MAIDA VALE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2025

SPORTS DAY & GAMES ROUNDUP

TRIPS, TALKS & WORKSHOPS

SCHOOL OF ROCK PRODUCTION

GCSE & A LEVEL ART EXHIBITIONS

CARNEGIE AWARDS SHADOWING

ICELAND EXPEDITION

ENRICHMENT CLUBS

GARDENER SCHOOLS GROUP



"For those about to (School of) Rock, we salute you!" Full story on pages 19 & 23.



Mr Magnus Bashaarat
Headmaster, Maida Vale School

This summer term has been a term of important achievement at Maida Vale School. Our pioneer cohort of Year 13 students have negotiated their season of public exams and deadlines successfully, and we look forward to seeing the school's first set of public exam results in August.

We had a very enjoyable and emotional send-off for Year 13 and their families in the penultimate week of term, bidding farewell to some students who had started at MVS when it first opened 2020.

We then enjoyed two very impressive performances of the school musical, 'The School of Rock', running concurrently with the A level Art and Photography exhibition in The Studio. The exhibition and musical showcased the expressive and visual arts at MVS at their best, and in this newsletter are pictures and reviews of those events plus a comprehensive round-up the school's academic and co-curricular life this term.

We have exciting plans for a new look DT department next year, with more opportunities in creative design, and new staff joining the school to enhance our creative life. But meanwhile, I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and have a fantastic summer.

CONTENT

NEWS ROUND UP

04 **Design Technology** It's been an exciting term in Design & Technology with students crafting leather Zip-cases, wallets and key fobs in our 'expert skills' workshops.

05 **Computer Science** Frame-by-frame, tweening animation and learning about the ethical, cultural, legal, environmental, and privacy-related implications of emerging technologies such as AI. Plus an exciting trip to Legoland Windsor!

06 **Iceland Geography Expedition** At half term students from Years 8, 9 and 10 embarked on an incredible journey to the land of fire and ice!

07 **Individuals in Society** Year 12 students delivered the very first Individuals in Society workshop, (the school's student-led approach to PSHE), to seventy of our Year 7 and 8 students.

08 **Sixth Form** We've had the pleasure of welcoming representatives from a wide range of universities, both local and international, who shared valuable insights about their programs, campuses, and application processes. Plus our first ever Year 13 Leavers Dinner!

09 **English** A Year 11 visit to St Paul's Cathederal brought John Donne's poetry to life while a selection of students were chosen to participate in the prestegious Carnegie Awards ceremony in central London!

10 **Science** Our students have been engaging in Ecology fieldwork, the UKBC Biology challenge and took a wonderfully immersive journey to the 'Centre of the Cell' at Queen Mary's University in London.

11 **Mathematics** This term has been full of exciting opportunities for our pupils to engage with Mathematics in creative and challenging ways, with 'real world' data wrangling and the UK Mathematics Trust Junior Maths Challenge.

11 **Creative Digital Media Production** Our students took part in an exciting and creative day at the Museum of Brands in Notting Hill, developing their own creative brand ideas and healthy drinks in a Workshop hosted by Innocent Smoothie.

12 **Art and Photography** Visits to see Edvard Munch at The National Portrait Gallery and a Do Ho Suh at Tate Modern. Our students also held their GCES and A Level Private View exhibitions.

14 Art **Gallery** A stunning showcase of some of this term's top creative work

16 **PE & Games** Our sports stars have been busy this term competing in a wide range of activities including Athletics, Cricket and Tennis. This year's Sports Day was a true celebration of community, competition and school spirit!

19 **Drama** This term's School Production was the musical epic 'School of Rock', while students from Year 11 took a trip to see 'Shanghai Dolls' in London.

20 **History & Politics** This term our students have been focusing on the research phase of their coursework. Their chosen topics spanned a wide range of fascinating historical periods and events.

21 **Geography** This term the Geography Department has been looking at how the World is Mapped, Population Patterns, Urban Environments and A Level NEA Coursework.

22 **Enrichment Clubs** Our staff and Sixth Formers have created clubs and activities that cater to a wide range of interests, we take a closer look at the newly formed Film Skool and Duke of Edinburgh Award activities.

23 **Music** This term culminated in an energetic musical production of 'School of Rock', while the Year 7 Orchestra focus has been on Trombone Club and end of year performances.



Iceland Expedition.
Full story on page 6.



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

- RICHARD BARRETT -

Students this year have been developing their skills in the workshop. With the addition of new Design and Technology staff (Riot Rogers) comes a wealth of expertise in both leather and textiles. Students in Years 7 and 8 have been practising these skills with 'expert skills' workshops making leather zip-cases as well as well as leather wallets and key fobs. With expert knowledge and new equipment including a leather press, industrial sewing machines and an overlocker.

These invaluable practical design activities develop fine motor skills as well 'dexterity with force' allowing students to prototype their designs with precision.

As the Design and Technology Department continues to develop and grow, this provision will continue to expand.

Design students have also been exploring a wider portfolio of STEM activities, such as Robot Wars, in collaboration with the Physics Department, where they are using computer aided design software SolidWorks in readiness for designing, building and competing with their own robots from September 2026.





Years 7 & 8 using Leather making skills to craft wallets

INSIDE THE COMPUTER SCIENCE LAB

The Computer Science and Design & Technology departments were thrilled to take Year 7 pupils on an exciting joint trip to Legoland Windsor on 23rd May. Pupils took part in two hands-on workshops that brought classroom learning to life!



Year 7 at Legoland Windsor

COMPUTER SCIENCE

- INGRID MAHDI -



In the first workshop, pupils built, coded, and debugged their very own robots. They tackled challenges, explored creative solutions, and developed essential problem-solving skills while deepening their understanding of algorithms, sequences, inputs, and outputs.

In the second workshop, pupils explored the fascinating world of physics and engineering by investigating energy transfers during a rollercoaster ride. They discussed forces such as gravity, friction, and air resistance, and then worked collaboratively in teams to design and build their own Lego rollercoasters!

Back in school, pupils took part in an exciting cross-curricular project where the Computer Science and Maths departments worked together on the Gardener Schools Award. Pupils demonstrated their MVS values by analysing data from student-led surveys on current affairs, comparing it with national data from gov.uk. They learned how to create suitable graphs, write analytical newspaper-style reports, and use spreadsheets—practising formulas, using basic functions, and mastering the autofill tool.

This term, Year 8 pupils unleashed their creativity by learning how to create both frame-by-frame and tweening animations using Wick Editor. Each lesson was filled with imagination and innovation, as pupils demonstrated resilience, creativity, and computational thinking while developing their digital animation skills.

They also began their journey into Python programming, gaining a solid understanding of the basics of this powerful and widely used language.

Year 9 pupils made fantastic progress this term, completing 95% of Unit 1 of their Computer Science course (there are two units in total).

They explored a wide range of thought-provoking topics, including the ethical, cultural, legal, environmental, and privacy-related implications of emerging technologies such as AI, facial recognition, and autonomous systems. These lessons sparked meaningful discussions and critical thinking about the role of technology in our lives.

