



MAIDA VALE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2024

*SPRING
TERM
ISSUE*

*POET LAUREATE
SIMON ARMITAGE*

*BRITISH
SCIENCE
WEEK*

*DRAMA IN
ALMOST,
MAINE*

BARCELONA SPORTS TOUR

NEWS ROUND UP

04 Art & Photography Read what our artists have been up to this term across the year groups. They've been all over the: the Tate Modern, the Hayward, the BBC Earth experience and they've received a fair few visits too, including a photography workshop with renowned portrait photographer, Rachel Lum.

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 has been as vibrant as ever this term. Find out what's being going on in the Classics classroom and the after-school Classics Club - without wanting to spoil too much, there is a particularly amusing extract about the Classics club's mythological re-imagining of the popular board game, Monopoly.



Mr Magnus Bashaarat
Headmaster, Maida Vale School

09 Computer Science Read all about what our computer scientists have been up to this term: VEX Robots, cyber security measures and the coding behind Harry Potter's visual effects!

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 Drama Find out what our young thespians have been up to this term. Most notably, the Lower School Play: Almost, Maine. Also, we are delighted to welcome Andy McNamee, our fabulous new Director of Drama - read his Q&A to learn about the man himself.

14 English We were delighted to welcome the Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage, to Maida Vale this term, find out about his poetry reading & his workshop with some MVS pupils

16 Geography The Geography department have had a jam-packed term, the pupils have surely learnt a great deal! Read more to find out about life in the Geography classroom & see some pupil work!

17 Music While there have been no formal concerts this term, that does not mean that our MVS musicians have not been busy - read about the Year 9 orchestra and the y7&8's foray into music production software.

18 History & Politics Read all about the pupil's progress this term, getting to grips with key 20th century history by creating their own newspaper articles.

19 Maths Read about how our Mathematicians this term were confronted by the UKMT Maths challenge

20 PE & Games Our sportsmen & women have been very busy indeed this term. Read about the boys & girls Rugby and Hockey performance this term across the year groups, the Secondary School Swimming Gala and of course the popular House Cross Country in Regent's Park

22 Science We celebrated British Science Week in style this term at MVS, with a visiting lecturer from the Ri, and a wonderful Science Fair. Read about the entries on a range of topics by a great number of our young scientists

24 Barcelona Sports Tour Read a report of about our sporting expedition to take on the Spaniards at Football and Hockey - written by pupils: Lavinia C, Frank O & Jasper P.

26 Sixth Form This term, our first ever Sixth Form have been growing into their roles as leaders of the school. 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, hosting after school-clubs and more!



Royal Institute science lecture in the MVS Theatre: 'Super Cells'

HEAD'S INTRODUCTION

This end of term newsletter reflects a period of extraordinary creativity at Maida Vale School. Our teaching staff returned for the new year to a presentation by Professor Bill Lucas from the University of Winchester's Institute for Education on the importance of creativity and creative thinking in education. Creativity and problem solving are vital to the future success of UK PLC, and schools and educationalists need to make a concerted effort to correct and roll back the drift of the past twenty years towards school curriculums that are content heavy and rely on memory

rather than leaving room for creative representation of skills and knowledge learnt. The life of a learner at MVS that is shown in these pages demonstrates happily how much we value creative learning opportunities. Our expressive arts subjects at MVS fill many of these pages with pictures, photographs and manufactured models, all demonstrating the success at MVS of learning through making. But there are also exciting and varied examples of creative responses in classics, computer science and history. The Science Fair for Years 7 and 8 was an excellent example of pupils creating and curating responses to real world problems and presenting them

to a curious audience. The highlight of creativity for me this term was the visit of Simon Armitage, Poet Laureate, to MVS, and his reading in our theatre to an audience of pupils, parents and staff. Coincidentally, this newsletter will arrive a day after the publication of Simon's poem series Blossomise, which celebrates the power and symbolism of the sight of blossom. The cherry and hawthorn blossom on Saltram Crescent that Simon noticed was flowering when he arrived for his visit will have disappeared by the time the school reopens for the summer term, but the creative desire and opportunities at MVS will continue.

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

- SOPHIE JIMENEZ -

THE FINAL STRETCH YEAR 11: EXAM PREPARATION

With the spectre of exams looming on the horizon, our GCSE artists have been working very hard this term. They visited the main galleries of the Tate Modern, seeking inspiration for their practical exam. They were drawn in particular to EL Anatsui's Hyundai arresting installation in the Turbine Hall (left). The Ghanaian sculptor stitches together 'scrap' from African and European trade routes to craft testimonies to global consumerism and remind us of its colonial roots. The pupils took photos and drew sketches in relation to their chosen exam topic such as Portrait, Places and Spaces, Fragments, Curves and Straight, Image and Word and Celebration.



BBC EARTH EXPERIENCE YEAR 7&8: NATURE AND NURTURE

Our pupils were lucky to visit the BBC Earth experience (right). A 360°, multi-screen exploration of the wonders of the 7 continents narrated by none other than David Attenborough. The experience inspired the Y7 pupils to make lino prints of animals that live in the countries helped by the charity 'Rainforest Concern'. They have made some eerie embroidered textile pieces on bugs and creepy crawlies.

RACHEL LUM PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY

Renowned portrait photographer, Rachel Lum, whose notable subjects include Chiwetel Ejiofor, Bill Nighy and Rosamund Pike, generously came to speak to our Y12 Photography students. She taught our A-Level photographers about the fundamentals of professional portraits: light, composition and focus. The Y12s learnt the basics of reflecting light onto the subject and shooting in manual mode with a light meter. When composing their portraits, the pupils drew inspiration from popular fashion photographer Tim Walker, wearing wacky clothing and adding props to lend their shots some character and intrigue (right).



RICHARD ASH PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Year 12 Photography and Yr10 Art Pupils all got to spend the morning or afternoon with Richard Ash, the Imperial War Museum photographer. The pupils learnt about the distinct types of photographs that Richard takes for the museum from cataloguing objects to going to Afghanistan to capture the camps. The pupils could not believe the brutal training that he had to undergo before his trip to Afghanistan. They learnt how to capture a story in their photos by controlling the camera. Richard was even kind enough to allow the pupils take photos with his camera and lens as he demonstrated how portraits are affected by the distance from the subject and length of the lens.



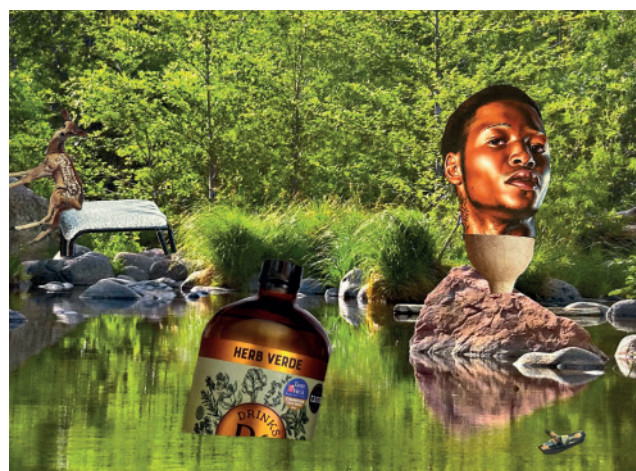
'His work was exceptional. Richard's stories about Afghanistan were extraordinary.' – Maia Yr12



ALMOST, MAINE SET DESIGN

Some of our keenest artists were tasked with the challenge of designing the set for the lower school play 'Almost, Maine.' You need only lift your gaze an inch or two to see them industriously capturing the snowy backdrop for the play's fictional town. We were hugely pleased to see them working together on the set design and production, learning a great deal about reconciling their imagination aspiration with practical obstacles - it was unfortunately not possible, with the time and resource limitations, to create a movable 3D plaster facade of the town; we try our best, but we are not the National Theatre.... A special thanks to the following pupils for their painting skills: Arthur (7), Bella (7), Sid (8), Katya (8), Melina (8), Josie (8), Alfie (9) and Nessie (9).

