

MAIDA VALE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023

AUTUMN TERM ISSUE

GEOGRAPHY ON BRIGHTON BEACH

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

TRIPS, TALKS & WORKSHOPS

OUTWARD BOUND YEAR 7

GARDENER SCHOOLS GROUP

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CONTENT

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NEWS ROUND UP

04 Art & Photography See what our artists have been up to this term across the year groups. We're very proud to welcome Ms Petica Watson to the department, who brings with her an expertise in textiles and documentary film-making. Our artists have worked with a huge range of styles, materials and media.

06 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.

08 Classics the MVS Classics Department is in the safe hands of fresh recruit Mr Jamie Hardie, a highly educated classical scholar with a passion for making and playing board and card games - an interest he has already brought to the table. Find out what's being going on in the Classics classroom and the after-school Classics Club - without wanting to spoil too much, prepare yourself for some Lego heroes, monsters, myths and legends.



Mr Magnus Bashaarat
Headmaster, Maida Vale School

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

10 Design Technology Our designers have been hard at work this term, getting to grips with the challenge of synthesising software and hardware while making their own robot 'MARVIN' to enter the VEX robotics competition.

12 English It has been an exciting star to the year in the English Department! Read more to find out about Gothic literature, our short story competition, The Witches and a Mad Hatters' tea party!

14 History & Politics - Find out what our students have been discussing in the History & Politics Department: Normans, Stuarts, a taste 19th century medicine, UK democracy and more.

15 Maths The year has started very well indeed in the Maths department. Find out about how our pupils discovered that Maths CAN be fun, after their "Maths in Action" school trip.

16 Music Read about a term jam packed with showcases, musical guests and concerts, culminating in the triumphant Christmas Concert at St. Augustine's church - a joy for all the pupils involved and, we hope, the parents too!

18 PE & Games Our sports stars have been busy this term, battling the local rivals in football and netball! Read about the highs and lows, courage and commitment of sports teams this term!

20 Geography Read about a splendid Autumn term in the Geography Department, including a year 11 field trip to Brighton beach.

21 Drama We say goodbye to the former Director of Drama Miss Cotterall, but her loss has not slowed the progress of the Drama department. Read about our theatre showcases, GCSE devised pieces and a department trip to see the legendary west end production of Hamilton!

22 Science Our pupils have covered a lot of ground this term across all three disciplines: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. There has been no shortage of exciting experiments and hands on practical work.

24 PGL The Year 7s were very fortunate indeed to have embarked upon an adventure in Dorset, packed with challenges and team building exercises. Read Mrs Knight's report to find out more.

26 Sixth Form This term we have welcomed our first ever students into the MVS Sixth Form. Read more for an insight into life in the MVS Sixth Form. Find out all about what they've been up to this term: photography, cookery, hosting after school-clubs and more!



LDN London Charity Quiz Night in the Independent Learning Centre.

WELCOME TO OUR AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

An important part of the new academic year is getting to know all the different personalities and characters which make up our new Year 7. I will enjoy watching them grow academically and as people over their time with us. Another new group this term is our new Sixth Form. Some of whom we have known since we opened; others have joined us this year. All of them have bonded well this term and are beginning to emerge as role models for our younger pupils.

Creativity runs through the heart of Maida Vale School, from the Photography and Art Departments on the top floor to the Design Technology laboratory in the basement of the annex. Creativity at Maida Vale School isn't just for the arts; it is part of all our teaching – maths, science, and humanities. Classics used Lego to recreate Greek myths, in History they made model hill forts to explore defensive structures and built small vehicles in physics to investigate friction.

Our parents continue to be a source of support and inspiration, hosting workshops and giving talks as part of our Parent Perspectives program. A huge thank you to the team that arranged the terrific quiz night to raise money for local charity LDN London this term (above).

The run up to Christmas is always a pleasure, and this year has been no different. The last week of term has been filled with festive spirit with decorations, our tree and a big Christmas lunch. The highlight was the Maida Vale School Christmas Concert at St. Augustine's.



ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

"WHO ARE YOU LOOKING AT?"

YEAR 10: PORTRAITS AND PERSONAL IDENTITY

The Year 10s have tried their hand at both realistic self-portraits, using the grid system, and rather more abstract, impasto and collage portraits (right). They have been exploring the connections between faces, identity and personality. They were also fortunate enough to bolster their study with a visit to David Hockney's Drawing from Life Exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery. They learned a lot from Hockney's masterful precision and the confidence in his lines.

"AM I MAD?"

YEAR 8: THE SURREAL AND THE ABSTRACT

The Year 8s have created two large group mixed-media abstract paintings, based on Black inventors for Black History Month. The pupils have also experimented with Surrealism, specifically via the medium of photomontage and collage (right).



MOVIE MAGIC

YEAR 12: FLESH AND SPECIAL EFFECTS

Our Year 12s have been considering flesh, from its softness and vulnerability to its strength and might. Owing to their particular interest in special effects, they have worked with latex, plaster casts and make-up to produce eerie likenesses of bruised, battered, burnt and gashed flesh (right). Don't be alarmed, it is only ketchup... A final work, inspired by Practical Effects Specialist, Barie Gower, was created on a mannequin.

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CRUNCH TIME

YEAR 11: EXAM PREPARATION

The Year 11s have been preparing for their Art mock exam. The pupils spent 10 hours on their final pieces which ranged from films, photographs, drawings and paintings (right) to fashion and textiles. Their preparation was complemented by a visit to the Tate Britain to see Sarah Lucas' 'Happy Gas' exhibition. The sculptures experiment with material and shape to challenge ideas about sex, gender and class.