A huge congratulations to Year 10 pupils who have now completed the full GCSE Computer Science specification - covering both components of the course!

This term, their focus was on mastering key topics such as defensive design, Integrated Development Environments (IDEs), testing techniques, trace tables, compilers, and translators. Pupils are now well-prepared to refine their exam technique and deepen their understanding through practice and review in Year 11.





ICELAND EXPEDITION

— NATALIE HARVEY

The Bridge Between Continents

At half term students from Years 8, 9 and 10 embarked on an incredible journey to the land of fire and ice. A geography trip aimed at bringing physical geography alive through exploring the breathtaking landscapes and unique geological features of Iceland.

DAY ONE

Students headed straight from the airport to the first of two stops, 'The Bridge between Continents'. Built over a massive fissure the bridge connects the Eurasian and North-American tectonic plates, showcasing the geological activity where these plates diverge. Students then headed to Gunnuhver Hot Spring, while beautifully visual, (colourful minerals in the ground provide vibrant hues), everyone was surprised by the strength of the pungent sulphur smell - reminiscent of rotten eggs!



DAY TWO

After an early start to the day students ventured to the first of two waterfalls, all were awestruck by the beauty of Skogafoss and the mesmerising black sand of Reynisfjara beach where students had the opportunity to explore the local area. In the afternoon students were given the unique opportunity to climb Solheimjokull Glacier. Kitted out in their crampons and ice axes students discovered how the glacier was formed, got to drink from the ice-cold streams that run along the glacier, and learn how global warming is causing the glacier to retreat each year. Our final stop of the day was the majestic Seljalandsfoss, donned in waterproofs, students were given the opportunity to walk behind the waterfall. And anyone who was daring enough to stand near the edge discovered why waterproofs were essential as they were doused by a downpour from the waterfall above.

DAY THREE

After an action-packed second day and another early start students were given the chance to relax in the Secret Lagoon, the oldest natural pool in Iceland. Natural heated to 38 degrees by the surrounding geothermal area students enjoyed the slower pace to the morning with some braving the freezing cold plunge pool. Rested and re-energised it was then off to explore the Golden Circle, starting with the majestic Gullfoss, a powerful waterfall that left students speechless. After lunch students were treated to seeing The Great Geysir erupt before wandering through Thinvellier National Park which borders the Eurasian and North-American plates, creating a vastly unique environment. The final stop of the day was the Rausarholsheillir Lava Tunnel. An experience different from any other as students wandered deep into the tunnel formed by lava.

DAY FOUR

Our final day in Iceland, students woke up in Reykjavik and were given the opportunity to explore the city centre after visiting Hallgrimskirkja church. For most this time in Reykjavik was spent souvenir shopping while some took the opportunity to experience some local delicacies before heading to the airport.

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

"My favourite part of the Iceland trip was going behind the waterfall Seljalandsfoss. Seeing the waterfall from behind was a surreal experience. Standing on the cliff with my friends waiting for the water to rush over us is a memory I'll never forget. Alongside seeing Ferdi getting absolutely drenched which was hilarious. Even though I ended up completely soaked and had a long journey back to the cabins it was so worth it!"

- Anya F (Year 8)

"Some of my highlights of the trip include trekking on the beautiful glacier and being able taste the fresh ice-cold water. Climbing the unique rock structure on Reynisfjara beach. Being able to admire the beauty of the behemoth Skógafoss waterfall, and exploring Reykjavik after seeing the almost brutalist architecture of Hallgrimskirkja church."

- Everett B (Year 10)









INDIVIDUALS IN SOCIETY

- TANJA BIALOJAN -

On Tuesday 10th June 2025, Year 12 students delivered the very first Individuals in Society (IS) workshop, (the school's student-led approach to PSHE), to 70 Year 7 and 8 students. This fresh and dynamic event provided an exciting opportunity for younger students to engage with important personal development topics in a new, interactive way.

The Year 12 team demonstrated creativity in designing and delivering workshops covering a variety of relevant subjects, including Online Safety (catfishing, cyberbullying), Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships, Influencers and Social Media, Snooze to Win (sleep and wellbeing), Sports and Mood, Say No to Drugs, and Healthy Eating. Their problem-solving skills came to the fore as they adapted activities and discussions to connect meaningfully with younger students.

Throughout the sessions, Year 12 students showed resilience by confidently leading conversations on sensitive topics, creating a safe space for reflection and open dialogue. Their commitment to supporting and inspiring others was clear, as they encouraged Year 7 and 8 students to engage thoughtfully and share their perspectives.



SIXTH FORM



Sixth Form UCAS Workshop

This year has been an exciting and enriching one for our Sixth Form as they begin to prepare for their journey beyond school. We've had the pleasure of welcoming representatives from a wide range of universities, both local and international, who shared valuable insights about their programs, campuses, and application processes. Among the institutions that visited were Bentley University (MA, USA), European School of Economics, Camberwell (University of the Arts London, UK), Swiss Hospitality Group, University of Tampa (FL, USA), Bennington College (VT, USA), and Linfield University (Oregon, USA). These visits gave our students an incredible opportunity to explore their options and ask questions directly to admissions officers, helping them make more informed decisions about their futures. A particular highlight was the dynamic acting workshop hosted by the American Academy of Dramatic Arts (NY, USA), where aspiring performers got a taste of professional actor training.

In addition to university visits, we've run targeted workshops to support the application process. Most recently, the Millie Group led an engaging and practical session on writing effective personal statements—equipping students with the tools and confidence to express their unique strengths and aspirations. This final workshop marks the conclusion of our university preparation events for Year 12, timed perfectly as students begin drafting applications over the summer. We hope this series of experiences has inspired and empowered our Year 12 cohort, especially those planning to apply to university as early as September.

Ms Anastasia Argyrou - International University Advisor.

Y13 LEAVERS DINNER

This term, we bid farewell to our pioneering Year 13 students, many of whom have been with us since the school first opened. As our very first group to complete Sixth Form, they have set the bar high, not only academically but also in the way they have shaped and enriched our school community.

Our students have successfully completed a diverse range of subjects, from Maths and English Literature to Psychology, Politics, Hospitality, Photography, and History – reflecting the breadth of their talents and interests. In addition to their A Level studies, many also completed 5,000-word Extended Project Qualifications on topics ranging from 'Is Hip-Hop Poetry?' and 'The Fall of the Mongol Empire' to 'Operation Market Garden', with one student producing a fully researched, recorded, edited, and published podcast aimed at educating teachers about ADHD.

Their impact was clear to see, with over 30 members of staff joining them, alongside parents, for a touching event filled with speeches, gratitude, and celebration. The evening continued with a special dinner at The Hero, hosted by Mrs Gardener and the Head Master.

We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved and excited to see what lies ahead. Many are heading off to prestigious destinations including the London School of Economics and Cardiff University as well as Art Schools such as City & Guilds, and Ravensbourne, while others are stepping confidently into the world of work.

To all our Year 13 leavers, thank you for everything. You will be greatly missed, and we wish you every success in the adventures to come.