Top right: LGBT+ Portrait, Sara A Y10,
Top left: Abstract Mixed media, Josie L
Y8, Centre Left: Photomontage, Finn
N Y8, Bottom Left: LGBT+ Portrait,
Hetty W Y10, Bottom right: Mixed
Media, Finn N Y9



Top left: Sketch, Alfie Y9, Top right: LGBT+
Portrait, Kenechi Y10, Middle right: Dry-point,
Joe M Y9, Middle left: Modroc Mask, Bella Y7,
Bottom right: LGBT+ Portrait, Thandie Y10.





CLASSICS

- JAMES HARDIE -

SPRING REVIEW

It has been another busy term in the Classics department. In the classroom, our classicists have been an industrious bunch, devouring new vocab, distinguishing between gerunds and gerundives, datives and ablatives, singular and plural... don't worry there won't be a test! I've been hugely impressed by the pupils' passion to learn not only their Latin, but also the Ancient Mediterranean context. On the left can be seen Dylan N's project, a guide to the city of Alexandria. Sadly, there is not a great deal to report by way of school trips, the students have had to traverse the Ancient Mediterranean by imagination alone. There is, however, light at the end of the tunnel, next term our classical enthusiasts shall join forces with the drama department to see the acclaimed west end musical 'Hadestown'.

Instead of the car, thimble and hat - play with the chariot, trident and three headed dog.

CLASSICS CLUB

The Classics club, populated by only the most zealous classicists, have had a very productive term indeed. Their magnum opus has been to devise and produce a mythological version of beloved board game - Monopoly, destroyer of friendships, families and Sunday afternoons. The copyright claims have been a nightmare but otherwise it should be hitting the shelves any minute now! The railways have been replaced by the four winds and if you thought jail was bad, you should try spending 3 moves in the underworld - never in your life will you have posted bail so swiftly! Trade in your car, thimble and dog for a chariot, a trident and Cerberus, the three-headed dog! The most coveted property on the board is, of course, lofty Mt Olympus, home of the Greek Gods. If you're lucky enough to land the lost city of Atlantis as well, congratulations, you have just become the most unpopular player at the table, but you don't care, you've got a deadly pair, soon you'll be building villas, then temples and charging lethal rent! We hope the game will be complete next term.



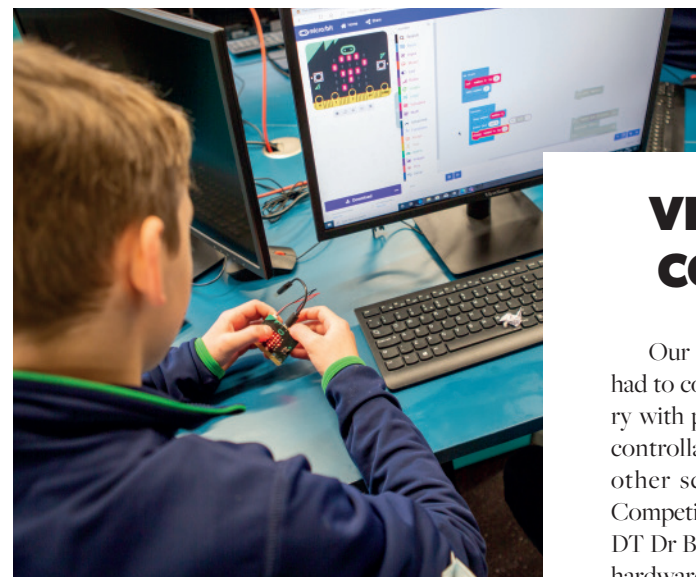
RELIGIOUS STUDIES

- CAROLINE KNIGHT -

In GCSE Religious Studies, Year 11 pupils brought their study of the course to an end with an engaging and thought-provoking discussion about war, violence, and peace from both Christian and Muslim perspectives. They examined the meaning and significance of peace, justice, forgiveness, and reconciliation within these contexts, and considered contrasting perspectives prevalent in contemporary British society. From the moral complexities of violent protest to the ethical considerations surrounding pacifism and the just war theory, they have grappled with diverse viewpoints and their implications in the modern world.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

- INGRID MAHDI -



VEX ROBOTICS COMPETITION

Our most enthusiastic coders have had to combine their computer wizardry with practical design skills to build a controllable robot to compete against other schools in the VEX Robotics Competition. They've recruited Head of DT Dr Barret to assist with realising the hardware for their robot, whilst I have been on hand to correct any software issues - they have thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of building and coding their robot. The pupils that will represent MVS at the VEX Robotics Competition are Ashley, Toby, Arthur, Dylan G, and Sid.

LIFE IN THE CLASSROOM

The Y7 pupils enthusiastically demonstrated their interest in finding out about computers' components and how they work. They've learned how to make ordered and unordered lists, insert images, make hyperlinks and tables on a web page using HTML. Our Y8 pupils have demonstrated a good understanding of social engineering, cyber security, cyber threats and are more aware of internet dangers and how to prevent them. They have also learned how to convert denary numbers into binary and vice versa, what ASCII code is and how images are interpreted by computers. Y9 and 10 learned about Artificial intelligence (AI) and made their own research on the top 10 smartest cities in the world that use AI and how they use it. In groups made presentation of their finding and presented it to their peers. Pupils went on



a trip to Harry Potter Studios to discover the extraordinary artistry, technology and talent that went into creating the Harry Potter film series (top right). It was also a chance to speak with experts about the technology as well as see the designs work in real time. They had a wonderful time. Y11 learned how to use Python to make 1D and 2D lists, file texts, to draw shapes, and use functions affectively. They have been doing past papers and revising in preparation for their GCSE after Easter.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