BREAD AND BUTTER

YEAR 9: KEY SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES

The Year 9s have concentrated on drawing the human form (left). In September, the Year 9 artists and Year 12 photographers, visited 'Capturing the Moment' at Tate Modern. An exhibition tracing the reciprocal relationship between photography and art, examining how the two disciplines have influenced each other. Pupils were encouraged to capture their experience, on camera or in their sketch books (below).



The Year 12 Photography pupils have been learning how to use a DSLR camera and Adobe Photoshop. They have been exploring 'Reflections' in particular; visiting a local gallery to view a collection of Val Wilmer photographs whose shots capture blues, jazz and British Afro-Caribbean culture, making intelligent use of light and reflection. Photographer and parent, Matthew Donaldson, shared his valuable time and insight with our photographers. Sharing how he works and how to use a real-life studio (left).

ROMARE, ROBERTS AND THE AMAZON RAINFOREST

YEAR 7: ELEMENTS OF ART



Our Year 7 have been studying the Basic Elements of Art, notably including 'Blind drawing' and Black History Month Photomontages based on the work of Romare Bearden and Deborah Roberts. The pupils loved making their Modroc masks based on Gargoyles and Grotesques (above).

In the second half of term, the pupils visited BBC Earth Experience. Influenced by what they saw they have crafted large, heat pressed fabric insects. These have been embellished with a range of materials and embroidered with beads. We will display these works in a future exhibition to raise money for rainforestconcern.org.

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GALLERY

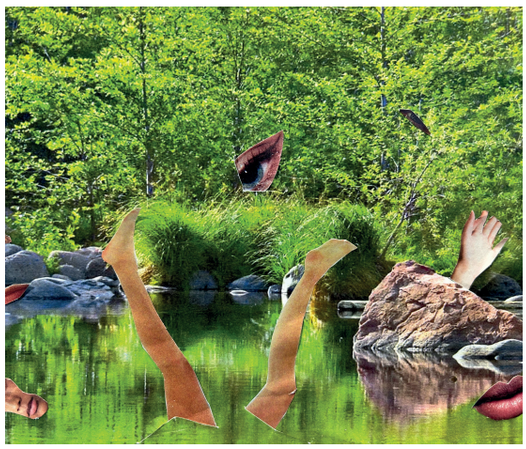
Top right: Portrait, Thandie Y10, top left: Hetty W, Self Portrait, centre: Cop 28, bottom left: Special Effects by Maia, Y12, bottom right: Photomontage, Clementine, Y8









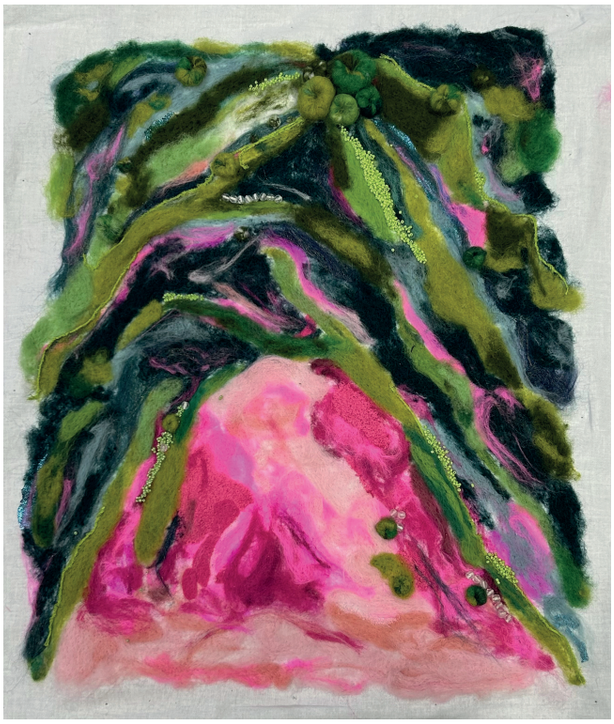


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Top left: Aged Ink, Celeste Y11, top right: Mask, Lavinia, Y7, middle right: Hetty W, Head & Scarf - LSA Commended, Middle left: Sophia T, mock GCSE felt work, Our World, bottom right: Libby L, Y11 mock final for textiles, Layers



LEGO HEROES

CLASSICS

- JAMES HARDIE -

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

- CAROLINE KNIGHT -

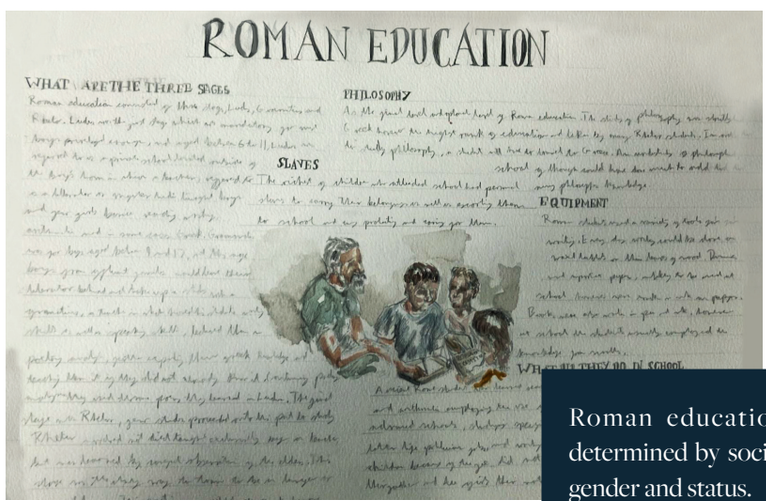
CLASSICS TERM REVIEW

It has certainly been a busy term for MVS Classics in and outside of the classroom. Latin lessons have been back in full swing up to GCSE. Sadly, our classicists have not been fortunate enough to get a school trip this term, so we have to make do looking at pictures of Graeco-Roman ruins.