Y13 Leavers Dinner Party

ENGLISH

- ABIGAIL GAMMON -

MVS STUDENTS CHOSEN FOR CARNEGIE AWARD FILMING!

This term, fifteen of our students took part in the prestigious Carnegie Awards Shadowing Programme – an exciting initiative that allows young readers to engage with the judging process for the UK's top children's book award, the Carnegie Medal for Writing.

As part of the scheme, our shadowing group met weekly to read and discuss the shortlisted titles. Alongside this, they participated in a range of activities with teachers from across the school with each presenting to the group on their chosen book.

We were especially honoured this year to be the only school invited to appear in the official award ceremony show reel, where our students shared their thoughts on their favourite books and the significance of the programme. Adding to this achievement, one of our own, Reza L, was selected to present the prestigious award on stage on 19th June at the Cambridge Theatre, a truly remarkable recognition. Reza presented the award to Nathaniel Lessore for his book: The King of Nothing.

We are incredibly proud of Reza and all our dedicated 'shadowers' for their enthusiasm, insight, and outstanding contribution to this year's Carnegie Awards.



YEAR 11 DONMAR WAREHOUSE'S MACBETH SCREENING

Our Year 11 GCSE English students attended a special cinema screening of the Donmar Warehouse production of Macbeth, starring Cush Jumbo and David Tennant. This enriching experience brought Shakespeare's tragedy to life beyond the classroom.

As they prepare for their GCSE English Literature exams, seeing the play performed deepened students' understanding of its characters, themes, and dramatic techniques. Jumbo's powerful Lady Macbeth and Tennant's intense Macbeth highlighted the play's emotional and psychological depth.

The big-screen format allowed students to focus on performance details and staging, enhancing their analysis and sparking thoughtful discussions on scenes like "Out, damned spot!" and Macbeth's descent into madness.

The trip was both educational and inspiring, reinforcing the relevance of Shakespeare's work.

YEAR 12 TRIP TO ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL - JOHN DONNE

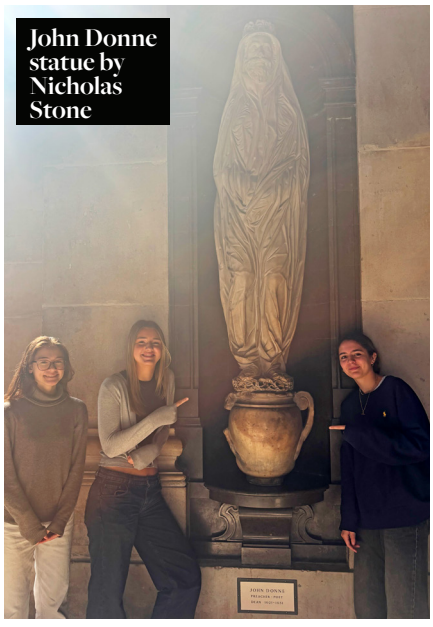
A stand out moment of our A-Level English Literature course was visiting St Paul's Cathedral to explore the life and legacy of John Donne.

For students immersed in Donne's metaphysical conceits and reflections on love, death, and faith, the trip brought his world vividly to life. As Dean of St Paul's from 1621 to 1631, Donne's deep connection to the cathedral was powerfully felt, especially in viewing his statue by Nicholas Stone, the only one to survive the Great Fire of London, guarding the crypt and symbolizing his dual role as poet and preacher.

Miss Gammon's walking lecture illuminated the ties between Donne's writing, faith, and the religious turmoil of his time. A particularly moving moment was reading Hymn to God the Father in the echoing quiet of the cathedral, where Donne's words on sin, redemption, and mortality took on new resonance.

"No man is an Island, entire of itself. Each a piece of the continent, a part of the main..." - John Donne

The visit offered insight the classroom alone couldn't provide, enriching our understanding of Donne's poetry and affirming literature's timeless relevance.


John Donne statue by Nicholas Stone

SCIENCE

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



Year 7 at Centre of the Cell

CENTRE OF THE CELL

On Friday 27th June, Year 7 enjoyed an exciting and educational trip to Centre of the Cell, based at Queen Mary University in London. The visit offered a fantastic opportunity for pupils to explore real-world science and deepen their understanding of human biology and scientific research.

The day included two main workshops: a STEM workshop and one called "Gut Feeling."

In the STEM workshop, pupils began by watching a short video introducing the different types of scientists working at the Blizard Institute. They learned about a wide range of specialisms—from ophthalmologists studying eye health to researchers developing cutting-edge cancer treatments. This helped pupils appreciate the diversity of scientific careers and the important impact of scientific research.

Following the video, pupils took part in interactive games designed with input from real researchers. These games encouraged them to think critically and creatively about science.

The second session, "Gut Feeling," focused on the human digestive system. Pupils followed the journey of breakfast through the body, from the mouth to the anus. They were involved in a hands-on activity where they cut up bananas and pushed them through tights to simulate the digestive process—making complex biology both understandable and memorable.

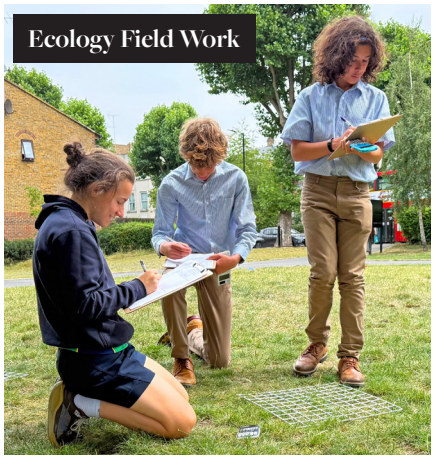
Overall, the trip was a great success. Pupils left with a stronger grasp of biology, a clearer picture of science careers, and most importantly, a renewed enthusiasm for learning science.

UKBC BIOLOGY CHALLENGE 2025

During April and May, pupils from Year 9 and Year 10 took part in the UK Biology Challenge (UKBC), competing against 42,000 students worldwide across various areas of biology. All MVS pupils performed exceptionally well, with many earning highly commended and commended awards. Special recognition goes to Jasper P and Joseph G, who ranked in the top 15% of participants and received bronze awards for their outstanding efforts.

