MAIDA VALE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2025



YEAR 7 PGL ADVENTURES

SIXTH FORM PREFECTS

TRIPS, TALKS & WORKSHOPS

ISA ART COMPETITION SUCCESS

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

GARDENER SCHOOLS GROUP

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06 **Science** Our Physicists have been exploring nuclear decay and undertaking Ecology fieldwork in Biology. Outside the lab our students visited the Royal Institution in London for a captivating Youth Summit event.

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



08 **English** It has been an exciting start to the new academic year with a walking tour of Thomas Hardy's Wessex, trips to see Hamlet at the National Theatre and A Christmas Carol at The Old Vic. Students also attended a fascinating EMC English Language Conference in Central London.

09 **Food Preparation & Nutrition** This term our talented Year 9 and Year 10 students have been participating in the 'FutureChef' competition creating tantalisingly tasty treats!

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12 **Art & Photography** Our artists have been on several amazing trips this term seeking style and inspiration of artists at Tate Britain and The Hayward Galleries. Inside the classroom students have enjoyed Photography and Life Drawing Workshops.

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18 **Sixth Form** This term we have welcomed new Year 12 students into the our Sixth Form. We also take at a deeper look at our newly appointed Head Student Team.

20 **Enrichment Clubs** There are almost too many activities to mention as our staff and Sixth Formers cater to every interest from art to sport and beyond!

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24 **History & Politics** Our Year 7 students have been designing and constructing some fantastic Norman Castles. In Politics read all about our latest activities at the Royal Russell Model UN Conference.

25 **Drama** Students took to the stage presenting their own devised performances to friends and family, while our LAMDA students achieved an outstanding set of results!

26 **Music** Our new Head of Music reviews the Department, plus all the action from the MVS Christmas Concert at St. John's church - a joyful occasion for all involved!



Individuals In Society Day 2025
(Full story on page 23)



Mr Magnus Bashaarat
Headmaster, Maida Vale School

The autumn term at MVS started with our new Year 7 staying at the PGL camp in Osmington Mills, Dorset, now a rite of passage for all new MVS students (Page 5) and since that week the pace of life at MVS has not faltered. In the pages of this newsletter are pictures and testimony that show the variety, challenge and excitement of an MVS education.

At our Open Mornings we talk to parents about the range and abundance of the trips that we organize for students to enrich their engagement with the curriculum. I'm not just proud of my involvement with the two trips that I hand in organising to Hardy's Wessex and to the National Theatre to see 'Hamlet' (Page 8) but also with the imagination and organizational energy that the MVS staff show in creating such a broad range of opportunities to take learning and the potential for achievement outside the classroom. The art galleries, theatres and concert venues of London are indeed on our doorstep, but we go way beyond London in our scope and ambition.

Art, Drama and Music, the expressive and creative arts triumvirate that sit at the heart of MVS, have allowed our students to express themselves and their ideas in all sorts of different media and venues, and our community involvement (Page 22) show MVS staff and students engaged with and supporting fundraising initiatives to help others.

I hope you enjoy reading these pages and seeing a busy and successful term reflected.

GEOGRAPHY

-ARCHANNA PATEL -

This autumn has been an inspiring and adventure-filled term for the Geography Department. From exploding volcanoes on the school field to real-world fieldwork on the coast, our students have thrown themselves enthusiastically into every challenge. Here's a look at what they've been up to.



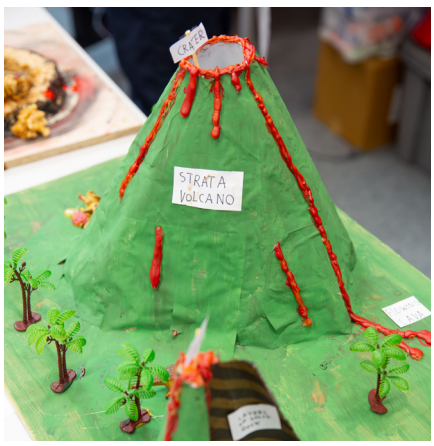
Year 8 Volcanic Studies

YEAR 7: EXPLORING THE WORLD ON A BUDGET

Year 7 have truly embraced their inner explorers! Working in collaboration with the Mathematics Department for the Gardner School Awards, students designed detailed, imaginative and cost-effective holidays to destinations such as Uzbekistan, South Korea and Japan. They analysed physical and human attractions, built day-by-day itineraries, calculated full travel budgets, and delivered persuasive presentations. Alongside this, they have been developing their map skills in Geography—learning how to navigate the world with confidence using longitude and latitude, grid referencing and a lot of curiosity.