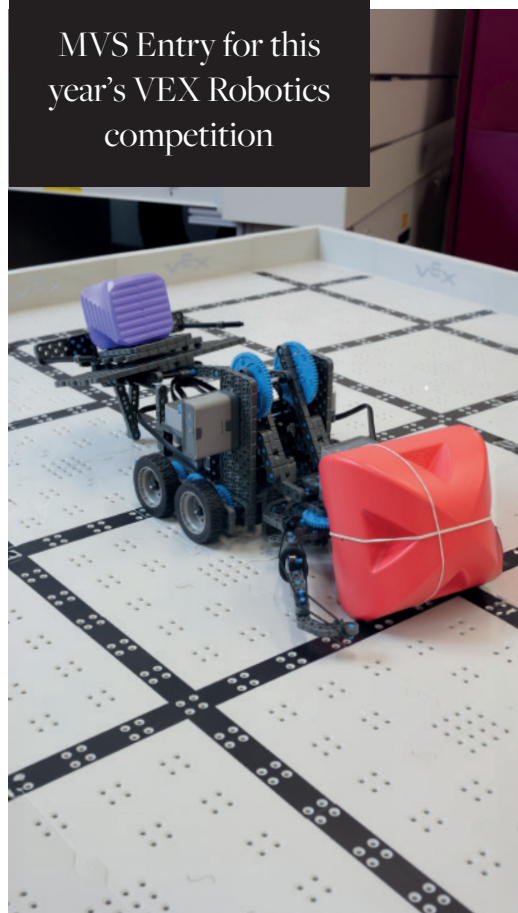
- RICHARD BARRETT -

THE VEX ROBOTICS COMPETITION A CHALLENGE FOR YEARS 8 & 9

Students in years 8 and 9 have been working tremendously hard on an ambitious programme to build their own robot; including coding the design for autonomous use – let us hope we do not have a Skynet situation on our hands! They will be able to compete in the 'Full Volume' VEX-IQ competition events next term as they develop and upgrade their robot's capabilities. These students must work and assume the roles of a design engineering

team; having to deal with strategy, building, coding, driving and design. This term, students have completed and tested their first prototype in a real VEX-IQ 'arena' to best replicate the conditions of competition. They are well on their way to making considered upgrades to the design and improving their robot's autonomous mode – again, fingers crossed it does not become too autonomous – as well as improving their driving skills. Next term, we expect these students will need to work with other schools in the VEX-IQ competitions, as competition scores will be the result of collaboration between two different teams. Let us hope they can qualify for regional competitions!

MVS Entry for this year's VEX Robotics competition



Two of MVS's finest tech wizards fine-tuning their Robot's design



It takes two MVS boys to show the size of Hagrid's shirt

THE WORLD OF HARRY POTTER: SET DESIGN WORKSHOP & STUDIO TOUR

This term, Year 9 and 10 students from Design & Technology and Computer Science visited Warner Bros. Studios in Leavesden - and the Harry Potter Studio Tour. Leavesden is a working film studio, whose recent projects include Timothée Chalamet's Wonka, a feat of immersive set-building and visual effects, bested only by the Glasgow Willy Wonka experience... The students were very fortunate to enjoy a visit beyond the public

exhibition and see how sets and props are designed, built and animated. Students undertook an educational experience with professionals from the studio and were able to interact directly with the design process of turning a book/script into a film. This included an emphasis on practical special effects and visual effects. Students were able to experiment with some production design and engage with conceptualizing the 'set design' experience. And, of course, the students were then let loose to take a look around the studio itself, taking in the real design of the Harry Potter films, with access to sets, costumes, props as well as animated features and visual effects. The pupils were able to see first-hand, the design process from conceptual art, through prototyping and 'white' modelling to the completed Sets, camera angles, and scene development. A genuinely rich and engaging experience for all.





DRAMA

- ANDY MCNAMEE -

LOWER SCHOOL PLAY: ALMOST, MAINE

This term, we were thrilled to present “Almost, Maine,” a play by John Cariani. The play is set in the fictitious, remote, quirky town of Almost, Maine – hence the title, as the sharpest readers will notice! Here, the sky is lit by the northern lights, and the residents find themselves on the brink of love. A collection of interconnected vignettes, exploring the beauty and complexity of relationships,

challenged our performers into the compelling revelation that the path to love is unpredictable! Our young actors, y7-10, grappled admirably with what are undoubtedly some weighty themes and responded with confident, mature performances.

Our company was comprised of some familiar faces from past MVS productions, and many new drama enthusiasts from Years 7, 8 and 9, all of whom showcased incredible talent and confidence. Together, they took on directing roles, acting roles, and technical roles, running the entire show on their own. We are extremely proud of the work and dedication our company demonstrated throughout. Well done!



The play was overseen by the brilliant English and Drama teacher Anastasia Argyrou. Here she is in action, during rehearsals.

Q & A WITH NEW DIRECTOR OF DRAMA: ANDY MCNAMEE

Andy studied Film & TV at Nottingham before undertaking a post-graduate diploma in Theatre Directing at LAMDA. From there, Andy worked for nearly 10 years in the professional theatre industry across various departments: directing, writing, and teaching. He became a fully-fledged teacher internationally and has now returned to the UK to teach at Maida Vale.

What was the first school play you were in?

“All My Sons, by Arthur Miller. I was 15. Of course, I’d been in nativities before then, but this felt like my first proper part. It’s a fantastic play, I loved it!”

What made you want to become a drama teacher?

“The Money! The 7-figure salary!” Andy jokes, “Well... throughout my time in the industry I’d always done a bit of teaching: University modules in playwriting, or directing short plays written by masters students. I really enjoyed it, but you’d only work with them for a few months then they’d disappear, so I was drawn to teaching for its consistency, you can build creative relationships with students that last, it feels more rewarding.”

Highlight of your first term?

“Almost, Maine... Seeing Miss Argyrou succeed after a lot of work, watching her get the best out of the students, and seeing MVS students form a cohesive ensemble and bring a play to life. It was inspiring and gave me hope for the future and where we are heading.”

Who would play you in the film of your life?
“Nick Frost” Andy answers with certainty.

What’s to come from your Drama Department?

“More depth and diversity... A mixture of contemporary plays and classic musicals. Plays by students for students to enjoy. My end goal is to stage entirely student led productions: They take full creative control.”



Andy McNamee working with Y7 on improvisation and devised pieces below

IN THE CLASSROOM: DEvised PIECES AND TEXTS IN PRACTICE

This term, our Y9s have explored stimuli, in the form of a prop, a song, a photo and a newspaper. After Half Term, Pupils were split into groups and received a final stimulus around which to devise a performance piece. The groups finally performed their pieces in front of each other, demonstrating resilience, support and maturity throughout.

The Y10s kicked off the term working together and, as a group, looking at Vivienne Franzmann’s modern thriller/horror The IT. From half term, we moved on to Pupil-led research, examination, and work on Sam Steiner’s modern classic Lemons, Lemons, Lemons, Lemons, (recently updated for the West End) and Nick Payne’s searing WW2 drama One Day When We Were Young. The term culminated in the group performing two extracts apiece from one of these two plays. This is fantastic preparation for year 11 and the GCSE itself.

With GCSEs looming, our Y11 Drama Pupils have had a jam-packed Spring term studying a selection of



contemporary plays, all in preparation for selecting one play to perform for their GCSE performance assessment. This journey of exploration has taken us from the gritty UK streets in DNA by Dennis Kelly, & Mogadishu by Vivienne Franzmann to the mid-west of the USA in Dance Nation by Clare Barron; from modern dystopias in BU21 by Stuart Slade & Josef K by Tom Basden, to very different types of classics like A Doll’s House by Henrik Ibsen & Fleabag by Phoebe Waller Bridge. They have also continued to revise and cover The Crucible by Arthur Miller in preparation for the written exam next term, and have watched various productions on our new streaming service, Drama Online.

