 'Conflict of Space' by Year 12 Art.

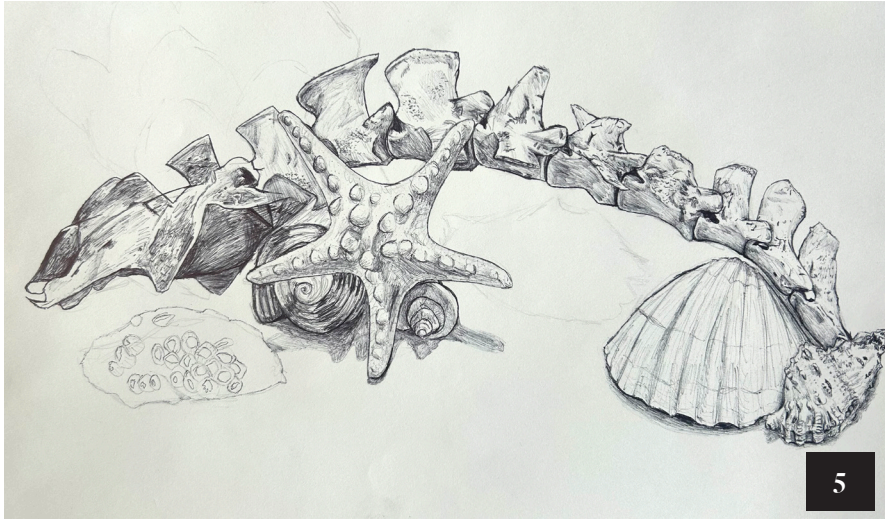

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7. Impasto Landscape by Nancy W, Y9.
8. Medusa Dress by Maia H, Y13.
9. Acrylic Self Portrait by Emilia S, Y10.
10. Conflict of Space 'Happiness' by Year 12 Art.
11. Cynotype Photography by Kiara F, Y12.
12. Frida Kahlo style Self Portrait by Nina, 7V.
13. Clay Creature by Marcus F, 8M.







PE & GAMES

RUGBY AT MVS

This rugby season at Maida Vale School has been a remarkable one, with our teams achieving the most wins we've ever recorded in a single term! Our players have shown dedication, passion, and growth on the field, and a standout highlight was our participation in the first-ever 7's tournament. This was an incredible experience for all involved, offering valuable learning opportunities and pushing our players to new limits.

Year 8: Marcus F and Arthur S were our standout players, consistently showcasing excellent skill, leadership, and sportsmanship throughout the term.

Year 9: Zima L and Otto KM stood out with their impressive performances, both showing great potential and an exceptional understanding of the game.

Year 10: Toby V was a key contributor for the Year 10 team, demonstrating excellent technique and commitment

Seniors: Max R, Anthony RG, and Isaac G were the stars of the Senior team. Their leadership and resilience in key moments were invaluable.

The best performances of the term came in our matches against Kew House for the U13s, LPS for the Seniors, and the U15s, where we demonstrated tactical brilliance and great team spirit.

This term has been one of growth, teamwork, and memorable experiences. We look forward to building on these successes in the future!

MAIDA VALE SCHOOL SWIM TEAM MAKE A SPLASH

On Thursday 6th February, the swim team dived into action at the Westminster Swim Gala, ready to test their speed, endurance, and ability to gracefully exit the pool without looking like a fish out of water. Against tough competition, including some regional and national swimmers, our team delivered an outstanding performance.

The backstroke events saw fantastic results, with Thomas (Year 7) and Eli (Year 8) both securing impressive 2nd place finishes, while Frank (Year 9) took home a solid 3rd place. Dylan (Year 10) showcased his all-round swimming ability with an incredible four 3rd place finishes in backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly, and freestyle – making Dylan the most decorated swimmer at the event!

Josie (Year 9) competing against some incredibly strong swimmers in both the backstroke and freestyle events swam brilliantly and showed real determination.

The breaststroke events saw more success, with Otis (Year 7) storming to 2nd place, Ferdi (Year 8) claiming a well-earned 1st place in his race, and Adam (Year 9) putting in a strong swim to secure 3rd place. Ferdi also added a 2nd place finish in the boys' butterfly event to his collection of medals.