ECOLOGY FIELD WORK

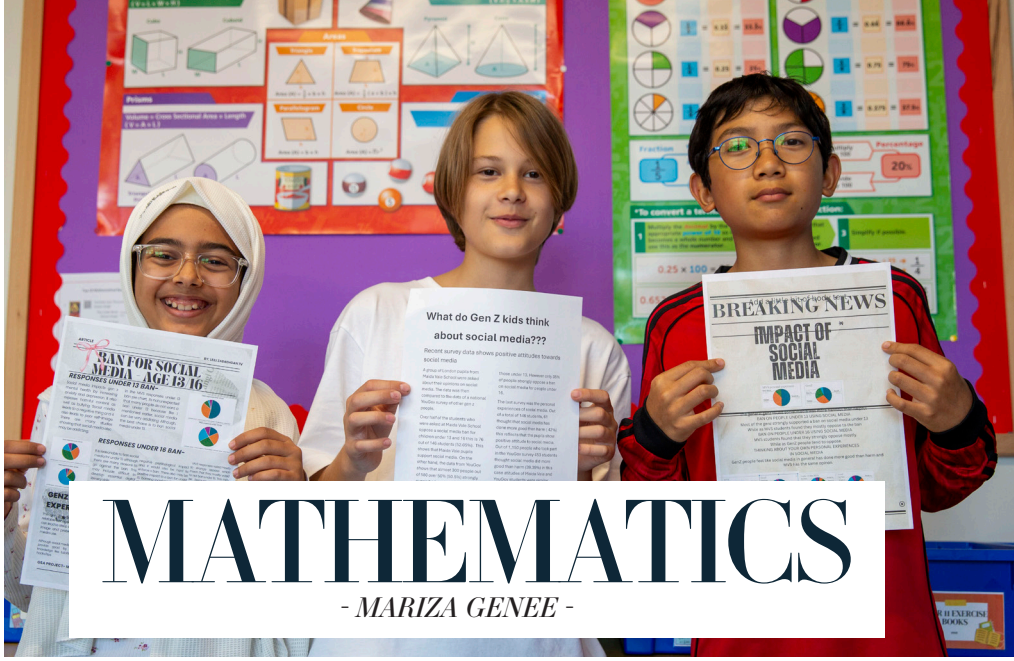
Year 9 conducting hands-on ecology fieldwork using quadrants in a local park. Working in small groups, they carefully estimated the population sizes of various plant species by randomly sampling different areas. Their investigations also focused on systematically sampling how environmental factors such as light and human activity influenced the distribution and abundance of these organisms within the park's diverse ecosystem.



Ecology Field Work



Y9 & Y10 with UKBC Awards



MATHEMATICS

- MARIZA GENEE -

This term has been full of exciting opportunities for our pupils to engage with Mathematics in creative and challenging ways.

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

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

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

DATA HANDLING IN THE REAL WORLD

As part of our contribution to the Gardener Schools Award cross-curricular project with computing, Pupils across Year 7 explored data handling through a thought-provoking project comparing survey results between MVS students and wider Gen Z data. Topics explored included British Values, reading habits, engagement with current affairs, the impact of social media and the rise of AI. Pupils selected their own area of interest, created charts (such as bar and pie charts) and presented thoughtful comparisons in a news article. The project not only developed their analytical skills but also deepened their understanding of how maths applies to the world around them.

UKMT JUNIOR MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE

A number of our pupils took part in the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Junior Maths Challenge, a national competition that encourages mathematical reasoning, precision, and problem-solving. The challenge is designed to stretch and inspire pupils across the country, and we are incredibly proud of all who took part.

BRONZE CERTIFICATES

Year 7: Antonie A, Rafe M, Nina E, Teymour F, Harry R, Isaac S
Year 8: Jackson B, Sonny M, Rayan P, Zane R, Arthur S, Simona T, Cassie W, Liya L

SILVER CERTIFICATES

Year 7: Thomas B, Jacob B, Wolfe L, Arlo N, Gregory K, Reza L, Saul L (Best in Year), George N
Year 8: Ferdi E, Zak K

GOLD CERTIFICATES

Year 8: Harry W (Best in School)

A huge congratulations to all participants for their enthusiasm and outstanding achievement!

CREATIVE DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION

- NANA ABOAGYE -

INNOCENT SMOOTHIE WORKSHOP

On Monday 9th June, our Year 12 Business, Economics, Photography and Creative Digital Media students took part in an exciting and creative day at the Museum of Brands in Notting Hill, exploring how branding and packaging evolve over time. The visit, held from 10:00 to 4pm, offered pupils a hands-on look at how well-known products—like Pringles and Frijj—have developed through the decades.

The day began with the Smoothie Lab workshop, where students learned about product development and the story behind the Innocent brand. They worked in teams to create their own smoothie blends, considering flavour, ingredients, and marketing. After lunch, the Graphic Design session challenged students to design packaging that was both eye-catching and on-brand. The final session focused on Customer Profiling, helping pupils understand how companies tailor products to suit different audiences.

Students particularly enjoyed seeing the original packaging of products they recognise today. Libby Lewis said she found the old packaging "really interesting," while Jake Kaye enjoyed learning about the Frijj product's branding journey. Elina Sharif and Sophia Eissautier both noted how brand packaging has changed dramatically over the years. As Larkin Cerri summed it up: "The actual museum itself was cool to see."



Innocent Smoothie Workshop

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY



GCSE Art Show

YEAR 7 - GARDENER SCHOOLS AWARD (DESSERTS)

The Year 7 pupils made their favourite desserts in Food preparation & Nutrition and in Art they made cake (Mr Kipling's) drawings from observation which were made into cardboard relief paintings. The pupils learned about different desserts from around the world and how artists have used desserts as inspiration for their art.

YEAR 8 - STREET ART & GLAZING OF DRAGON EYES

Pupils learnt about the difference between graffiti and street art. They made stencils for their chosen cause, in the style of Banksy and used paint to sponge their designs onto canvas boards. The pupils were able to paint their Clay dragon eyes and hybrid creatures from their previous spring term.

YR9 TRIP TO NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY – EDVARD MUNCH PORTRAITS

Mrs Jimenez and Ms Watson took their Year 9 pupils to see 40 portraits by the Norwegian artist, famous for 'The Scream'. The pupils made sketches, took photos and bought postcards for their projects that they are starting in Year 10 on 'Portraits and Self-Identity'.

YR10 MOCK EXAMS

The pupils made final pieces in 6 hours (exam conditions (based on their chosen exam question). A wide variety of outcomes were made ranging from paintings, drawings, clay sculptures to a mixed-media dress.

YR11 EXAMS

Pupils made excellent sketchbook back up work since January based on their chosen exam theme. The pupils went to the Tate Modern in January and made works on art based on 'Landmarks', 'Remnants', 'Narrative' and 'Flora and Fauna'. The pupils made strong final pieces during their 10-hour exam. Each pupil was able to show off their artistic skills through sculpture, mixed media, painting, fashion, etc.

Zebedee let fruit go moldy in his mother's shed and photographed the decay. He then cast fruit and vegetables in latex, wax, and plaster. He then rearranged the fruit and painted the decay with acrylic paint.



Clay Dragon Eyes by Y8.



Cake Relief by Mallory O.



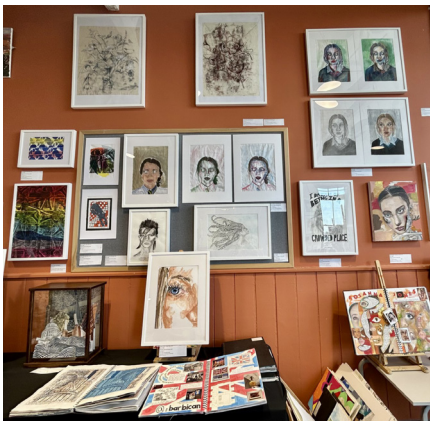
Set design for 'School of Rock'

SCHOOL OF ROCK SET DESIGN

The wonderful set was designed and painted by Mrs S Jimenez and Ms Kelesoglu with the help of Year 9 pupils Harry A, Josie, Katya and Sid.