ENGLISH

- LUCY PASK -

A TEA PARTY IN NARNIA

In the final week of half term two, twelve pupils were chosen by their English teachers to attend an immersive tea party themed around The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. The event was held in recognition of their diligence throughout the term. Inspired by the enchanting of Edmund by the White Witch, students indulged in an array of sweet treats from Turkish delight to hot chocolate. They entered through the hanging coats of a wardrobe into a snowy scape to fully immerse them in the reading. Paddy in Year 8 said of the event, 'I loved the tea party. The food matched the book very well and I think it is a great reward for the students'.



SIMON ARMITAGE: POETRY READING

It was an absolute treat to hear Simon Armitage read his poetry in the MVS theatre and field some thoughtful questions from the crowd, he deserves our thanks! Performance, as Simon remarked during the Q & A, is an essential part of the poetic art – when you hear poetry read by its maker, you get something more than you do from the page. You get rhythm, cadence, tone and texture. You hear the sounds of his words as Simon intends them to be heard. I'll provide just one example, in his poem 'Snow Day', Simon wants a day off school... a snow day, a respite from complications, to set his thoughts in order. At one point he asks, if not for a snow day, for a "rainwater and dried bread day", he almost sighs these lines. You can hear how he hankers after the simplicity which

these images evoke, not just materially, but conceptually, he longs for things to be as clear-cut as the distinction between wet rainwater and dry bread. When written, your eyes might scan past these lines, but when Simon speaks them and pauses, you hear something more, you sense his exhaustion. Equally prominent was Simon's humour, in his sharp observation or his occasional absurdity: he mentions corporate "blamestorming sessions" or conjures a "rocking horse" that "skitters across battlefields". Simon's chief virtue lies in the richness of his simplicity. His register is unpretentious, yet his combinations of those simple words, the ideas and images he builds are what is interesting: "this misfortune you find is of your own manufacture" and "the bones of my bones", one would never think that bones could have bones of their own!



SIMON ARMITAGE POETRY WORKSHOP

It was a real privilege to have Poet Laureate Simon Armitage run a workshop for some of our pupils when he visited the school in February. He gave pupils a series of prompts to elicit a range of imaginative and unusual ideas, beginning with freewriting, where pupils were encouraged to write anything no matter how illogical. From that, they had to pick out the most interesting word choices, and the dullest ones too, before describing an imaginary picture with these words, moving around the image and approaching it from different viewpoints, time frames and angles. Here are two of the final pieces:

A Time for Silence, by Dylan N (Y9):

A time of mourning which consumed
And distorted all clarity of conscience.
Bleached with a film of lament corrupting
the purity of my recollection.
The forests now teeming with life, a
continuous
Reminder of the untimely quietude.
A multitude of emotions, colliding in such
disarray,
Amplifying, and exacerbating the sheer
magnitude of my sorrow.
The beauty of the silence, warping the
breeze and the vigour of the
Wind caressing my face, the one awaiting a

genuine grin.

The woodlands now rest, untouched, still
brimming with animacy,
Yet missing the...

The Sunset Moon and the Northern
Lights, by Zara (Y7):

The sunset gold majestically fills the moon,
echoing across the sky. White is spread
past the horizon. Green waves lurk across
the atmosphere creating a ripple along
the sky. The clock begins to tick faster and
faster until the handle reaches midnight.
The winter season is here. The peaceful
serenity of the night creates a long silence,

a pause just for a moment. While we stand
and marvel at the beautiful sight of the
Northern Lights. Like the souls of our
loved ones had become even with heaven
producing magnificence. In the corner of
my eye I see a bouncing dog, she desperately
digs a hole searching for her missing piece.
The tranquillity of the sky gazes away, with
shades of emerald to sage colours filling the
dark, black sky. I raise my hand, trembling,
and grasp the moon gently with the
northern lights spilling out beside me. I look
back the memories flooding back of that
night, with the sunset moon in my fingertips
and hope that the magical nights will return.
If not in my dreams.





GEOGRAPHY

- CAROLINE KNIGHT -

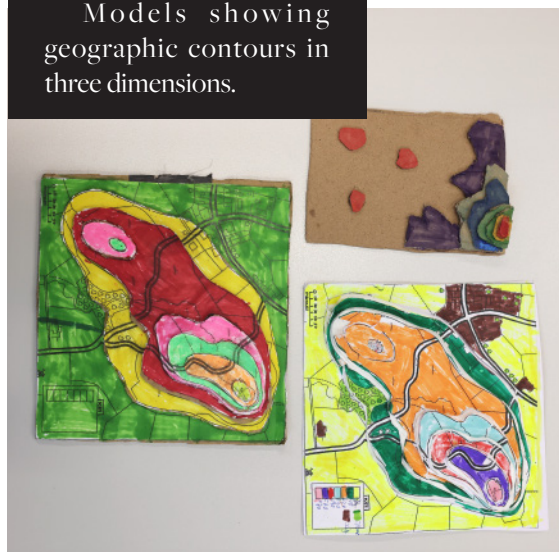
IN THE CLASSROOM

In Year 7, our geographers have continued their exploration of map reading before moving onto the enigmatic continent of Antarctica. Through hands-on activities and interactive lessons, they've picked up various skills including the art of interpreting contour shapes before going on to construct their own contour models (right), in the process honing their spatial awareness and developing their problem-solving skills. Afterwards, they embarked on an Antarctic expedition – sadly not literally, Mr Bashaarat wouldn't sign off on it, something blizzards being unsuitable for children... - still, they uncovered the mysteries of this remote wilderness. They learned about the continent's historical and scientific exploration, its threats and conservation efforts through the Antarctic Treaty, sparking a passion for environmental stewardship. The Y8s have ventured into the realms of energy and globalisation. Through activities and thought-provoking group presentations, they delved into the various sources of energy and their implications for our planet - from fossil fuels to renewable alternatives, students examined the environmental and social impacts of different energy systems. From there, students explored the interconnected world of globalisation, appreciating the flows created by trade, people, and technology

across borders. Through some real-world examples, they gained insights into the opportunities and challenges presented by an increasingly interconnected world, from transnational corporations to the part Malcom McLean played in inventing container ships enabling his lorries to be seamlessly loaded and unloaded. Y9 studied the iGCSE topic of Urban Environments and have reached a strong understanding of the complexities of urbanisation and its impact on society and the environment. From analysing the patterns of urban growth to examining the challenges of managing rapid urban development, students have honed their critical thinking skills and developed

a nuanced appreciation for the dynamics of modern cities, both in the developed and developing parts of the world. The Y10 pupils have studied the Economic Activity and Energy for their iGCSE. They've investigated the reasons behind shifts in employment numbers within each sector of industry, and considered factors such as globalisation, mechanisation, and government policies role within this. With a focus on energy, students have scrutinised global energy demand and production in a number of countries producing individual presentations on the energy mix and energy security in a country of their choice.

Models showing geographic contours in three dimensions.