However, the lack of external adventures has not dampened their inquisitive spirit! Depicted below is a projects completed in Classics, detailing the nature of a Roman education, some other students produced a charming travel guide for the legendary city of Pompeii.

CLASSICS CLUB

Beyond the strictures of the Latin grammar, (where, we can agree, things get a little more exciting) the 'Classics Club' have been busy. They have been recreating and adapting a wide range of Graeco-Roman myths from the Trojan war to Hercules' labours for the rigid, yet imaginative medium of Lego. In one scene, Hercules' Lego incarnation wrestles the Nemean lion, having jettisoned his spear, since the lion was impervious to man-made weaponry. The 'Classics Club' have even invented their own myths, using a table-top game. Dice are rolled to determine which adventures, monsters, locations and heroes are to be thrown together to produce a whole new myth. These original myths are then in turn immortalised in the medium of Lego.



Roman education was determined by social class, gender and status.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Year 11 Religious Studies students have been studying the Thematic Studies topic 'Religion and Life,' part of the GCSE course, and have been on a thought-provoking journey into the profound intersections of faith and existence. They have delved into topics such as the origins of the universe, the sanctity of life and environmental ethics. They have looked at these ideas from Christian, Muslim and non-religious viewpoints. Classroom discussion and debate has taken place on issues like abortion, euthanasia, life after death and the responsibilities humans bear for the environment, leading them to write bold essays such as "Euthanasia is never the best option". They have also been focusing on exam technique and revision of some of their other topics including Relationship and Families and Religions, Crime and Punishment.

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COMPUTER SCIENCE

- INGRID MAHDI -







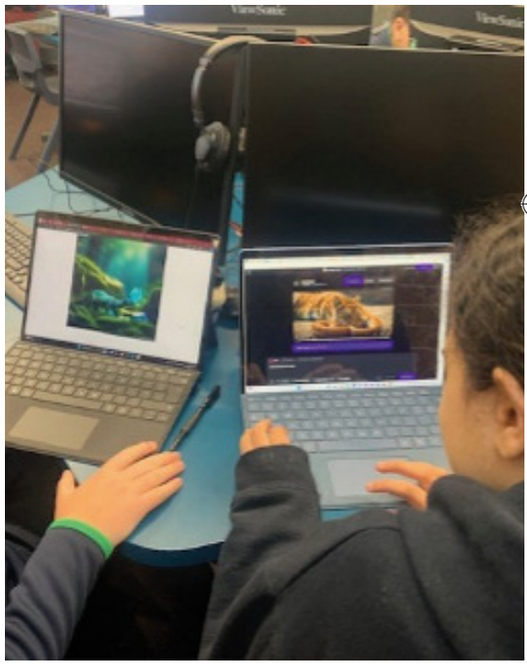
THE BEBRAS CHALLENGE

Throughout November, all our budding computer scientists, except the Year 11s, entered the UK Bebras challenge. This challenge largely tests computational thinking (CT), which you will no doubt be surprised to discover is rather a crucial skill in computer science. Essentially, CT refers to the thought processes involved in re-formulating problems so that their solutions can be represented as computational or algorithmic steps. Several of our pupils did very well to qualify for the second round in February next year! Well done to Zane Roddam, Alexandra Listova, Cassidy Warwick, Gabriele Matta, Zara Reis e Soussa and Dylan Gunz.

LIFE IN THE CLASSROOM

In class, our Year 7s have been learning how to use Office effectively, including the big hitters: Word, Teams, Class Notebook, Outlook and Canva. They've also been learning about cyber bullying, the forms in which it can appear and what actions to take should they ever happen to experience it. They worked in groups on a cyberbullying project to produce class presentations; an excellent opportunity to develop their public speaking, leadership and teamwork skills.

The Year 8s have been working on computational thinking and its key constituents - abstraction, decomposition and pattern recognition – and the programming techniques necessary to execute the solutions yielded from computational thinking: sequences, selections and iterations.

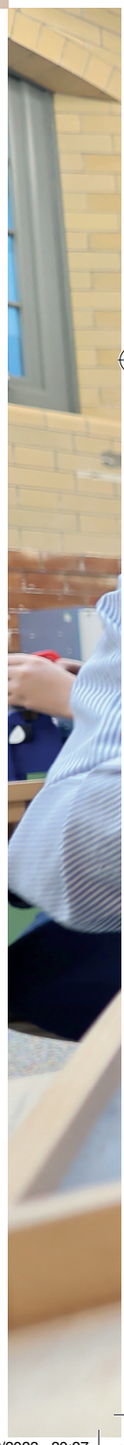


The Year 9s have been learning about Computer systems architecture, while the Year 10s have been wrestling with the ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology. The Year 11s have been diligently revising, in preparation for their mock exam in November, after which they got to grips with programming defensive design.

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THE VEX ROBOTICS COMPETITION
A CHALLENGE FOR YEARS 8 & 9

VEX Robotics hosts the largest robotics competition for students all over the world. Teams of pupils compete against each another, submitting robots of their own design and creation. In the VEX IQ Robotics Competition, classroom STEM concepts are put to the test as students work together developing valuable lifelong skills along the way: teamwork, leadership, communication and more. Tournaments to determine the best submissions are held year-round at the regional, state, and national levels and culminate in the VEX Robotics World Championship each April; this year the World Championship final will be in Dallas!