GCSE ART PRIVATE VIEW –

On Wednesday 18th June 2025 Parents, staff and pupils attended this well-received show. The S11 Art room was transformed into a gallery space by Mrs Jimenez and Ms Kelesolgu. The areas highlighted the individual talents of all the pupils. This has been a strong and focused year group.



A LEVEL ART & PHOTOGRAPHY PRIVATE VIEW

On Tuesday 24th June the first cohort of A level Art and Photography successfully displayed their work in the studio. Each student had an area to show their work on boards, hanging from the ceiling or displayed on easels. This took time and patience to display with some of the sixth formers along with Mrs S Jimenez and Miss Kelesoglu. The friends and family, along with staff, were very impressed with the quality and variety of work on display.

TATE MODERN DO HO SUH & WORKSHOP WITH MS WATSON

The 'Talented' Year 8, 9, 10 & 12 pupils jumped on the tube with Ms Watson and Miss Kelesoglu to see the South Korean sculptor and installation artist at Tate Modern. On return to school the pupils explored the poetic power of memory and material through tissue paper casting, inspired by Do Ho Suh's evocative sculptures of everyday objects and domestic spaces. They also created abstract textile artworks using the heat press, drawing inspiration from memories of favourite views of the exteriors of their homes.

ART COLLEGE BOUND...

Congratulations to Maia H and Violet H for their 'Unconditional' offers from City & Guilds Art Foundation. Putting together the personal statements, references, online and physical portfolios with an in-person interview proved to be worth it in the end. Kitty B has been offered places at Ravensbourne and UAL Art foundations. She hopes to pursue a career in Fashion. We wish them well on their next creative journeys.


Y13 Art Leavers


A Level Art & Photography Private View

GALLERY

1. 'Remnants' by Zebedee R, Y11.
2. 'Messages' by Alex L, Y10.
3. 'Street Art' by Eli F, Y8.
4. Black History Month Batik, 8V.
5. 'Flora & Fauna' by Joseph C, Y11.
6. 'Landmarks' by Kenechi O, Y11.


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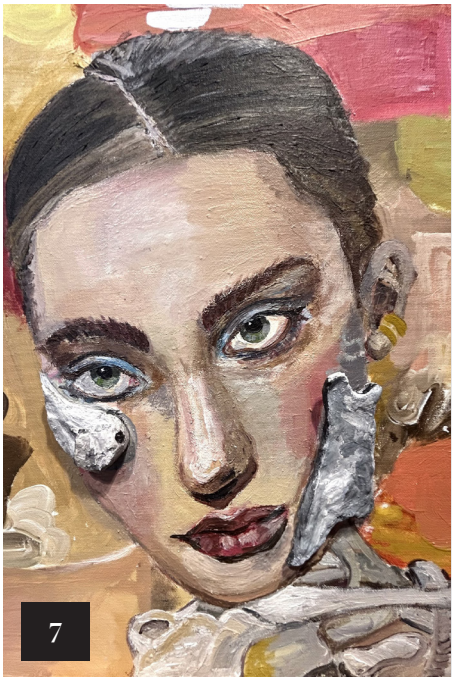


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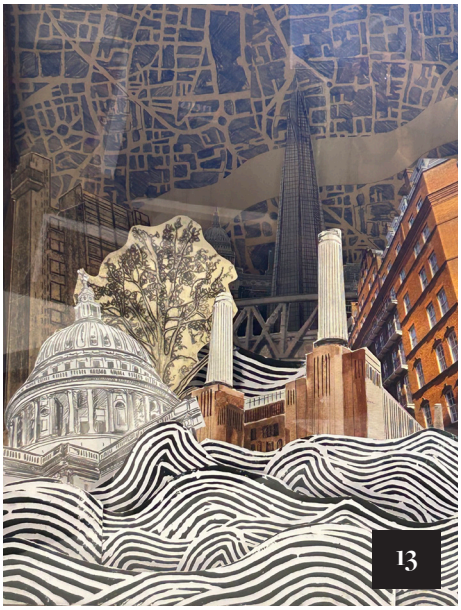












7. 'Human Being' by Thandie C, Y11.
8. 'Habitats' by Emilia S, Y10.
9. 'The Elements' by Sophia D, Y10.
10. 'Female Beauty' by Larkin C, Y12.
11. 'Human Being' by Sara A, Y11.
12. 'Spaces' by Charlie B, Y10.
13. 'Landmarks' by Hetty W, Y11.



PE & GAMES

ATHLETICS

The season kicked off in spectacular style as our team traveled to the Millennium Arena in Battersea Park for the Westminster Athletics meet, competing against all the other schools in the Borough. Our students excelled earning 19 medals across the two-day event.

Willow impressed in the girls' Javelin, launching herself into second place with a superb throw. Over in the Shot Put, Harry W was in dominant form, claiming first place, and then dashed to second place in the 300m, proving he's as fast as he is strong! Gabriele pulled off a double-whammy with Second place finishes in both the Shot Put and the Javelin, consistency at its finest. Not to be outdone, Felix soared to first in the javelin and grabbed Second in the long jump, while Marcus took a well-earned Second place in the javelin and Third in the long jump, their performances showing true multi-event talent! Frank added yet another Second place in the javelin to our growing medal tally.

Over on the Track, Adam blazed his way to Second in the 100m and Third in the 200m, with Everett matching his pace taking Second place in the 200m. The high jump belonged to Arthur, who cleared the bar (and the competition) to claim First place. Meanwhile, Mac added to our medal haul with a leap into Second in the long jump.

The relay races brought a thrilling finale; the Year 8 boys 4x100m relay team (Felix, Harry, Arthur and Marcus) sprinted to a strong third place, while the Year 9 boys (Otto, Andreas, Adam and Zima) powered home for a well-earned Second place.

A huge well done to all our Athletes who competed with determination and sportsmanship!

ISA (INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS ATHLETICS) COMPETITION

Following their outstanding performances at the Westminster athletics meet, Maida Vale students were thrilled to compete at the prestigious Independent Schools Athletics competition held at Thames Valley Stadium. The team quickly settled in, energized by the high-stakes environment and eager to give their best.

Representing Maida Vale across the U13 to U17 age brackets, our athletes competed in a wide range of track and field events. As a new school the experience itself was invaluable and our students were determined to compete fiercely against other well-established schools.

Standout performances included Willow A and Felix F's excellent javelin technique, Otto K's soaring long jump, and Harry W's powerful Shot Put throws. Fred H and Wenbo D showed impressive mental stamina in long-distance races, while Everett B blazed through the 100m and 200m sprints with the precision of a seasoned pro.

The U15 boys' relay team, Otto K, Adam B, Arthur S and Marcus F, showcased outstanding teamwork with smooth baton exchanges and clear communication.

A special mention goes to Adam B, who finished Fourth in the U15 boys' 100m sprint with a lightning-fast 12.25 seconds.