MUSIC

- JANE STOTT -

Pupils create a modern arrangement of Ode to Joy



YEAR 9 ORCHESTRA

Since embarking on the GCSE Music course, our Year 9s have made terrific progress. They have learnt about orchestral playing through listening and performing as an ensemble, performing arrangements of pieces from the Baroque Era which I have tailored for the instruments with which they are most comfortable. They seem to have really enjoyed playing as an orchestra, though, of course, we have encountered the age-old challenge: it is seemingly impossible, and always has been, for a room full of musicians equipped with instruments to avoid playing even a single note in a moment of silence. Just when the conductor thinks he shall be able to issue some instruction to the string section, the horns, pianist and double bass can apparently

endure the silence no longer, the devil on their shoulder advises them that it surely couldn't hurt to play a little riff and they burst into song. Unfortunately, very rarely do they have the same song in mind – our MVS musicians have not disappointed, nor fallen short of this tradition. Nevertheless, in all seriousness, orchestral practice has really helped them with their sight-reading, and familiarity with the detail in Western Classical Music. Each member of the class has had their turn as the conductor, beating time and using shaping to determine tempo, dynamics and the general articulation of the piece. They have also had the opportunity to play some of the less-common instruments in the orchestra including the tuba, double bass and oboe. We are looking forward to performing some of the repertoire in the Summer Music Recital in June.

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

Throughout the Spring Term, the pupils in Key Stage 3 have been making good use of our Music Technology resources to compose songs and develop their recording and production techniques. The Year 8 classes have used Max Richter's rearrangement of Vivaldi's Four Seasons as inspiration in crafting their own sound, using Logic software. Some students have opted to bolster Vivaldi's composition with fast drums, electric guitars and even synthesisers! The Year 7 have also learned how to sequence music and to record a vocal. They have really enjoyed expressing themselves using music technology and many choose to use it in their spare time, I fear Moby shall have some fierce competition in the near future, in the form MVS alumni.



The Year 7 are learning about the Civil War: a Roundhead or Cavalier?

HISTORY & POLITICS

- JAY BEGUM & EDWARD HOPKINS -

IN THE CLASSROOM: THE RED SCARE & THE HOLOCAUST

The quality of academic work from all our students has been astonishing throughout the Spring Term. Year 8 pupils have been learning about the Holocaust in Europe, and they all completed an Extended Learning Project on the topic, with projects



ranging from newspaper articles, timelines, and film reviews. The pupils have deepened their knowledge and understanding of the key features of the Holocaust. Similarly, pupils in Year 9 have applied their communication skills and creativity to produce newspaper articles about the Red Scare and McCarthyism in the USA. They planned, edited, and applied techniques such as alliteration, thus demonstrating their ability to make cross-curricular links. Wise choices were made with respect to tone, layout and font - one can never wrong with 'impact', and who cannot love the tongue-in-cheek pseudo-publication the 'Freedom Times' (left). The Daily Quote's title (right) profits from a cunning internal rhyme: "WAY... USA" - it seems we have some journalists amongst our ranks!

STARS OF THE TERM

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Cassie W (Year 7) | Dylan N (Year 9) | Minjoon L (Year 10) |
| Maarten V (Year 8) | Lulu G (Year 10) | Beattie J-C (Year 12) |
| Katya K (Year 8) | | |



MATHEMATICS

- MARIZA GENEÉ -

The Maths departments has been ticking along nicely this term, bolstered by the return of the lovely Miss Hill. Sadly, as is most likely the case with the Maths departments in schools across the country, there is little by way of 'Breaking News' - our pupils have been working industriously through the syllabus, but I appreciate that it is not exactly lion taming. Nonetheless, for those of you excited by all things mathematical, you will be pleased to hear that the annual 'UKMT Maths Challenge' took place this term. The Maths Challegne is designed to really stretch students, asking them questions that require them to apply the Mathematical skills that they have in imaginative ways. We were very pleased to see the following MVS Year 10s awarded prizes:

- Minjoon L – Gold Award & School Best
 Wenbo D – Silver Award
 Zeki R – Bronze Award
 Joseph C – Bronze Award
 Kenechi O – Bronze Award
 Alix ReS – Bronze Award



We wish success to Minjoon and Wenbo who will compete in the Hamilton Olympiad follow up round on the 21st March.



SPORT REPORT RUGBY, HOCKEY, SWIMMING & CROSS COUNTRY

The U12s have worked hard improving their rugby skills and knowledge. They've shown bravery and real teamwork, most notably against Portland Place where the A's drew in a high scoring contest and the B's fought hard to get over the line with a win. Felix F has been a brilliant addition to the team. Despite having never played before, he has led the defensive line with passion.

The U13s have been vibrant in attack. Their creativity and flair, reminiscent of Fabian Galthie's French side (before The World Cup), have meant no shortage of tries, but they have had to work very hard in defense. Some proper end-to-end games have come as a result. Against Portland Place alone, 32 tries were scored in total and MVS came away with the lion's share. Maarten V has been rock-solid in defense alongside Lazer RH whilst Adam B, the Antoine Dupont of MVS, has been electric in attack alongside Jackson H.

The U14s have been limited by numbers but they have come on nicely since last year

and have shown a real togetherness in their hunger to improve. Their passion, growth and unity were most visible against Portland Place where the nail-biting game came out 7-9 to Portland, in spite of top notch performance. Vlad K and Toby VdH have been standouts, leading by example.

The Senior team have been excellent this season. Their improvement from last year is clear. They have played with more structure, attacking moves and stronger line-outs. Lady luck has not been on the Senior's side in their closer games this season. Against Kew House, a last-minute try gave Kew a 25-24 win but let that not detract from their terrific performance. Standout players include Anthony RG, Ollie M and Isaac G who have led our attack with speed and skill whilst Max R, Matt B and Max O'K have bravely marshalled the defense putting in some huge tackles.

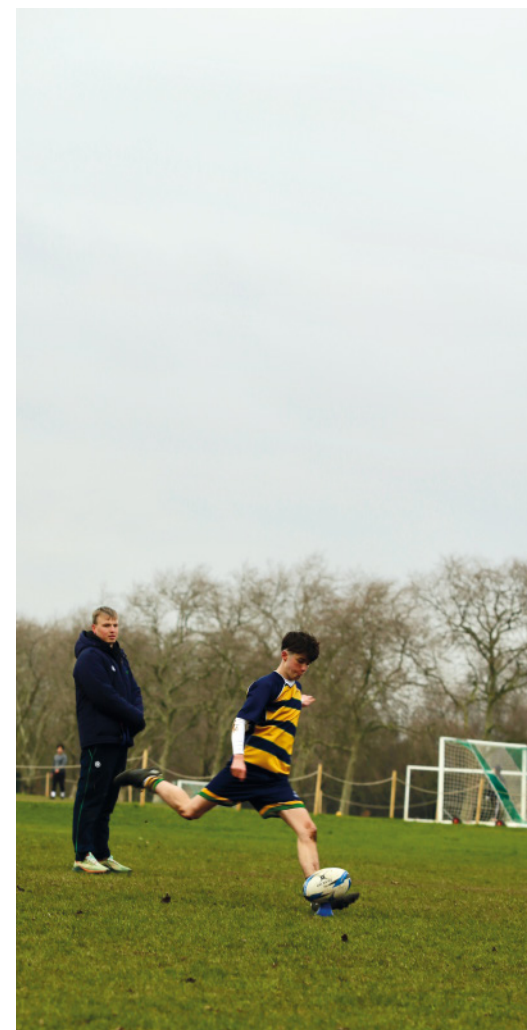
The U12s have had a fantastic season. The whole squad have shown impressive progress, led by the role models, Bella and Arthur, who have been a real handful for our opponents this term.