YEAR 8: VOLCANIC HAZARDS

Year 8 brought volcanic hazards to life with an unforgettable hands-on project. After studying how Iceland manages its dynamic landscape, students created 3D volcanic models—complete with labelled cross-sections and realistic design features. The highlight? Their creative volcanoes were erupted on the school grounds, bringing geophysical processes vividly to life. The excitement (and lava!) certainly made this a standout moment of the term.



YEAR 9: HAZARDOUS ENVIRONMENTS

This term, Year 9 have taken a deep dive into the world of natural disasters as their first GCSE topic. They explored how hazardous environments form, how we measure them, and their impacts on people and places. Their independent research, detailed case studies and hand-built models of natural hazards show real maturity and scientific curiosity. The depth of understanding they have developed about the forces shaping our planet has been exceptional.



YEAR 10 & 11: COASTAL FIELDWORK

Our GCSE geographers had a fantastic opportunity to take their learning beyond the classroom during their coastal fieldwork at West Wittering. Students investigated beach profiles, sediment size, longshore drift and coastal processes using specialist fieldwork equipment. Their teamwork, enthusiasm and ability to apply theoretical knowledge in a real-world setting were truly impressive. This field experience forms a vital part of their GCSE and has given them invaluable practical skills.



This term has been filled with creativity, investigation and active learning. We are incredibly proud of the hard work, curiosity and energy shown by every year group. We look forward to an equally exciting spring term full of new questions, new challenges and new discoveries.



PGL YEAR 7

YEAR 7 AT OSMINGTON BAY SEPT 2025



Our Year 7 trip to PGL Osmington Bay was a brilliant way to kick off the school year and get to know each other. After a long coach journey, we arrived buzzing with excitement for the week ahead.

We tackled a huge range of activities, including the giant swing, Jacob's ladder, raft building, axe throwing, archery, fencing, aeroball, rifle shooting, ambush, the vertical challenge and the zipline. Each one pushed us in different ways, from teamwork and problem-solving to facing fears and building confidence.

Highlights included the giant swing's thrilling drop and the chilly - but hilarious - raft building session. With the support of instructors and teachers, many of us overcame nerves and surprised ourselves with what we could achieve.

It was an unforgettable week that brought us closer as a year group and gave us memories we'll keep for a long time.

By Georgina W, Rafi C, Louis MF & Chloe R (Year 7)















SCIENCE

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

This term has been an exciting and enriching one for our science students, filled with hands-on practical work, real-world experiences and opportunities to explore new scientific ideas.

Our Chemistry students excelled in the national Top of the Bench competition, where mixed teams from Years 9–11 tackled challenging problems and practical tasks. We are proud to announce that one of our teams placed 3rd out of 81 in the Chilterns and Middlesex region, with our other team achieving an impressive 9th place. Their success reflects outstanding teamwork, subject knowledge and determination.

In Physics, Year 13 students explored nuclear decay by experimentally confirming the inverse square law for gamma radiation. Working with a cobalt-60 source and GM tube, they measured how gamma intensity decreases with distance, analysing their data to observe the clear mathematical relationship predicted by theory. This rigorous practical, undertaken following a full risk assessment, strengthened their understanding of nuclear physics and gave them valuable experience handling radioactive materials safely.



Student exploring nuclear decay



Ecological Fieldwork using quadrats

Our Year 11 biologists conducted ecological fieldwork in Kilburn Park, using quadrats to investigate biodiversity in the local area. By collecting and analysing

their own data, students deepened their understanding of ecology and saw firsthand how environmental factors shape species distribution.

A major highlight for Sixth Form scientists was attending the Royal Institution Youth Summit, an event that precedes the famous Christmas Lectures broadcast each year on the BBC. Students contributed ideas and questions directly to the speakers, helping shape this year's series, which will be delivered by space scientist Dr Dame Maggie Aderin-Pocock. The lectures air in mid-December—keep an eye out!