Greg (Year 7) was a standout performer, securing 2nd place in the boys' butterfly, 1st place in the boys' freestyle, and an excellent 2nd place in the boys' Individual Medley. Harry (Year 8) also put in a fantastic swim to take 2nd place in the boys' freestyle.

The relay races were just as thrilling, with our Year 7 boys' freestyle relay team – Isaac, Greg, Otis, and Thomas – securing a brilliant 2nd place finish. Not to be outdone, the Year 8 boys' freestyle relay team – Eli, Ferdi, Harry, and Freddie – also raced to a fantastic 2nd place.

A huge congratulations to all our swimmers for their outstanding performances. Whether standing on the podium or pushing themselves to new personal bests, every swimmer contributed to a fantastic day of racing.











HOCKEY

MAIDA VALE SCHOOL HOCKEY TEAMS TAKE ON KEW HOUSE

On 30th January, our Year 9 and 10 hockey teams set off for an away fixture against our sister school and biggest rival, Kew House. With A and B teams competing with glorious sunshine overhead, conditions were perfect for an afternoon of intense hockey action.

The A team match was a nail-biter from start to finish. Both teams were evenly matched, but Kew House managed to edge a narrow 1-0 victory, while Maida Vale just couldn't quite break through their rock-solid goalkeeper. Despite the result, our players put in an incredible shift. Julian (Year 9) was awarded Man of the Match by the opposition for his exceptional stick skills. Special mentions must go to Frank (Year 9), who was a defensive powerhouse; Josie (Year 9), who was sensational in goal, stopping numerous attacks; Finn (Year 9), who remained calm and composed on the ball along the back line; and Jasper (Year 10), who provided boundless energy and drive throughout the match.

Meanwhile, the B team put on an absolute hockey masterclass, storming to an emphatic 7-2 victory! Alba (Year 9) was fearless in goal, using her feet brilliantly to clear any danger. Louis (Year 10) was prolific in front of goal, finding the back of the net with precision, while Ashley (Year 10) worked tirelessly, chasing down and tackling the opposition with relentless determination.

A huge well done to all our players for their commitment, skill, and sportsmanship. Whether it was a hard fought battle or a stunning victory, every player played their part in a fantastic afternoon of hockey.

MAIDA VALE LOWER HOCKEY

A team building on what was previously a mixed season saw a number of hard fought wins, but also several tough losses.

Both teams, the newly formed B team and an A team full of experience faced off against Kew House in their season opener. A rivalry as old as time, with bragging rights on the line. Bella led the line for the A team, showing all the attributes you expect from a captain. The game was end to end and MVS was unfortunate to go into halftime 1 goal down. A goal in the second half evened things out but late on Kew scored what would go on to be the winner. The B team were on the unfortunate end of a 3-1 loss. Tamara, Sasha and Simona using their experience to help their peers. A result to be proud of considering 50% of the team had only played hockey a handful of times prior to their first fixture.

In the second game of the season against Queens Gate both teams used the loss earlier in the season as a learning experience with the A team proving to be dominate in their fixture coming out 5-3 winners while the B team took a narrow victory.

Special mention over the games goes to Koki who despite having only played Hockey a few times became a rock in defence and Jake who proved his bravery by taking on the role of goalkeeper for the A, keeping out a number of difficult shots.



CROSS COUNTRY

ISA CROSS COUNTRY RACE

In late January, three of our brave students took on the challenge of the ISA Cross Country Race at Sherfield School. There was some debate as to whether it would even go ahead, given the biblical downpours of the previous two weeks. But, in true cross-country spirit, the race was on – and so was the mud!

Race day brought glorious sunshine, freezing temperatures, and a course that could double as a swamp. Our fearless trio of Wenbo (Year 11), Jackson (Year 9), and Walter (Year 7) lined up against fierce competition and put in outstanding performances.

Walter, tackling an almost 3,000-meter course, showed true grit and determination, finishing 38th out of 112 competitors – an incredible achievement for our youngest runner! Jackson, running 3,800 meters, delivered an excellent performance, finishing in the top third.

Meanwhile, Wenbo, who also conquered the 3,800-meter course, finished in the top half of his race, an impressive feat considering he was competing against students up to two years older than him. He ran last year and has trained relentlessly to improve his time and performance this year – and it really paid off!