We're incredibly proud of the team's determination and spirit. Their effort promises an even stronger showing in next year's competition.





TENNIS

This tennis season has been an exciting journey of growth, teamwork, and determination for the Maida Vale squad. Our players showed fantastic commitment throughout, with many enjoying their very first taste of competitive tennis.

One of the stand out moments was a hard-fought victory against Northbridge House. The team's resilience and focus were clear as they battled every point to secure the win. Following this, we had a very close and intense match against Kew House, which unfortunately ended in a narrow loss. Despite the result, the team's spirit remained high and everyone gained valuable experience.

Special praise goes to Thomas and JoJo, who despite being some of the youngest members of the team showed outstanding ability in their doubles matches. Their ability to work well together and support each other set a great example for the entire team. Additionally, Zane, Ethan and Freddy carried on with their good form from the previous year. Their enthusiasm and hard work truly paid off and were a highlight of the season.

Overall, the team can be proud of the progress they've made. We look forward to building on this foundation in the next season and seeing even more growth and success!





Nancy wearing No 7 Shirt

CONGRATULATIONS TO NANCY ON BEING SELECTED FOR WELSH NATIONAL TEAM!

We are incredibly proud to share the news that Year 9 student Nancy W has been selected to represent Wales at Under 16 level in football, despite still being only 14 years old! Nancy has shown exceptional dedication and talent, earning her place among the best young footballers in Wales. Her commitment has seen her travel across Wales for training sessions at Cardiff, Swansea, and Wrexham football clubs.

Nancy's recent UEFA tournament performances demonstrated exactly why she's so highly regarded. Facing tough opposition from Denmark, Norway and Scotland, Nancy rose to the challenge. In the clash against Scotland, she was particularly impressive, providing two key assists in a memorable 3-1 victory.

We look forward to the day when she pulls on the red shirt once again, this time for the senior Wales Women's Team.

HARRY SHINES AT NATIONAL FENCING CHAMPIONSHIPS

We are incredibly proud to share the outstanding achievements of Harry W in Year 8, who continues to excel on the national stage as a member of Team GB's Under 14 and Under 17 fencing squads.

In June, Harry competed in the prestigious National Championships held at the Leon Paul Fencing Centre, one of the top venues in the country. With over 70 of the UK's best young fencers qualifying for the event, competition was fierce.

He demonstrated remarkable resilience, skill, and determination, progressing into the late knockout competition. Over the course of seven gruelling hours, Harry battled through nine consecutive matches, showing extraordinary focus and composure to win the plate title. He finishes the year ranked number two in Great Britain for his age and discipline - a truly impressive feat!



Harry at National Championships



SPORTS DAY 2025

Regents House receiving their prize from the Headmaster!

MVS SPORTS DAY 2025

This year's Sports Day was a true celebration of community, competition and school spirit! Held at our local venue, Paddington Recreation Ground, the event brought together students from Years 7 through 10 for a full day of sporting excellence, fun, and teamwork.

For the first time ever, our Sports Day featured the widest variety of sports we've had to date, with Tennis, Football, Rounders, Netball, Handball, and of course, Athletics all making for an action-packed schedule. From nail-biting sprints to epic football matches, every corner of the venue was buzzing with energy and excitement.

Adding to the excitement this year was the staff participation, with teachers stepping up to represent their houses in two events — the highlight being the always-entertaining Staff Relay, which had students, parents, and staff cheering at full volume!

With over 3000 points up for grabs across the day, the competition was fierce. In the end, only 51 points separated first and second place, showing just how closely contested this year's event truly was.

The final standings were:

1st Place – Regents with 991 points
2nd Place – Holland with 934 points
3rd Place – Hyde with 868 points
4th Place – Queens with 706 points

A huge well done to every student who competed with such enthusiasm and determination, and a massive thank you to all the parents who came along to support and cheer throughout the day.

Congratulations on a fantastic Day - we're already looking forward to next year!







CRICKET

This season has been a thrilling journey filled with impressive performances, developing talent, and plenty of team spirit. The Year 7 and 8 team enjoyed a flawless run, remaining unbeaten in their matches against Kew House and North Bridge Senior. Their success was underpinned by outstanding individual displays. Marcus F was in fine form, contributing a vital 21 runs with the bat before following it up with two wickets in the same match. Sia and Bella forged a vital 27-run partnership at a key point in the match, steadying the innings just as North Bridge were beginning to apply pressure.

Harry R delivered one of the season's most memorable moments with a remarkable hat-trick against North Bridge, showcasing his accuracy and composure under pressure. Walter S also made a strong all-round contribution against Kew House, taking two key wickets and scoring a quick 13 runs.

The Year 9 and 10 team faced a sterner test against a strong North Bridge side featuring a County-level player. Despite the challenge, the team showed resilience and leadership, particularly from Lachlan, who took two crucial wickets in what was ultimately a hard-fought defeat.



DRAMA

- ANASTASIA ARGYROU -
- ANDY MCNAMEE -

SCHOOL OF ROCK

The Maida Vale School Theatre was impressively transformed into the prestigious Horace Green Prep School for a vibrant and spirited production of School of Rock.

Returning to the stage following his GCSEs, Edoardo C delivered a dynamic and commanding performance in the lead role of Dewey Finn. He was joined by several talented newcomers to the Maida Vale stage, including Matilda G and Reza L, who brought depth, charm, and musical flair to their roles.

The production was marked by high energy, impressive ensemble work, and a clear passion for performance, reflecting the hard work and dedication of both cast and crew.

Overall, School of Rock was a resounding success and a testament to the vibrant theatrical life at Maida Vale School. Congratulations to all involved for bringing such a memorable and uplifting production to life!





SHANGHAI DOLLS TRIP

"Watching Shanghai Dolls at the Kiln Theatre was a visually striking yet often perplexing experience. While certain moments gripped me with their bold imagery and intensity, the narrative's complexity and abstract style sometimes left me struggling to connect with what was unfolding on stage.

Across just 80 minutes and via just two actors, the play explored themes including female empowerment, physical harassment and abuse, misogyny and war; plus over about 100 years of China's gritty political history.

Visually, the play was minimalistic and relied on multimedia (projection and lighting) to make the production interesting and add complexity. The production was fast paced which made the story slightly confusing and made me as an audience member question what was happening.

It was good for me to see this play because intellectually it gave me an insight into Chinese history, and theatrically it was an interesting play to watch as the expressive and melodramatic acting was a unique and different experience for me."

- By Libby L



HISTORY & POLITICS

- EDWARD HOPKINS -
- TANJA BIALOJAN -
- ELLIE WILKES -

It's been a landmark year for the History and Politics department as we proudly bid farewell to our very first A-Level cohort. These students have made history themselves, being the pioneers of the department at this level, and we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved. We wish them every success in their future endeavours and look forward to hearing about their journeys beyond our Sixth Form.

In History, our current Sixth Form students have now embarked on the research phase of their coursework. Their topics span a wide range of fascinating historical periods and events, from the Tudor monarchy to the Iraq War, reflecting both academic curiosity and a growing passion for independent historical enquiry.