The U13s should be very proud of their progress term. The coaching staff have been hugely impressed by their seemingly impermeable defence, a product of their concentration and teamwork, led by 'the

brick wall' Molly L and 'the Hoover' Frank O. Nancy W has been a force to be reckoned with on the wings and the silky stick skills of Ismael M have caused our opposition all kinds of headaches. Their best performance came against Francis Holland, an unlucky defeat did not distract from some smooth passing and inspiring teamwork.

The U14s have had no shortage of enthusiasm and zeal. You can just tell what hockey means to this lot! What they might lack in experience and stick skills (which quite frankly can be left to the show-boaters) they more than make up for in passion, determination and high spirits. A tremendous 1-0 upset against Kew House proved that just about anything is possible on the Hockey pitch. Belief was flowing through the MVS players as Kew House tried every avenue and found no route to our goal. Elise E, August W-S and Jasper P must be singled out for praise as leaders of the pack.

Our Seniors have had an excellent term. But I must write with great caution, so as not to confer the 'Commentator's Curse' on this special group of players who, at the time of writing, with 1 game remaining, remain undefeated. The efforts of Jervan E cannot go unnoticed,



Rugby match vs
Portland Place

he has popped up all over the pitch, causing problems in defense and attack. Libby L and Sophia T/G? too deserve a mention for their smooth stick-work and leadership. Zebedee and Eduardo must be congratulated for their great progress and hard work this term, crafting themselves into vital parts of this, I must whisper, undefeated outfit.

The Secondary School Swimming Gala held at the Queen Mother Sports Centre was a great opportunity for the pupils and school to take part in something unique and challenging. Pupils from Y7-9 swam their preferred stroke and then combined for a tense freestyle relay. All the pupils swam their best and showed great camaraderie and support for those in the pool. Some notable mentions were Yr 7 – Ferdi F, Eli F and Bella F. Yr 8 – Frank O, Antonio B and Edward T. Yr 9 – Toby VdH and Dylan N. Well done to all.

Cross Country was, as ever, a cheerful occasion. One need only take glance at those infectious smiles on the opposite page to get a sense of the atmosphere. Needless to say, there were all manner of friendly japes in the spirit of healthy competition. There was a particularly amusing exchange between three runners, who were ostensibly good friends, but each of whom, I suspect, was furtively fostering the hope of outstripping the others, having lured them into a false sense of security. But the moment one or the other quickened his step to take even a slight lead, his pace would be matched by his companions, all while friendly chatter continued, each man masking his intent. Across all the year groups, boys and girls, Hyde House got their hands on the coveted Cross Country House Cup this year - with their runners occupying the highest positions, on average, in across the four categories (KS3 Boys, KS3 Girls, KS4 Boys and KS4 Girls).



“Somebody once asked me if I ever went up to the plate trying to hit a home run. I said, sure, every time.”

- Mickey Mantle

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK



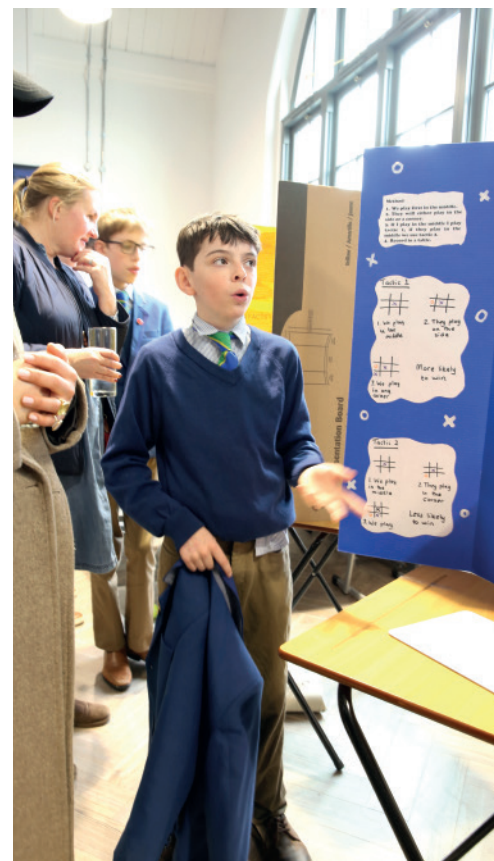
ROYAL INSTITUTE SCIENCE LECTURES

It is safe to say that we celebrated British Science Week in style here at MVS. We kicked off the week on Monday with a visit from the esteemed Royal Institution, renowned for their Christmas lectures whose tickets sell out at a rate that would make Glastonbury blush. Zofia, the Ri's visiting speaker, delivered an interactive lecture entitled 'Super Cells', covering the operations of pathogens as they spread throughout the body and what the immune system can do to fight back. We were very impressed by Zofia's presentation and her imaginative means of demonstrating cellular operations on a large scale. For example, as pictured above, Zofia demonstrates using bubbles how viruses, having replicated themselves inside of a host cell, burst out and spread across the body. She used a needle popping a balloon to show how our white blood cells

destroy virus cells. She used invisible ink to show how some bacteria can hide from the body's immune system, causing white blood cells to miss them, or worse target their the body's own cells mistakenly. The shows were thoroughly engaging and presented the pupils with plenty of opportunities to get up on stage and learn through practical demonstrations.



The spreading of viruses throughout the body can be likened to bubbles through the air



SCIENCE FAIR



Friday afternoon saw our standout pupils leading the Science Fair. Year 7 and 8 pupils have been working very hard indeed, investigating their independent projects and preparing their presentations. We did not prescribe any particular areas of study, the pupils had, as it were, free rein to research absolutely anything that interests them, no matter (within reason) how wacky. We saw projects on the Space-Time Continuum, the Olfactory system (sense of smell), Ecosystems, Organs and one pupil even presented on feline emotions!