A huge well done to our cross-country warriors for their perseverance, enthusiasm, and for somehow managing to cross the finish line with shoes still on their feet. We are incredibly proud of their efforts, and we look forward to seeing them take on even bigger (and hopefully drier) challenges in the future!

MAIDA VALE SCHOOL SKI TRIP 2024 GRANDVALIRA, ANDORRA

As the saying goes, "the early bird catches the worm" – or in our case, the early birds catch the 3:00 AM Heathrow meet-up and a chaotic Home Alone-style dash through the airport! Bleary-eyed but brimming with excitement, we somehow managed to get everyone onto the plane to Barcelona, ready for an unforgettable adventure on the slopes.

Upon arrival in Andorra, we were greeted by crisp mountain air and the breathtaking sight of Grandvalira, freshly topped with over three feet of snow from the previous weekend. Our hotel was ideally located just 100 meters from the lift – a fact that was particularly appreciated on day three when some students discovered that ski boots are not designed for long-distance trekking.

With five days of glorious sunshine and perfect skiing conditions, our students wasted no time hitting the slopes. The beginners, some of whom started the week confused about which way round to wear their skis, made phenomenal progress, confidently cruising down the red slopes by the end of the trip. The intermediate skiers pushed themselves to new heights (literally) and finished the week conquering black runs, while the advanced group took things up a notch with carving techniques, off-piste adventures, and a few jumps – some more graceful than others!

The evenings were just as action-packed, with students showing off their ice-skating skills (and some very impressive falls), competing at the bowling alley, and enjoying a well-earned pizza night.A huge thank you to all the staff who helped make this trip possible, and to the students for their enthusiasm, resilience, and, in some cases, creative interpretations of stopping techniques. We're already looking forward to next year's trip – and maybe a slightly later airport meet-up time!



DRAMA

- ANASTASIA ARGYROU & ANDY MCNAMEE -



A DOLL'S HOUSE

In January, students in Y10 and Y11 (plus two from Y7 and Y8 who joined late on) achieved the near impossible; rehearsing and staging Henrik Ibsen's masterpiece in realism **A Doll's House**. It was a massive undertaking and every student involved produced committed and amazing work on stage on set.

Producing serious drama like this (alongside the more universal musical and shows for younger students), is a big step forward for the MVS Drama department and we couldn't have been prouder of this, the inaugural KS4 production in the school's history.



ELEKTRA

In February, Drama students in Y9 and Y10 went to see Oscar winner Brie Larson in a radical new version of Elektra. Even though the production wasn't to everyone's taste (see the extract below from student Jamie H's scathing write up), it still provided a great opportunity for Drama students to see a forward thinking, innovative, & idea led production.

"Sound, when used well, can be a powerful tool in theatre, enhancing tension and immersing audiences in the drama. However, in Elektra, the sound choices were disjointed, unnecessary, and at times outright distracting. Rather than elevating the stakes, the production's overuse of vocal effects, inconsistent amplification, and ill-placed musical interludes diluted the emotional intensity of the piece". - Jamie H, Y10.

MY NEIGHBOUR TOTORO

In March, students from Y7 – Y11 took a trip to rural Japan by way of seeing the RSC's all conquering and international production of the classic Studio Ghibli film My Neighbour Totoro at the Gillian Lynne Theatre. The amazing set and staggeringly good puppetry (an at least 10 foot puppet of the man himself) were highlights as students again were exposed to world class theatre.





HISTORY & POLITICS

- EDWARD HOPKINS & TANJA BIALOJAN -

This term, there has been much to celebrate in the History and Politics Department. Students have explored a wide range of historical topics, from "What makes a historical villain?" in Year 7 to "Medicine Through Time" in Year 10. In addition, we have run various trips, in-school projects, and activities to complement their classroom experiences.

ENGAGING WITH HISTORY ACROSS THE YEAR GROUPS

Year 7 students have been involved in the Gardener Schools Award Project, where History has teamed up with the English Department to explore historical villains. In History, students examined





figures such as Henry VIII, Mary I, and Henry VII, debating whether they were true villains. Meanwhile, in English, they studied how Shakespeare portrayed these historical figures.

In Year 8, students investigated WWII and the Holocaust, completing Extended Learning Projects on the topic. Their excellent work ranged from timelines to newspaper articles about the Night of Broken Glass.