A bold team of Year 8 and 9 students have dared to enter their own robot in this year's VEX 'Full Volume' competition. This rag team of students have been tasked with designing and building a robot to play against the other teams' robots in a game-based engineering challenge. The challenge takes place in a finite arena, throughout which blocks of different shapes and sizes are scattered. The objective is for their robot to collect the most blocks and place them into their goal. Matters are complicated by the differing points-value of each type of block and obstacles in the arena. Our team must have a strategy in mind when coding and designing their robot, to ensure that it is as versatile as possible! We expect to begin competing in January 2024 with the hope of reaching nationals by April 2024. MVS will compete under the team name 'Inverse Probability' and are developing their robot, endearingly named 'MARVIN' - a name no doubt familiar to any fans of Douglas Adams' classic 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy.

- RICHARD BARRETT -

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DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY



ELECTRIC FANS AND CRUMBLING CRANES CLASSWORK FOR YEARS 7-11

Production in the DT lessons has been superb. Our Year 7s have been diligently working on their 'structures' projects. Having split into teams, they have developed designs for cranes which were tested to the limit in a competition that sadly left only a few cranes standing.

Year 8 have been no less productive, working on their electric fans. They have incorporated temperature sensors and electronic 'set-points' to allow for greater control. As can be seen to the left, our workmanlike model student dutifully carves out his metal fan. If I may say, he is not dissimilar to Michelangelo himself liberating David from within the marble.

Meanwhile, our Years 9, 10 & 11 have been developing their CAD ('computer aided design') skills. They have largely been using our newly acquired SolidWorks software, a premier programme in the industry, to develop their own products for 3D printing.

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ENGLISH



- LUCY PASK -

On the final day of the first half of term, twelve pupils were chosen by their respective English teachers to attend an immersive reading of Alice in Wonderland in the library. The event was held in celebration of their hard work. As they read the opening of the classic novel and as Alice found herself eating and drinking to fit to size, so did they, delighting in an array of tea and cakes. One pupil described the event as, 'a wonderful way to end the half term, made more special by the attention to detail. The reading was accompanied by myriad decorations: customised phials of a pineapple concoction and the sweet scents of the varied confectionery.'

In December, our Year 7 Pupils took a trip to the National Theatre where they very lucky to have a tour of the world backstage. Our Pupils also enjoyed a private pass into the Olivier and Lyttleton Theatres and learnt all about what brings a play to life! They particularly enjoyed rummaging through the prop cupboard to find severed limbs... their day concluded with a fantastic production of Roald Dahl's "The Witches".

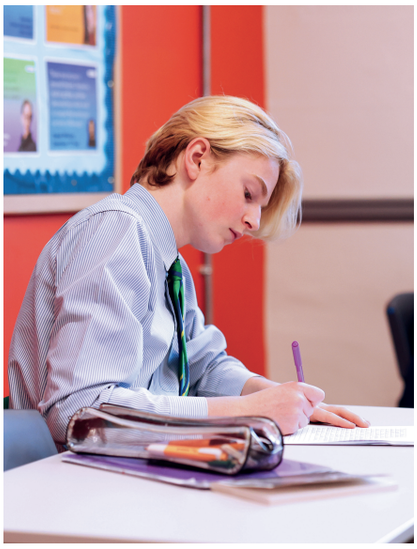


Throughout this Autumn term, the Year 9s have been preoccupied with all things Gothic; in September and October, they had a whistle stop tour through Gothic conventions and canonical texts such as Frankenstein and Dracula, amongst others. Edgar Allen Poe's 'The Tell-Tale Heart' was a Pupil favourite, after which they held a mock trial to determine the main character's guilt in the murder (spoiler alert)! This all lead up to November and December's study of The Woman in Black, the 'classic English ghost story'. To aid in our study of the novel, in November, the Year 9s visited the Richmond Theatre for a visceral and riveting performance of the text. The play has run on the West-End Stage for decades and is now on tour around the United Kingdom. The trip was valuable for developing the pupils' understanding of The Woman in Black as a novel, and for its cultivation of a superb Gothic atmosphere. Pupils hailed the actors as 'sensational', and the spectre 'terrifying'; they strongly encourage others to see the show too!



A CURIOUS AFTERNOON IN THE LIBRARY

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THE GLITCH

YEAR 7-10 SHORT STORY COMPETITION

What happens when an ordinary day turns extraordinary? What are the effects on the world if one thing is changed forever? What thrilling or terrifying outcomes are unleashed if one mishap alters reality? These are the questions we asked Years 7-10 to consider for the mini-saga 100 word creative writing competition. Here are some of the entries, selected by Mr Basharaat:

STORY1:

Sparks flew, and a multicolored schism split my screen. The laptop hissed, and I could feel it growing hot beneath my hands. I rose to my feet and examined it. Fizzing and smoking, a low humming noise escaped its tortured frame, it was a low keen of despair like a dying animal. A pale wispy smoke was rising from the laptop. Then there was a sudden eerie silence. Then it blew up, and the whole world drifted into a dull ashen grey.

- Thomas B-C

STORY 2:

"Where am I?"
"When are you"
They corrected me
"What do you mean, 'When am I'?
"I mean what I said or else I would not have spoken."

Confusion shone apparent on my face.

How long had I been away? Why did I feel strange? As if I had been sleeping for aeons...

No that couldn't be right, I was tired just a second ago.

I was tired just a second ago.

Or was it an hour?

"What time is it," I asked.

They replied, cupping my cold face in their hands.

"My child - there is no time here"

- Alfie L

STORY 3:

It began yesterday. I had no idea what had happened. The sky was ashen, filled with smoke and flames. Cries were heard, voices of the fallen whispering in my ear

"Help fight, help us defeat the..."