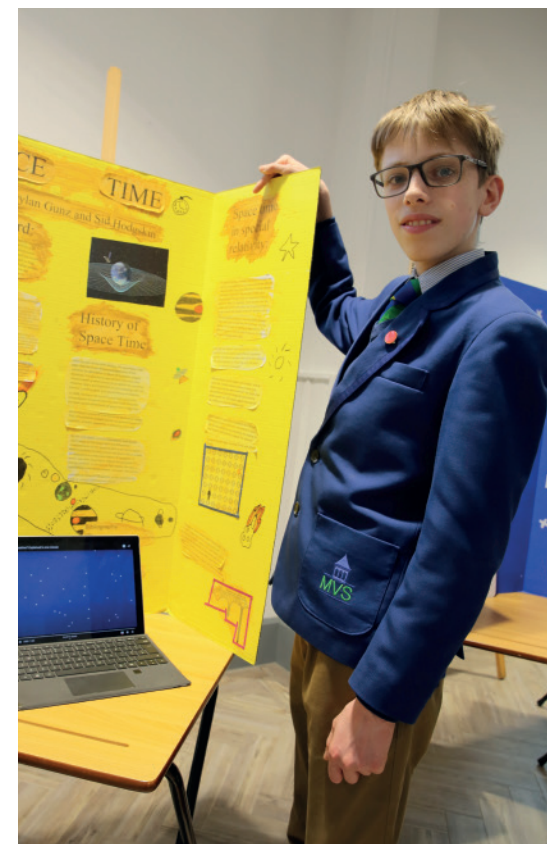
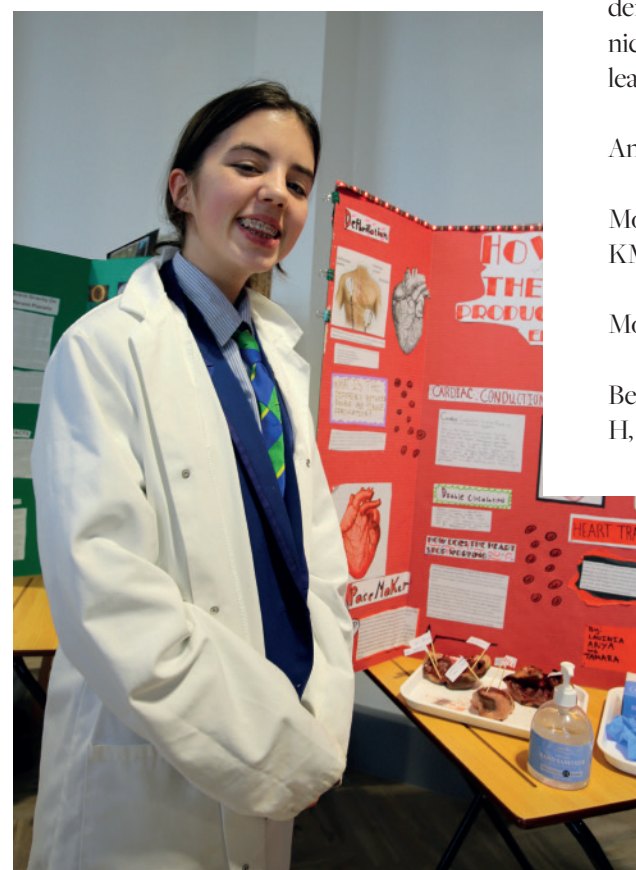
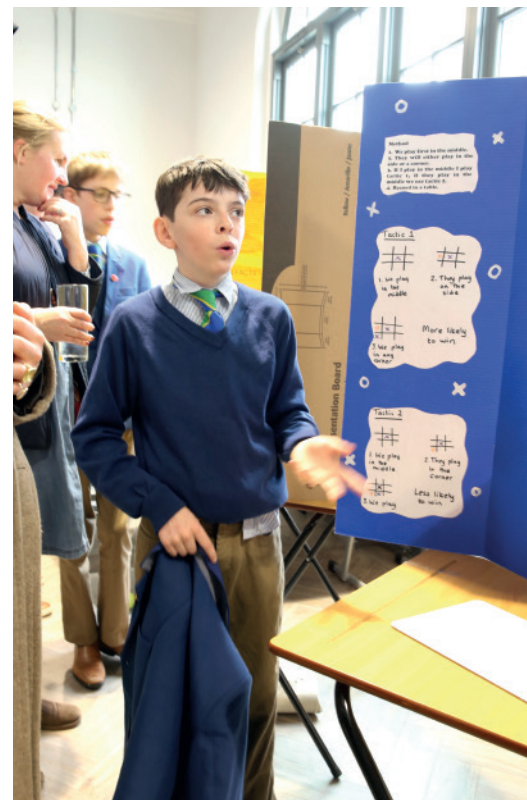
It was lovely to hear the pupils speak about their hard work, on topics about which it was obvious that they were genuinely passionate - we are hugely proud of all those students who participated. It was a real pleasure to see so many parents wondering around, we hope they had a nice time, and perhaps, maybe... even learned something?

And of course... the prizes:

Most Informative: Maarten V, Otto KM, Nancy W

Most Creative: Seb N, Lazer RH

Best Presentation: Dylan G, Vinnie H, Sam S.



BARCELONA SPORTS TOUR

STUDENT REPORT

WRITTEN BY LAVINIA C,
FRANK O & JASPER P

We arrived at school for a very early start to our Barcelona adventure. We caught the train from Paddington and made our way to Heathrow airport. Once on the plane, a number of our cohort fell asleep on the plane, the early start and initial excitement proved too much for some! Somewhat disappointingly, upon arrival in Barcelona, we were greeted by grey skies. Those who had fallen asleep on the flight awoke to figure that we had not yet left Britain at all. But fortunately Monica, our amazing tour guide, arrived to brighten our day. We piled into the coach in a hurry to drop off our suitcases before the opening fixtures. The boys football team fought bravely, putting in a strong performance. Zeki made several excellent saves, Matt won every tackle in defence and Jackson was as creative as ever in midfield. Early on, lady luck turned her nose up at the boys in blue and yellow, gifting the rotten Spaniards an easy goal. Adam levelled proceedings with a well-timed finish. Alas, the early start caught up with the boys in the second half leading to an unfortunate 4-1 defeat.

After a spot of lunch, the hockey teams took to the field (Astro). It was a cracking game, founded upon generous spirit; we made up jumbled up our players with the Spanish side to make some new friends and learn plenty of Spanish hockey terminology. Both teams worked and Frank scored an excellent goal. Finally, it was time to go back to the hotel, get some good food and a good night's sleep after a long first day of the tour.

After a good night's sleep, day 2 commenced with a large breakfast to get the whole group energised and ready for a big day

at port Aventura theme park. The theme park was huge and tested many students (and staff) to conquer their fears and the ride dreaded Shambala, Dragon Khan and Tomahawk. We also visited the arcades and won prizes galore. We were treated to some tasty food and got to view the theme parks carnival celebration which included myriad decorations, music and parades throughout the day. At last, we returned to the hotel where we ate dinner as a group and took part in a doubles pool tournament before getting an early night ahead of football and hockey training sessions.

On day 3, in a flurry of hugs and tears, the hockey and football teams split up (for the morning) so we could get some specialist training from our PE teachers in view of our next fixtures. The football team were put through the paces practicing some shooting drills and enjoying a highly competitive practice game with Mr Ricks. Meanwhile the Hockey team were working on close control and shooting with Ms Yeomans. After training had finished, the lovely Monica came to pick us up and guide us around Barcelona. This was terrific, it was fascinating to hear how history had shaped the modern city. We learnt about the political struggles of the Catalan people, the 1992 Olympics and took many a picture outside the beautiful La Sagrada Familia. After