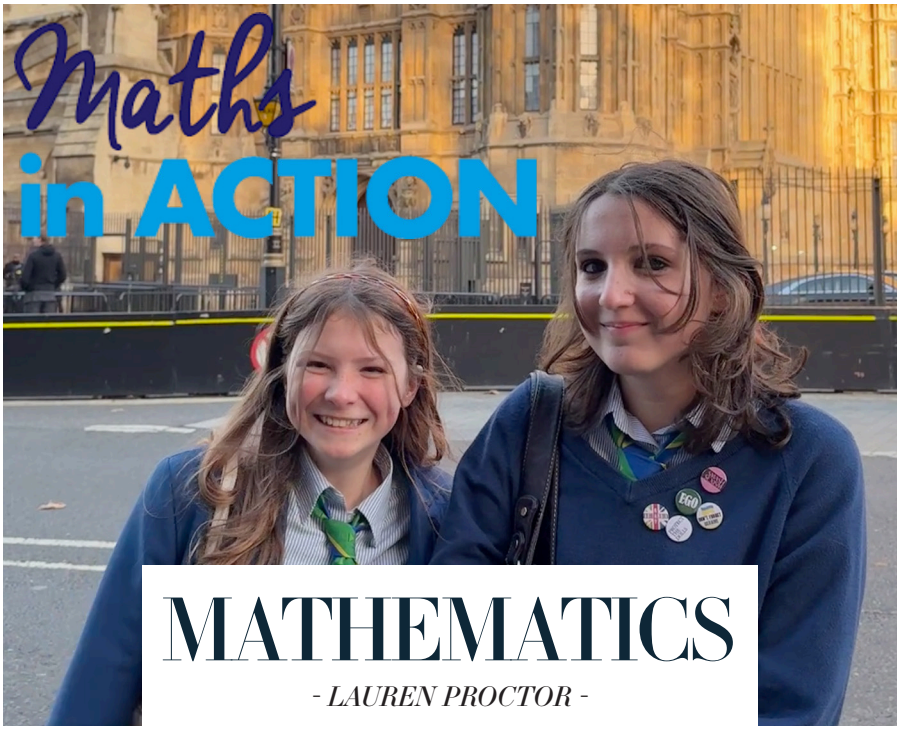


Youth Summit at the Royal Institution

Meanwhile, Year 7 students completed their Gardener School Award project across Science and Design & Technology. Acting as OSHA contractors, they assessed health and safety practices across both departments and the wider school, applying critical thinking and problem-solving skills while strengthening our culture of community.

Overall, this term has provided students with strong academic development and meaningful engagement with the wider scientific community—encouraging them to think boldly, creatively, and scientifically.





MATHEMATICS

- LAUREN PROCTOR -

Maths Department – Autumn Term Highlights

The Maths department has had a busy and inspiring Autumn term, setting the tone for the year with high expectations and daily problem-solving challenges.

In November, Year 10 students attended the annual Maths in Action trip at the Emmanuel Centre in central London. Alongside peers from schools across the city, they explored a series of engaging lecture-style sessions—from uncovering the link between a lukewarm cup of coffee, a lottery ticket and clothing stock levels, to tackling mathematical ideas hidden in a simple chessboard.

A favourite of the day was the Mathematical Magic talk, where students applied their reasoning skills to reverse-engineer card tricks and investigate calculator puzzles grounded in mathematical principles.

Midway through the event, excitement peaked as students heard from the well-known Dr Frost, a clear celebrity at the venue. Between signing autographs and taking photos, he shared invaluable advice on revision strategies and exam success.

The day ended on a high with an impressive juggler who demonstrated the mathematical patterns behind juggling up to nine balls, even inviting the audience to design their own juggling sequence.

Overall, the trip offered Year 10 a fun and eye-opening look at maths beyond the classroom and in the real world.

Back in school, Year 8 students embraced a creative challenge through the Gardener School Award, a collaborative Maths-and-Art project. Using their understanding of scale factors and ratio, they produced perspective drawings that we look forward to displaying soon.

A huge well done to Year 11, who have completed both exam week and their mock exams with determination as they build toward the summer assessments.

As the term draws to a close, we are excited for the opportunities ahead and proud of the progress our students continue to make.