I walked out the door to see what they were describing. I opened the door; an ash grey smoke cloud flew into my face. I stepped out, the only things I could hear were the suffering and the cries of the people. The lovely earth I once knew became a hellish wasteland filled with crimson flames of death and I still don't know what happened.

- Bailey B

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The Year 11's posing outside the Herb Garrett Museum - they are naturals!

HISTORY & POLITICS

JAY BEGUM & EDWARD HOPKINS

SURGEONS, STUARTS AND STRONGHOLDS

Our Year 7 pupils have been learning about Norman England. We have been hugely impressed by their creativity, producing motte and bailey castles as part of their Extended Learning Project (far right).

There have been some fantastic exemplars, some of which exhibit a real attention detail and a flair for all things architectural – congratulations to this year's winners Eli F, Zane R, Arthur Sand Sienna B-K.

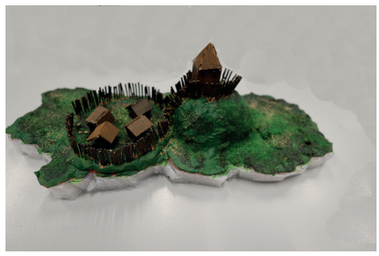


Our Year 11 pupils were fortunate to visit the Old Operating Theatre and the Herb Garrett Museum to learn about surgical and medical developments in the the 19th century. [ED. If I may intervene - which editors really shouldn't - there is a brilliant BBC comedy, 'Quacks', centred on the lives of cutting-edge physicians and surgeons in 19th Century London, it is well worth a watch.]

Anyhow, Lyndon was a jolly good sport, volunteering to go under the knife as a 'patient' (depicted left – being brave!) for a part of the demonstration. One pupil commented it was a 'worthwhile trip that enhanced my learning.'



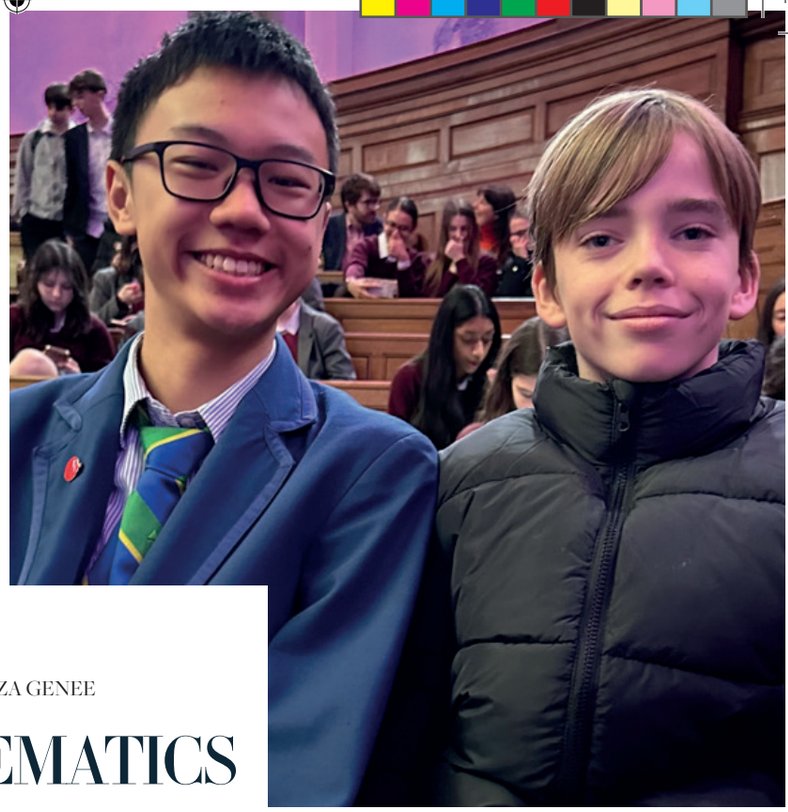
Our Year 12 History and Politics students have been positive, resilient and inquiring whilst working through some intellectually challenging subject matter. In History, they have been examining the political and religious controversies in Stuart England and analysing the debated causes of the Cold War.



POLITICS IN THE UK

In Politics, they have gotten right into the meaty matters and made some real progress understanding the operations of the British government and democracy in the UK.

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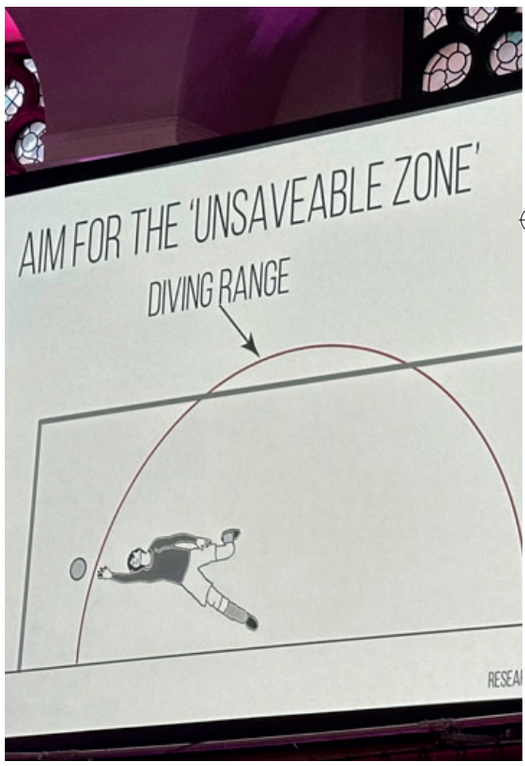
MARIZA GENEE

MATHEMATICS

Our pupils participated in the Bebras Challenge. This is organised in over 30 countries and designed to get pupils all over the world excited about computational skills. Each participant has 45 minutes to answer 15 multiple choice questions that focus on logical thinking. The pupils completed this online in school during their maths lessons to demonstrate how well their reasoning skills have developed.