Our GCSE students have also been working hard. Year 9 explored what education was like in Nazi Germany, while Year 10 took a deep dive into Medicine Through Time, starting with the grim realities of public health, hygiene, and sanitation in historical London

HISTORY BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

This year, we introduced "Mysteries in History" as an extracurricular activity, allowing students to engage with history through board games, films, and documentaries. For example, students watched Jojo Rabbit as an interpretation of Nazi Germany, complementing their classroom studies.

Taking learning outside the classroom, Year 10 took part in an interactive revision tournament. Through a combination of goal-scoring and shooting hoops, students consolidated their knowledge of Russia's history, winning or losing points based on their understanding of key themes such as the 1917 Revolution and the character of Nicholas II.

POLITICS IN ACTION

In an ever-changing political landscape, Year 12 and 13 Politics students experienced government firsthand during a visit to the Houses of Parliament. They toured key areas, including the House of Commons and House of Lords, and engaged with topics such as Democracy, Participation, and the role of Parliament in daily life.

On Cultural Capital Day, students also visited the Churchill War Rooms, stepping back in time to explore the place where critical decisions of WWII were made. The day ended with a Scavenger Hunt through central London, where students raced to find key political landmarks, including statues in Parliament Square, and answered questions such as Who is the current Chancellor?

HISTORICAL FICTION

Finally, the History Department has renewed its partnership with the Historical Association to launch a Historical Fiction Writing Competition in celebration of World Book Day.

Students are encouraged to showcase their creativity by writing historical fiction based on a topic of their choice.



GEOGRAPHY

-ARCHANNA PATEL -

As we approach the end of another productive term, we are excited to share the fantastic work and achievements of our students across all year groups in the Geography Department. This term has been filled with exploration, critical thinking, and hands-on learning.

EXPLORING HOW EXTREME ENVIRONMENTS OVERCOME CHALLENGES

Year 7 students have been investigating extreme environments, exploring how deserts, polar regions, and tropical rainforests present unique challenges—and how both nature and human ingenuity overcome them. Their enthusiasm shone through as they designed their own survival kits to endure harsh conditions.

HOW AND WHY DO POPULATIONS CHANGE?

Year 8 students explored population change, studying factors like migration, birth rates, and economic influences. They examined urban vs. rural shifts, comparing Queen's Park with the Outer Hebrides to understand real-world population dynamics.

IGCSE – URBAN ENVIRONMENTS

Year 9 students investigated urban development and the challenges of rapid urbanisation. They explored London's Burgess Model, analysing how areas evolve with redevelopment projects while considering sustainable cities of the future, including transport, housing, and environmental management.

IGCSE – ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND ENERGY

Year 10 focused on economic sectors and energy consumption, analysing how different industries impact the world. Their case studies on renewable energy solutions in Sweden, China, and the UK were particularly impressive.

IGCSE – URBAN FIELDWORK

Year 11 students studied urban regeneration and took part in a fieldwork trip to Brent Cross Town to explore a local redevelopment project. They conducted public surveys, gathered valuable data, and showcased outstanding enthusiasm and professionalism.

COASTAL LANDSCAPES (PHYSICAL) AND DIVERSE PLACES (HUMAN)

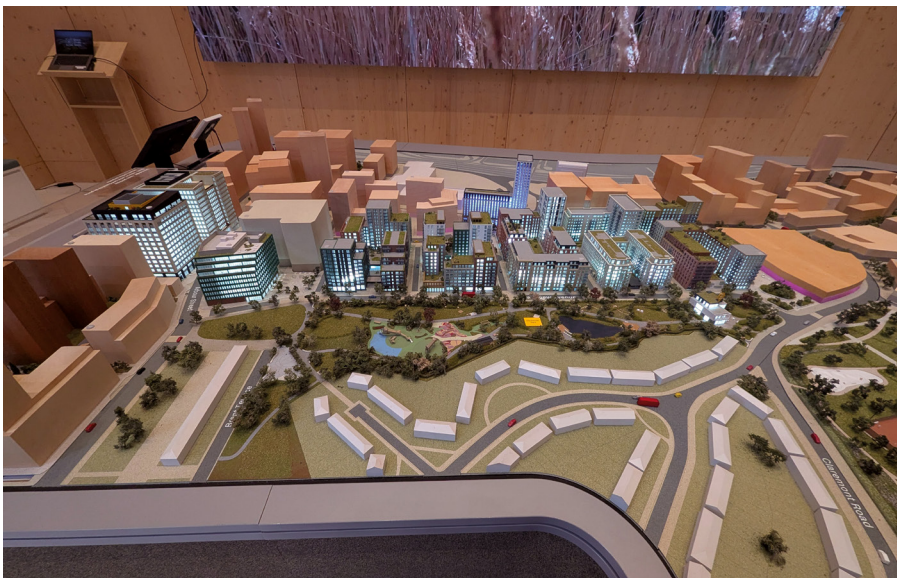
Our Year 12 student deepened his knowledge of coastal landscapes through 'edible geography' - using chocolate to apply his understanding of geological structures and lithology. He examined the differences between joints, bedding planes, folds, faults, and dips, reinforcing his learning and knowledge.