Emmanuel Centre, London

ENGLISH



- ABIGAIL GAMMON -

THOMAS HARDY'S WESSEX

On a bright, sunny day in September, our Year 12 and Year 13 English Literature students set off on a wonderful day trip to Dorset to explore Thomas Hardy's Wessex. To enrich their study of Tess of the D'Urbervilles, students stepped right into Hardy's world with visits to his home, Max Gate (where he penned the novel), the beautiful Stinsford Church, and Hardy's charming childhood cottage. The day ended with a guided walk through the very landscapes that inspired the novel,including the fields of the May Day Dance and "Tess' Cottage." Seeing the settings they'd only read about made Hardy's world leap off the page, turning literature into lived experience. It was an inspiring day where learning truly extended far beyond the classroom! Larkin reflected on the trip saying, 'The trip to Dorset was insightful as it allowed me to experience the environment that Thomas Hardy wrote about, bringing Tess's world to life and deepening my understanding of the novel's themes and setting. It showed the importance of setting in Tess of the D'Urbervilles, and it was especially interesting to see where the May Day dance was set, which really brought the story to life.' - Larkin C.


Hardy's Wessex Tour

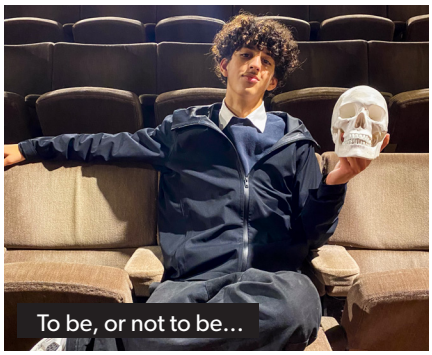
HAMLET AT THE NATIONAL THEATRE

At the end of November, our Year 12 and Year 13 English Literature students stepped beyond the classroom and into the world of Shakespeare, visiting the National Theatre to experience Hamlet, one of their A-Level set texts, brought vividly to life on stage. Before the performance, students were treated to an illuminating backstage



tour, offering a rare glimpse behind the curtain at the technical artistry that brings such a production to life. This hands-on insight deepened their appreciation of theatre as both an art form and an interpretive space where Shakespeare's words find new meaning. Olivier Award-winner Hiran Abeysekera delivered a compelling portrayal of the young Prince in a reimagining that challenged students to consider how timeless questions of morality and can be reinterpreted for modern audiences. Seeing Hamlet performed with such creativity and insight offered a powerful reminder that live theatre remains one of the most dynamic classrooms of all.

'The Hamlet trip to the National Theatre gave me a more in-depth knowledge of the play itself, along with an experience of alternate interpretations of


To be, or not to be...

the play. Further, the backstage tour was hugely interesting as I was able to see the effort that gets put into all productions at the National Theatre that most people do not see. Overall, it was a great experience that helped me with both my English Literature A-Level course and general understanding of plays that I will consider every time I go to the theatre in the future.' - Devan S.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Our Year 9 students recently enjoyed Matthew Warchus' production of A Christmas Carol at The Old Vic. London's longest-running adaptation of this festive favourite once again proved why it continues to captivate audiences year after year and it certainly captivated our students.

The unique staging, complete with lanterns, live music and actors weaving through the audience, created an immersive atmosphere that brought Dickens' world vividly to life. This term, our students have been studying the novella, and the performance offered a rich extension of their classroom learning, helping them appreciate the emotional impact and dramatic power of the story in a new way.

The trip was a wonderful reminder of how theatre can deepen understanding, spark fresh perspectives and make even the most familiar classics feel thrillingly contemporary.



A Christmas Carol at The Old Vic

EMC ENGLISH LANGUAGE CONFERENCE

On Thursday 28th November, we attended the English and Media Centre English Language Conference in Euston, London – a series of short lectures on issues relevant to the A Level course. Questions posed included: Is the Cockney accent disappearing? Is TikTok changing the way we talk and write? Is 'rizz' the word of the year? The speakers challenged assumptions and offered new ways to look at current discussions around the English language – for instance that change is neither bad nor good and that today's language trends are much more likely to have historical and cultural origins rather than contemporary social media.