Our Year 9 and 10 pupils really enjoyed the "Maths in Action" trip. The purpose of the trip was to help pupils deepen their understanding of key mathematical concepts, improve their problem-solving skills and generate excitement around all things mathematical. There were six speakers who discussed topics including: linking maths to patterns and predictions including in juggling, video games, music, using a chess board for different games, and sport. There was also a fun session around exam technique which concluded with a game in which the students debated how many marks they would award to a hypothetical student.



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MUSIC

- WILF RABY -

WHEN I WAS YOUR MAN

OCTOBER CONCERT
FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

On Monday 16th October, at 6pm, the house lights dimmed. Over 80 pupils were gathered anxiously backstage, brimming with excitement to perform in the MVS Theatre to a full house. First up, the MVS Orchestra. They took the stage and performed an eerie rendition of The Hall of the Mountain King, evoking an atmosphere reminiscent of Tim Burton's Beetlejuice. Parents, friends and staff sat ears pricked, gasps and whispers of approval echoed around the Theatre, the stage was set for a wonderful evening. Some highlights included: Sienna Sweeney's heartfelt performance of Bruno Mars' ballad 'When I Was Your Man', the MVS Big Band's raucous 'Tequila', which attracted a number of yells from the full house (mostly to the effect of 'Tequila'); Tobias V-H's (the cover star of this Newsletter) mesmeric Grade 8 Spanish Guitar solo which, it is said, he had adapted into a single composition from several pieces; and we cannot forget the bold performance of our very own Director of Music, Miss Stott, who stepped in at the last minute to lend the lead vocals to the Cranberries' 'Zombie' which was being performed by the Rock and Pop Band. So much like the haunting original recording were Miss Stott's vocals that several members of the audience began to wonder whether Zombie-lead-singer Dolores O'Riordan had not really died in 2018, but instead had faked her death in order to take on the job as the Director of Music at Maida Vale School – the dates are suspiciously aligned! In all, it was a wonderful evening and the pupils worked very hard indeed to get to such a high standard in only a few weeks – congratulations are very much in order!



At Maida Vale School every pupil has the opportunity to perform in public, either singing or playing in a band or solo instrument.

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A VISIT FROM THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC

On Friday 3rd November our Year 9 and 10 GCSE Music students were visited by Jasper Eaglesfield, a final-year composing student at the Royal College of Music. He spoke to them about his compositional journey to-date, which has included several high-profile commissions and performances; most notably, a ballet for the English National Ballet School. The Pupils then learnt about Fanfares and, with Jasper's help, composed their own Fanfares with a view to supplying the opening piece for the MVS Christmas Concert. A fanfare written jointly by Bailey B (Year 9) and Edoardo C (Year 10) conjured a great sense of occasion and pitched their composition well for the abilities of the performers. This was eventually performed in the Christmas Concert! We look forward to hearing more from Jasper, as he begins his professional compositional career.

THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT A FESTIVE END TO THE TERM

It's that time of year, the merry MVS Christmas Concert rolled around again on Monday the 11th of December, in St Augustine's church in Kilburn. The pupils had been practicing their parts since the conclusion of the October concert and, having spent much of the





"From Noël to Noel Gallagher - there will be something for everyone" Magnus Bashaarat at our Christmas Concert.

Monday rehearsing inside the church were eagerly anticipating the special night. The Headmaster, Mr Magnus Bashaarat, prepared the evening's festivities: an eclectic range of seasonal music, interspersed with readings from Dickens' Christmas Classic 'A Christmas Carol,' made for a magical evening. Edoardo C and Bailey B opened the musical proceedings with their original fanfare composition, which established the positive mood with a rousing final cadence. From here on, the concert ebbed and flowed smoothly, punctuated by some excellent readings, and spirited congregational hymns. The MVS students performed hit after hit, not unlike Mick Jagger on a Rolling Stones 'Farewell Tour.' From The Snowman's 'Walking in the Air,' accompanied by the MVS Orchestra and sung by Julius S-K, to the Year 8 choir's cover of Slade's 'Merry Christmas Everybody'. Staff members joined, either in the choir's lovely performance of 'The Angel's Carol' by John Rutter or hidden away in the back on the bass guitar...

JOHN RUTTER'S THE ANGEL'S CAROL PERFORMED BY THE MVS CHOIR



a very humble Mr Fisher! The evening ended, as it had started with Edoardo C providing a charming coda. He sang a beautiful cover of The Christmas Song, supported by a lone piano. Once again, we were extremely proud of all our performers, for their hard work and for their resilience, standing up to perform in a dauntingly large church, before a dauntingly large audience.

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Friendly Five-a-Side at
Scrubs Lane Sports Ground

PE & GAMES

NETBALL, SKIING AND FOOTBALL SPORT REPORT

We are proud to celebrate our fourth Autumn term since opening with another first! Specifically, our first ever Ski team, who are set to enter the ISA National Ski

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Football match vs Kew House School





competition at Hemel Hempstead. Anthony R-G is the standout skier, placing the highest in the team.