**"IT WAS AMAZING TO SEE THE
SAGRADA FAMILIA AND LEARN
ABOUT THE SOCIO-POLITICAL
HISTORY OF BARCELONA"**

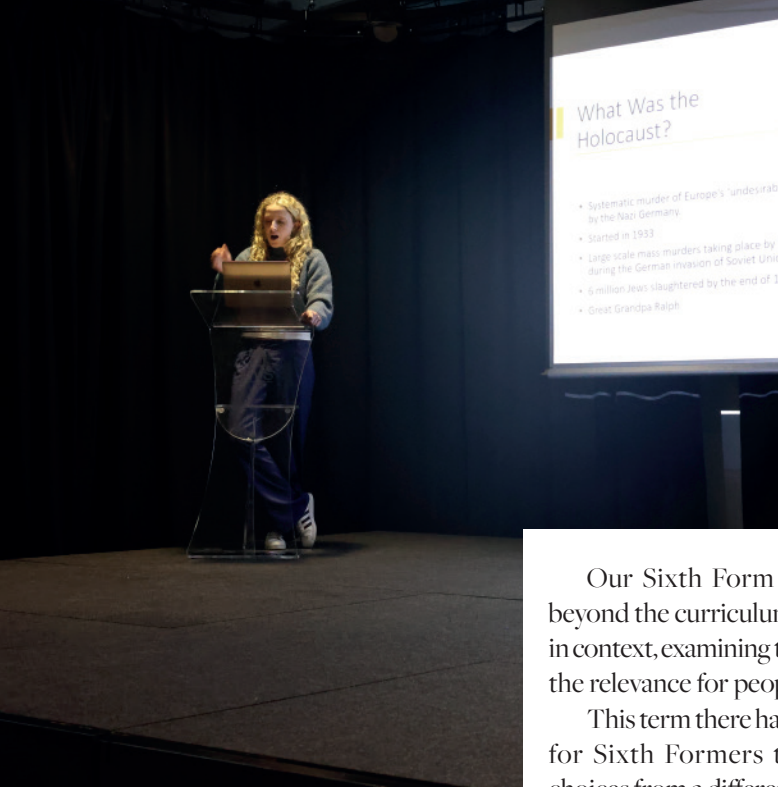
some delicious lunch and ice cream at a local restaurant we got back on the coach and made our way to the training ground of RCD Espanyol for a

pro football training session. The facilities were incredible and the coaches at the club certainly worked us hard with some great drills honing our passing and control before we got to watch the RCD Espanyol women's football team play. Exhausted by training and our city tour, we made our way back to the hotel to for a good night's sleep ahead of our final Hockey and Football fixtures of the tour.

Day 4 was, action packed, full of sport and fun. We started early at 7.30 to prepare for a pro coaching hockey session! It was fantastic, with everyone picking up some tricks and tips to improve their hockey game! Then, it was on to the football match with everyone leaving it all on the pitch, nothing short of 100% effort from us all in our last football game of the tour. Jackson ended up putting away a glorious penalty! After the game wrapped up we all headed to a hockey game, the football players came along in support. It was a fantastic match, each of us picking up some Spanish as we went and collaborating brilliantly with their players. All the MVS players ended up on the score-sheet in a great match which sadly saw the end of our hockey exploits for the rest of the tour. We took a short drive back to the hotel where we were treated to an amazing last dinner, the perfect way to cap off the perfect tour.

Day 5 was our last, everyone was determined to enjoy it as much as possible. We stole an extra hour of sleep, before bolstering ourselves with a great breakfast. Then it was on to the beach! We all had a fantastic time with beach cricket all, everyone had a bat and a bowl! Sandcastles were being raised and destroyed all over, some suffering an untimely demise only half-way through their creation. In fact, hardly did a sandcastle's construction last longer than 30 seconds before being noticed by some neighbouring architects who, fearing that this new sandcastle might soon eclipse their own, would promptly dispatch a skirmish to disturb their competitor's progress, such disturbances typically took the form of a 5-pace run up before leaping directly onto the nascent sandcastle. A brilliant final lunch followed, with the most popular food being goats cheese salad and perfect paella! Then it was off to the airport and onto the plane, several of us taking the opportunity to have one last shop. It was a fabulous tour and a great way to spend a half-term.





SIXTH FORM

Our Sixth Form are learning to look beyond the curriculum, to see their subjects in context, examining the history, the role and the relevance for people's lives.

This term there have been opportunities for Sixth Formers to see their subjects choices from a different angle, literally in the case of photography.

Seeing Shakespeare's first folio from 1623, albeit behind a glass screen, is a powerful reminder of its age and legacy. Our English A level students were lucky enough to see this ancient book when they visited the Guildhall Art Gallery with Magnus Bashaarat.

Visiting experts always bring a fresh perspective to a subject. This was certainly the case when Richard Ash visited. His experience as a war photographer with his work at the Imperial War Museum gave our A level photography students an insight into life behind the camera. He also shared tips and ideas for the use of light, a relevant topic for this year's cohort whose photography project work is centered around reflection.

Aside from their own enrichment they are also involved in the enrichment of others: mentoring, taking assemblies, running clubs and societies.

This term their assembly on Holocaust Memorial Day was particularly moving and was given by Kitty and Olly. Together they shared stories both personal and historical to remind us all of the importance of remembering the fate of Europe's Jews in the Second World War.

Their bracelet making clubs is a particular hive of activity and chatter and is a popular choice amongst our younger pupils.

They were also invaluable on House Cross Country Day helping out as marshals and time keeping.



CHARITY RUN

Saturday 27th April

Maida Vale School are excited to announce that we are entering a team into Lady Garden's annual 5K challenge. A mixture of teachers, pupils, and parents (and dogs!) will be running/walking through Battersea Park on Saturday 27th April to help raise awareness and funds for gynaecological health.

Pupils were fortunate enough to have an assembly hosted by Jenny Halpern, founder of Lady Garden, this term to give them an insight into the charity's aims of boosting education, research, and treatment of gynaecological cancers and health. Jenny also explained the importance of their annual 'Family Challenge' in their fundraising calendar; and as such, we are looking to involve as many from MVS as possible to create a team!

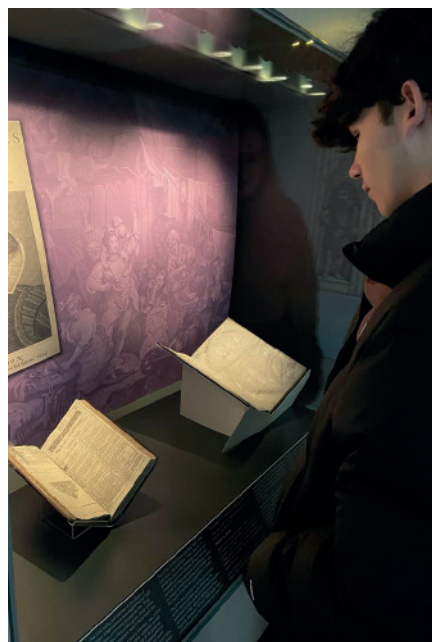
We will have both a running and walking group, all accompanied by staff, and whilst 'lady' is in the name of the charity, it is open to all. Registration is £25 (which of course can be fundraised for) and the aim is to then be sponsored, with all sponsorship money going to help fund Lady Garden's important work.

We would love to see as many people as possible sign up, so please scan the QR code to email Miss Pocock in order register your interest.



LADY GARDEN

Top: Holocaust Day Assembly, Below: Shakespeare's First Folio Right: Cross Country Marshall Bottom right: Working on Photography projects Bottom right: Richard Ash, Photographer





MAIDA VALE SCHOOL

Maida Vale School, 18 Saltram Crescent, London W9 3HR

www.maidavaleschool.com

020 4511 6000

admissions@maidavaleschool.com



Part of the Gardener Schools Group, one family, four schools one vision