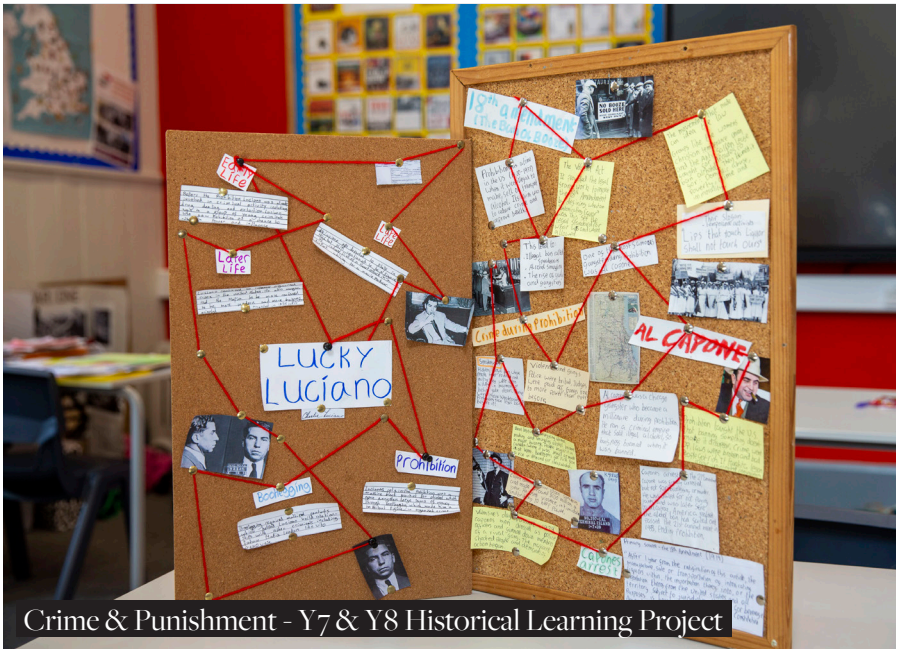


Tudor Fashion - Y7/8 Historical Learning Project

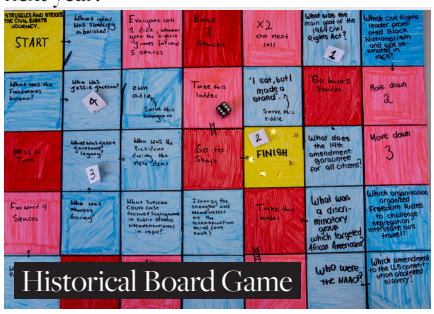
Lower down the school, Year 7 and 8 students have also taken their first steps into independent research through their own Historical Learning Projects. We've been delighted by the variety and creativity on display, with topics ranging from Crime and Punishment, Tudor Fashion, Ancient Egypt, American Gangsters to the Golden Age of Piracy.

GCSE students have been deepening their understanding of The Rise of the Nazis, bringing history to life through the exploration of historical interpretations via film. They've also demonstrated their creativity and critical thinking through imaginative revision tools. This has included designing historical board games such as Top Trumps, Cluedo, and interactive maps. They have also showcased their musical ability by composing educational songs to consolidate their learning.

It's been a fantastic year of growth, creativity, and critical engagement across all key stages, and we are looking forward to next year!



Crime & Punishment - Y7 & Y8 Historical Learning Project



Historical Board Game



Brent Cross Town regeneration project

GEOGRAPHY

-ARCHANNA PATEL -

As we reach the end of the academic year, we are pleased to share the progress, achievements, and exciting activities that have taken place in the Geography Department this term. Across all year groups, students have engaged with important global themes, developed key geographical skills, and taken part in enriching learning experiences both in and outside the classroom.

YEAR 7 – MAPPING THE WORLD AND BEYOND

Year 7 have successfully completed two foundational units: Map Skills and Extreme Environments. Through interactive activities, they've learned how to navigate and interpret Ordnance Survey maps and have explored some of the planet's most challenging habitats, from scorching deserts to icy polar landscapes. Their curiosity and enthusiasm have been wonderful to witness.

YEAR 8 – UNDERSTANDING HOW AND WHY POPULATION PATTERNS

This term, Year 8 have explored the topic of Population, investigating global population distribution, population growth, and migration trends. Students have debated contemporary issues such as overpopulation and urbanisation, and reflected thoughtfully on how demographic changes shape societies.

YEAR 9 – CITIES IN FOCUS

Year 9 have completed their unit on Urban Environments, exploring how cities develop, change, and function. As part of this unit, students visited Brent Cross Town, where they observed urban regeneration in action. The field trip offered a fantastic opportunity to link theory with real-world examples and deepened their understanding of sustainable urban planning. Students will complete their write-up for this in the new academic year.