It has been a busy term for our more conventional sportsmen and sportswomen. The U13A football team, spearheaded by the lethal finishing of Nancy W, have had an impressive 75%-win rate this season, which is actually higher than Chelsea's (31%) and even Manchester United's (62%) in the premiership... the U13A's are not to be underestimated! The U16A's have much to be proud of, drawing with Portland Place and knocking over Kensington Park School. Isaac G, a deft goal-scorer with a first-touch like Maradona and turn of pace like a young Michael Owen, has been a force to be reckoned with upfront. Likewise, Jervaan E and Ollie M have been total powerhouses in midfield. Jervaan sures up a the defense better than N'Golo Kanté, allowing Ollie to drift forward and create chances. These three talismanic figures have been crucial in driving the team to the second round of the ESFA.

Our netballers have enjoyed some success too, with both the U14A's and the U16A's beating Kensington Park School. We have been fortunate to host some triangular and quad series netball tournaments here at MVS. The U16 netball squads have welcomed some talented new additions, special mention must go out to Sophia C, who has supported and inspired her teammates all season. She always puts in maximum effort! The highlights of this term were the tournaments hosted by Ms Yeomans against Portland Place, St James and City of London School for Girls. The U16A's didn't quite set off on the right foot, but they persevered and earned a proud victory against Portland place to close off the tournament. There has been some



great netball played this term and we hope to see more netball played next season.

"The more I practise, the luckier I get"

- Gary Player



- CAROLINE KNIGHT -

GEOGRAPHY

This term, our geographers have been travelling around the iGCSE syllabus; Year 7 global news, Year 8 coastlines, and Year 9 hazardous environments. It was our Year 11s, who've been studying coastal defence that won the jackpot this term, going on a fieldwork trip to sunny Brighton – England's answer to the Cotê d'azur. The trouble is that pesky longshore drift threatens to wash away much of the sand and pebbles from our gorgeous British beaches and Brighton is no exception. The preferred mode of longshore drift mitigation in Brighton are groynes, a long-time favourite amongst all school-boys and girls and let's face it – it never fails to elicit a giggle from even the most sensible grown-ups! Groynes offer an admirably practical solution to the issue; they serve as large barriers to trap the sand. Our Year 11's were there to analyse the effectiveness of groynes as a method of coastal defence against aesthetic, economic and practical parameters. But the fun did not stop there, the students were rewarded for their hard work with ice cream and arcade games on the pier! It was a wonderful day out, thoroughly enjoyed by all the students.

Y7 made 3D models of compass roses using mixed media including clay, cardboard, lego, plastics and cake.



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DRAMA

- ANASTASIA ARGYROU -



In early December, our Year 11 Drama GCSE Pupils performed their very own devised pieces. Their courage and confidence was evident in these very sober and vulnerable explorations of Mental Illness and Loss.

The Year 7s have been studying Commedia dell'arte stock characters. Some of the most exciting performances over the course of this Term included portrayals of Pantalone, a character whose significance in contemporary theatre and film our students studied attentively, and the Zanni whose comedic physical attributes were some of the most popular among our Year 7s!

The Year 9 Drama Pupils have worked hard this Term, learning the Drama GCSE components and what makes an effective performance. They have been studying Malorie Blackman's Noughts & Crosses, and how it has been adapted for the stage. Using the script, Pupils explored each character in depth and have developed their physical and vocal skills for performance.



DRAMA GCSE TRIP TO HAMILTON AT THE VICTORIA PALACE THEATRE

On November 7th, our entire Drama GCSE cohort (Years 9, 10 and 11) took a trip to the Victoria Palace Theatre to watch the renowned production of Hamilton. Our evening began with a group dinner at Giraffe before watching the show and ended with us feeling inspired and overwhelmed by the talent, creativity and energy of cast and crew.

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SCIENCE
BIOLOGY

GRAVITY



YEAR BY YEAR FROM 7-9

MOMENTUM



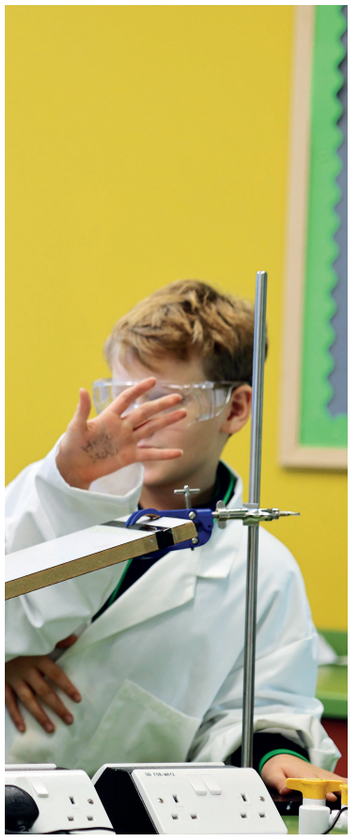
Our Year 9s have been learning about Newton's Three Laws. In Biology, they've been learning about cells and how substances can pass in and out of cells by osmosis. In Chemistry, the students have learnt about how different substances can be separated based on solubility and about the organisation of elements in the Periodic Table by atomic structure.

SPEED



The Year 8s have been learning about the Periodic Table and the properties of different elements. In particular, they have been thinking about magnetic elements, plotting magnetic fields and creating electromagnets by wrapping wire around an iron nail, and running current through the wire. They've used these to pick up different objects.

FRICTION



The Year 7 have been learning about cells this term, taking a look at different kinds of organic matter under the microscope, from onion cells to hair follicles. In Physics, they have been investigating how and why different kinds of surfaces affect the friction on a car traveling down a ramp.