'I found the conference really informative and I thought that hearing linguists' points of view regarding language change and how our modern society shapes language use was really interesting and impactful. I also took away many useful ideas from each of the talks and as a whole, all of the talks aligned nicely with my course.' Libby Lewis Y13

FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION

- JASMINKA CONNOLLY -

The 'FutureChef' School Heat took place on Thursday 16th October, bringing together eight talented Year 9 and 10 students eager to showcase their culinary skills, creativity and passion for Food Preparation and Nutrition. Working independently under timed conditions, they produced an impressive range of dishes, demonstrating excellent organisation, time management and technical cooking skills.

Judges Ms Connolly, Ms Rogers and Ms Young praised the high standard of cooking, the confident presentation and the thoughtful flavours shown across all entries.



Winners

- 1st Place: Zane R (Sausage and spinach ravioli with sage and butter sauce)
- 2nd Place: Melina (Prawn laksa)

Well done also to Josie, Sophie, Edward, Ferdi, Sid and Simona for their enthusiasm and hard work throughout the competition. It was a wonderful celebration of students' growing confidence and passion for food.

Following their success, Zane and Melina represented our school at the FutureChef Local Final on 28th November at West London College. This exciting opportunity allowed them to refine their skills in a busy professional kitchen and meet other talented young chefs from across London. We are extremely proud of their achievements and cannot wait to see what they cook up next.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

- INGRID MAHDI -

This Autumn Term has been an exciting journey across the Computer Science curriculum, with each year group building confidence, curiosity and a deeper understanding of the technology shaping our world.

Year 7 began by exploring how computers really work. They examined the key components inside a computer, learned what each part does and discovered why the CPU plays such a vital role in every system. Their growing understanding has given them a solid foundation for the years ahead.



Year 8 focused on the fundamentals of Computational Thinking. Through algorithms, abstraction, decomposition pattern recognition and flowcharts, they learned how to break down problems like real computer scientists. Using Tracy the Turtle, they brought code to life by creating colourful shapes and even writing their own names through carefully crafted commands.

Year 9 delved deeper into computer architecture, studying CPU characteristics, the Von Neumann architecture, memory and storage, and the way data is represented. Alongside this theory, they have been developing their own mobile apps—quiz-style projects designed to help others revise their chosen subjects.



Year 10 expanded their technical knowledge by exploring sorting and searching algorithms, ASCII characters, and sound within the data representation topic, as well as Boolean logic, truth tables, and how to trace algorithms. They also explored the three programming constructs and completed programming tasks in Python.

Year 11 spent the term consolidating and revising the core ideas that underpin their GCSE studies. From networks and CPU architecture to loop structures, and techniques for tracing algorithms

Across all year groups, students have shown impressive focus and creativity, making this a term full of progress, problem-solving and digital ambition.





DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

- TUNDE ORELAJA -

This term marks an exciting new chapter for our Design & Technology department. With a refreshed team of designers, engineers, makers and creators, we are united by one goal: to inspire the next generation of thinkers and innovators. The team is ready to help students explore ideas, experiment with materials and bring their imagination to life—encouraging them not just to make, but to question, reflect and create with purpose.

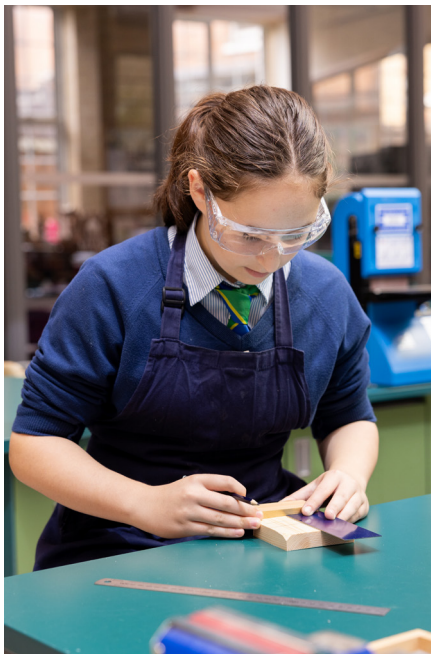
Throughout this term and those ahead, students will learn to design with empathy, use tools such as 3D printers and CAD software, experiment with smart materials and understand how design shapes the world around them. In the process, they'll build lifelong skills in creative thinking, technical confidence, problem solving, teamwork and sustainable design—skills that link directly to future careers in fields such as engineering, architecture, robotics and fashion technology.