As part of his Human Geography A Level, he explored diverse places, studying how social, cultural, and economic factors shape unique identities and experiences across different locations.

LOOKING AHEAD

We are incredibly proud of all our students for their passion and dedication this term. Their enthusiasm for Geography continues to shine, and we look forward to their continued growth and success!



ENRICHMENT & CLUBS

It's been another action-packed term of Enrichment at MVS, with students enthusiastically embracing the chance to try something new beyond the classroom.

The very first 'Film Skool' launched this term, where budding actors, directors, and producers worked together to create short films that will premiere later this year at the Mayfair Curzon Theatre—a red carpet moment in the making!

Meanwhile, Miss Ware has been putting students through their paces at Running Club, while over in Leather Making, students have been crafting handbags, sunglass cases, and wallets with impressive skill after learning the art of cutting and stitching using specialist tools.

Our Duke of Edinburgh students have also been busy preparing for their upcoming summer expeditions—fingers crossed their map skills (and the weather!) hold up when the big day arrives.



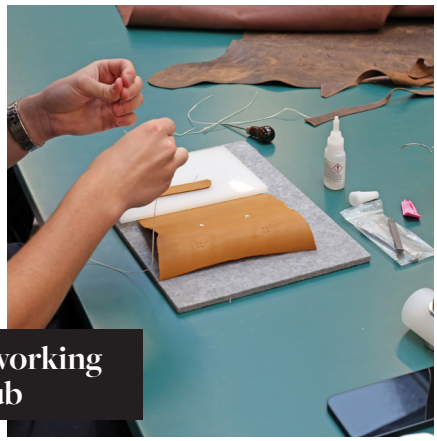
Woodworking Club



Explosions Club



Leatherworking Club





MUSIC

-JANE STOTT-

EASTER CONCERT

Parents and friends were treated to a lively and vibrant evening of music at the Easter Concert on Tuesday 18th March 2025, held in the MVS Theatre. This evening is an important part of the school calendar in which Pupils can show the progress they made in individual singing and instrumental lessons and what they have been playing in enrichment groups. It also acts as valuable performing experience for Pupils studying for GCSE Music in Years 9-11.

The evening started with the MVS Orchestra playing The Old Castle from Pictures at an Exhibition by Mussorgsky, featuring Harry in Year 8 on the complex 'cello solo at the start. Next the audience were treated to solos from Antoine in Year 7 on 'cello and Leo in Year 8 on piano. Willow and Dylan in Year 10 played their piano and violin arrangement of the Theme from World War Z, and Tobias, Joe and Charlie performed an acoustic trio of Nutshell by Alice in Chains. Other highlights were Isla in Year 10 singing Valerie, accompanied by the MVS Big Band, and Edoardo singing a complex Jamie Cullum composition. The evening ended with a performance by the choir of Africa by Toto, accompanied by a band of Pupils from year 10 and 11.

YEAR 7 ORCHESTRA

Year 7 Pupils have enjoyed a term of learning a new orchestral instrument since Christmas, and there are several more who have taken up individual lessons as a result. The violin Pupils have been meeting on Wednesday lunchtimes to play some pieces together with Jane Gibson, our violin and piano specialist, and this has been a very musically rewarding session, with players with a range of experiences joining together to support each other.

We look forward to hearing more from them in public performance later this year.





Y7 Violin pupils



GARDENER SCHOOLS GROUP

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

KEW GREEN preparatory school

KEWHOUSE SCHOOL

MAIDA VALE SCHOOL

RAVENSCOURT PARK preparatory school