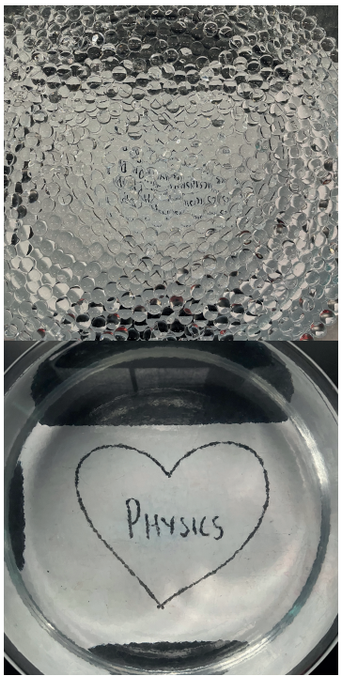
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x3 PHYSICS CHEMISTRY

HEART DISSECTION FOR YEAR 10

The Year 10s are very lucky to have carried out a heart dissection this term. They have been learning about how blood is moved around the body and how cells can replicate themselves through mitosis. They've also been measuring the rate of different processes, such as respiration in meal worms and photosynthesis in algal balls. In Chemistry, students have been learning about electrolysis and its applications to the real world. In Physics, we've been learning about the different waves within the electromagnetic spectrum. The Year 11s have been busy with exam preparation!

LIGHT REFRACTION WITH ORBEEZ





THE SCIENCE OF FOOD

Investigating the fascinating science behind our bread and butter - using tests to identify sugars, fats and proteins. Depicted above, Mr Forman and Emilia investigate the specific nutrient profile in milk powder.

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OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR NEW YEAR 7S TO GET TOGETHER, FIND OUT MORE ABOUT EACH OTHER AND TO LEARN SOME NEW SKILLS IN BEAUTIFUL DORSET

PGL DORSET

- CAROLINE KNIGHT -

In an adventurous escape from the traditional classroom setting, our Year 7 pupils embarked on a thrilling journey to Osmington Bay in Dorset, immersing themselves in a week-long PGL multi-activity camp. The picturesque setting provided the backdrop for a series of exhilarating team-building activities that have left the pupils with lasting memories and newfound strengths.

At the renowned National Sailing Academy, pupils enthusiastically tackled the challenges of raft building and dragon boating. Teamwork took centre stage as they honed their abilities to navigate the waters seamlessly. The dragon boat races added a competitive edge, with one team emerging as the victors after displaying fine teamwork and coordination.

On firmer ground, the students faced the daunting challenge of abseiling down a 10-meter tower, discovering courage they never knew they possessed.

"AXE THROWING WAS DEFINITELY THE BEST FUN OF ALL"

Aeroball, a fusion of trampolining and volleyball, had them bouncing to new heights, while archery and axe throwing tested their precision and focus. Beyond the adrenaline-pumping activities, the week became a crucible for personal growth and camaraderie. The students not only developed essential life skills but also forged bonds that are sure to last.

It was heartening to witness their blossoming confidence, their capacity for collaboration, and the emergence of friendships that have since extended beyond the bounds of the camp. As the students revelled in these activities, the staff, Mr Basharat, Mrs Knight, Mr Greenfield and Ms Harvey began to observe them in a different light, gaining valuable insights into their personalities and the difference in social dynamics outside the conventional academic environment.

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ABSEILING,
ARCHERY,
AXE THROWING
RAFTING &
CAMPFIRES



YEAR 7
OUTWARD BOUND

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SIXTH FORM

OUR FIRST EVER YEAR 12S SETTLE INTO THE TOP OF THE SCHOOL AND GET STUCK INTO SUBJECT SPECIALISMS AND ENJOYING THE PRIVILEGES OF SENIORITY AND BECOMING ROLE MODELS FOR THE JUNIOR YEARS.

Our first ever Year 12s have made a great start to life in the Sixth Form. We have a seen a new side to all of them this year: a growing sense of self-confidence and leadership. At the top of the school, we couldn't be prouder of how they have acted as role models, and in some cases mentors, to our younger students. They have established their own after-school clubs including the chess club and the astonishingly popular bracelet making club.

In many schools, even a simple conversation with a Sixth Former is a daunting prospect for a younger student but these enrichment clubs provide a wonderful, relaxed environment for social integration across year groups. The bracelet making club, in particular, is a space for decompression and idle gossip, bonding students from different years as they engage in something tactile.

The Year 12's have stepped up to serve as tour guides on open days, demonstrating remarkable sociability and maturity while interacting with prospective parents. They've also volunteered to offer advice to the Year 11s about their A-Level/BTEC choices, based on their experience of their subjects so far.

With responsibility comes privilege, the Year 12s studying Photography A-Level, have were fortunate to be visited by Matthew Donaldson, a parent and professional photographer. He toured them around his studio and talked them through his equipment and creative process.

Earlier in the term, all the Year 12s went on a trip to the Storm London Boxing Gym. For a few hours, our mild mannered Sixth Formers were transformed into no-nonsense boxers, as can be seen across the page. Maia took particularly well to the life of a boxer!

Those studying Hospitality have been on a trip to the Michelin starred restaurant Locatelli. Here they went behind the counter, to experience life in a professional kitchen. They saw the operations and procedures needed to create the best possible experience for diners. The pupils spent two hours in the kitchen, learning about bread, pasta and pastry making. They tasted olive oil, focaccia, bread sticks, truffles, pasta and tiramisu. They were lucky to spend a lot of time with Rino, the head chef, who kindly handed out his business card to all, saying that if they ever wanted to spend a day in the kitchen, they can email him. Rino was extremely helpful, informative and patient and shared heaps of experience. Equally inviting was Ansha's offer to allow the pupils to spend a day with her, learning about front of house responsibilities and PA skills.

In all, a great term for the Year 12s, we are hugely proud of how they have adapted to increased responsibility required in the Sixth Form.

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MAIDA VALE SCHOOL

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