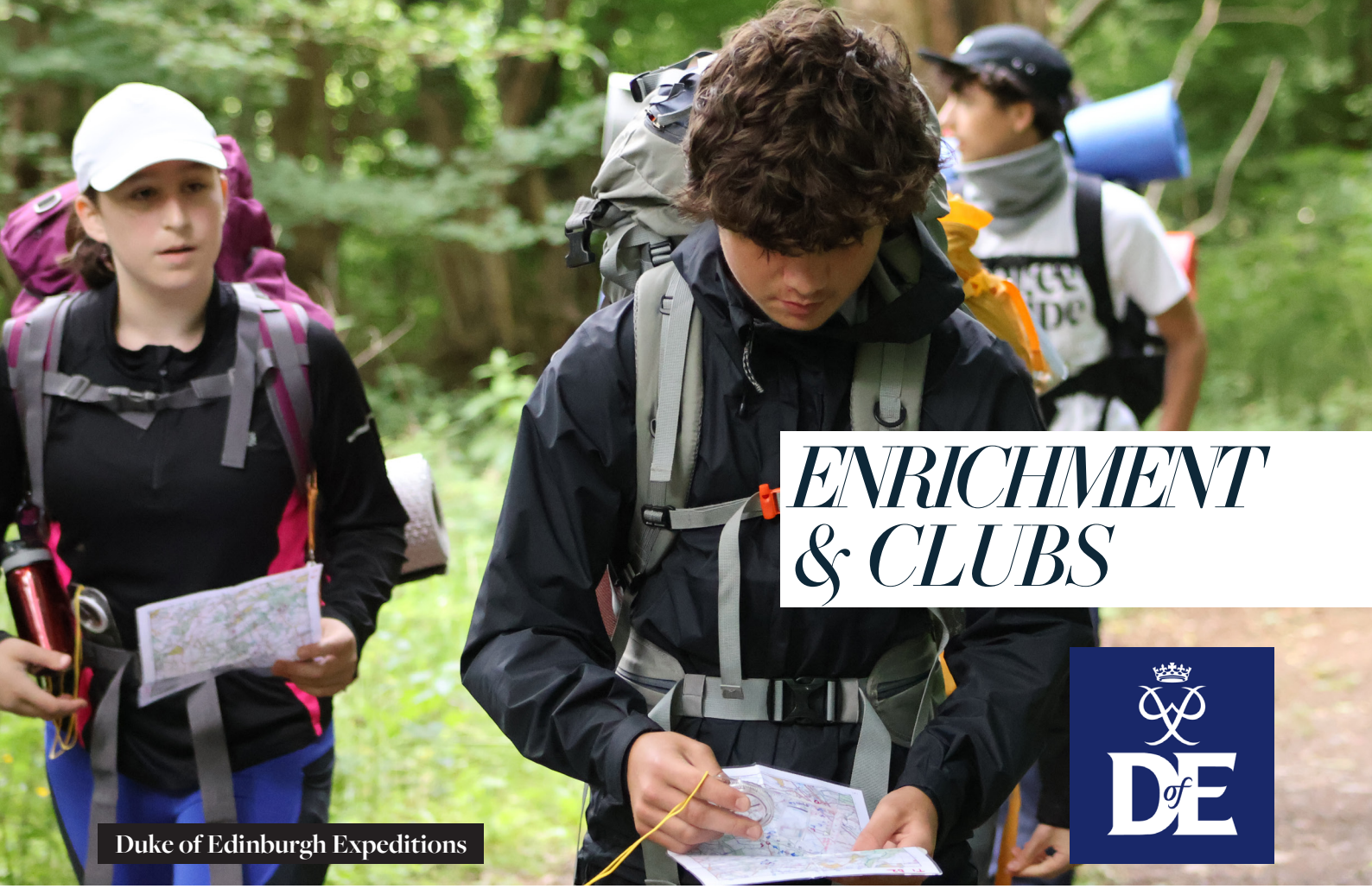
YEAR 10 – GCSE GEOGRAPHY IN ACTION

Our Geographers have made excellent progress, covering a significant portion of the Edexcel iGCSE course. Topics such as Urban Environments, Economic Activity & Energy and Urban Fieldwork have been explored in depth. Year 10 also visited Brent Cross Town, applying their classroom knowledge to a live case study—an experience that will greatly benefit their Paper 2 fieldwork and decision-making skills.

YEAR 12 – A-LEVEL SKILLS AND COURSEWORK

Year 12 have started work on their NEA (Non-Examined Assessment) coursework, developing independent investigations on topics of their choice. This important component of the A-Level course allows students to engage in fieldwork, develop analytical skills, and prepare for university-level research. We're excited to see how their projects develop over the coming months.





ENRICHMENT & CLUBS

Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions

As we near the end of another exciting academic year, Maida Vale School is buzzing with energy, thanks to our vibrant enrichment programme. From creativity to competition, our clubs continue to inspire and challenge students beyond the classroom.

Our Music Bands rehearsed tirelessly, in preparation of their performances at our end-of-year Parents' Summer BBQ Evening. It was a joyous celebration with fantastic music and talent!

The thought-provoking Ted Talks That Changed the World club recently delivered their inspiring presentations at our sister school, Kew House. Our students spoke with confidence, insight, and real-world awareness.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS

Meanwhile, our Duke of Edinburgh Bronze, Silver and Gold groups have shown determination and resilience as they tackled their practice and assessment expeditions—proving what teamwork and perseverance can achieve.

The cast and crew of School of Rock have been rocking their rehearsals in anticipation of their big performances on the 24th and 25th of June. Expect an electrifying show full of heart and humour!

On the field, Athletics and Tennis Club has been creating a racket and sprinting ahead with focused training sessions.

Our inventive Robot Wars club has been designing and building competitive robots ready to enter the battle arena—creativity meets engineering in thrilling style.

FILM SKOOL LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

This term, 21 budding filmmakers from Maida Vale School have been immersed in the exciting world of cinema through our dynamic Film Skool enrichment programme.

From the first brainstorming session to the final edit, students have been hands-on every step of the way—planning, writing, directing, producing, filming and editing their very own short films. They've also taken on the practical challenges of scouting shoot locations and creating props to bring their stories to life.

The programme has demanded creativity, collaboration and commitment, as students discovered just how much goes into making a great film. Working in production teams, they've learned to navigate real-world roles and responsibilities, from managing time and budgets to solving on-set problems and capturing the perfect shot.

We were thrilled that these films made their big-screen Premiere at none other than the Curzon Theatre, Mayfair on 28th June. It was a red-carpet-worthy celebration of student talent, creativity and perseverance.

Film Skool has given our students more than just film making skills - it has sparked new ambitions, nurtured teamwork, and shown what's possible when imagination meets dedication. We can't wait to see where their cinematic journeys take them next!



Film Skool



MUSIC

-JANE STOTT-

Year 7 Orchestra

SUMMER BBQ

It has been a vibrant term in the Music Department, with Pupils working hard to prepare for the Summer BBQ performance to parents in the delightful MVS Garden. Parents were treated to high quality performances from Pupils from all year groups, with every group contributing with dedication and skill. Highlights included Dreamers and Riptide by Year 7 bands, Wonderwall by a group from 8M and piano solos from Katya K, Leo B and Zara R-S. Senior Pupils also put on a strong display, with a fantastic I Have Nothing from Sienna in Year 12, and Copacobana and Live and Let Die by Edoardo and Joseph, with support from some of our musical staff.

The evening ended with a complete version of Stairway to Heaven, performed by Tobias, Shaan and Bailey from Year 10, the latter of whom played the guitar part from memory including all the solos. Thanks also to Jake N who provided us with a DJ set at the start and end of the evening to make the event really special.

SCHOOL OF ROCK

The Music Department has been engrossed in School of Rock this term, working closely with their friends in the Drama Department to create two amazing performances that will no doubt go down in MVS history!

Preparations for the music have been going on for a while, with the Year 7 Pupils learning "If Only You Would Listen" shortly after Christmas, and their hearty singing throughout helped made this show a delight. Three members of the production deserve a special musical mention: Tobias, Bailey and Joe M in Year 10 played guitars and drums in the accompanying pit band, sitting alongside professional musicians to play a complete West End show. They played brilliantly, understanding when to lead and when to be quiet, and showing a musical maturity way beyond their years.

YEAR 7 ORCHESTRA

The first year of the Orchestral Instrument Project for Year 7s has completed, with all of the Pupils learning a woodwind, string and brass instrument with our specialist team of teachers, Jane Gibson, Julie Wilhelm and Sofia Castillo. In their last music lesson of the year the Year 7 classes decided what instrument they would be carrying on with next year, and performed one of their pieces to the class. One of the highlights of the year has been the emergence of Trombone Club, a group who spend a chunk of their lunchtime on Wednesdays learning the intricacies of slide positions, and they recorded The Pink Panther to celebrate a fantastic term. It has also been amazing to see and hear the quality of violin playing from the classes; this is a notoriously difficult instrument to make a good sound on, and with some expert arrangements from Jane Gibson we had most of 7V taking part in the string ensemble.



School of Rock



GARDENER SCHOOLS GROUP

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

KEW GREEN preparatory school

KEWHOUSE SCHOOL

MAIDA VALE SCHOOL

RAVENSCOURT PARK preparatory school