Across the school, students are already immersed in exciting projects. Year 12 students are working with Motive8 Ltd on a live mini-NEA brief to develop a more sustainable gym cleaning station. Year 11 are finalising the research for their own NEA projects and moving into the modelling stage. Year 10 are midway through their bird box project, just in time for winter, while Year 9 are producing imaginative battery-powered LED lamps. Year 8 are developing concepts for their Keep Safe Box designs, and Year 7 have begun their DT journey with the Jacob's Ladder project.

The term ahead promises creativity, innovation and plenty of hands-on learning - we can't wait to see what our students design next.



Year 7 beginning their DT journey





Our artists totally engrossed in the Life Drawing Workshop

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

This term our Year 7 students began with observational plant drawings, developed bold Patrick Caulfield–inspired collages, and explored identity through work influenced by Deborah Roberts and Romare Bearden. They're now creating Roman-themed clay tiles for the Latine & Art Gardener School Award.

After refining still-life skills, Year 8 students produced abstract pieces inspired by Jackson Pollock and Sonia Delaunay. They illustrated surreal idioms, created digital surreal landscapes in Photoshop, and studied ratio and perspective for the Maths & Art Gardener School Award.

In their Key Skills & Techniques course, Year 9 students progressed from detailed drawing to painting and are now producing expressive, impasto palette-knife landscapes.

Year 10 coursework centred on Portraits & Self-Identity, using the grid method for proportion and colour theory for realistic skin tones, influenced by Ale Casanova's expressive style.

Year 11 students prepared for their mock exams, developing independent projects based on themes such as 'Remnants', 'Human Being', and 'Flora and Fauna'.

Our Year 12 Art students explored the theme of 'Flesh', experimenting with SPFX techniques, latex wound pieces, and skin-like cast and textile surfaces.

Year 12 Photography students strengthened DSLR skills in the MVS Studio and created inventive work for their 'Reflections' project.

Year 13 Art & Photography – Senior students developed Personal Investigations across themes including beauty, fantasy architecture, portraiture, movement, and marketing, building strong foundations for future study and careers.

GILBERT & GEORGE, HAYWARD GALLERY

Student reactions to the exhibition were mixed, with some captivated and others less persuaded. Featuring over sixty large-scale installations, the show surveyed the work of east London artists Gilbert & George.

Spanning the past twenty-five years, the display highlights how technological advances have shaped their practice, particularly through digital distortion used to reflect the anxieties and desires of contemporary society.



Gilbert & George, Hayward Gallery

KS3 ART ENRICHMENT, REMEMBRANCE THEME

The students learned how to craft ceramic poppies, inspired by the Imperial War Museum's collection once displayed at the Tower of London. They also created felt poppies, symbolizing the raw earth from which these flowers emerged. Both works were proudly exhibited in the school's front entrance throughout November, serving as a poignant tribute and reminder of remembrance.



LIFE DRAWING WORKSHOP

We hosted our very first life drawing workshop for sixth form students in the upper school art room. Over the course of four and a half hours, they explored the challenge of drawing the female form. Guided through a range of techniques, including measuring proportions with sticks, drawing with both hands, continuous line sketching, and building form with chalk, charcoal, and tonal shading, the students gained valuable skills and confidence. Although the experience demanded focus and hard work, they were able to see clear progress in their drawings from the beginning to the end of the day.

LEE MILLER, TATE BRITAIN

Viewing the groundbreaking photography of Lee Miller impressed upon the students the remarkable achievements she accomplished as a woman in her time. Several were inspired to watch the recent film Lee, featuring Kate Winslet, which further deepened their appreciation of her legacy. In addition, the students had the opportunity to capture their own photographs, either focusing on reflections or developing ideas for their personal projects - building on the inspiration they had drawn from Miller's work.

ISA ART COMPETITION 2025

On Tuesday 7th October, Mrs Jimenez proudly exhibited selected MVS students' artwork at the Norden Farm Centre for the Arts, as part of the London West ISA Area Art Competition.

We are delighted to announce that four of our students achieved FIRST PRIZE and then had their work showcased at the National Finals at the Chesford Grange Hotel, Kenilworth in November. Nancy W and Hetty W both won first prize at the Nationals. Congratulations to all our talented artists!

ISA NATIONAL & REGIONAL AWARD WINNERS

FIRST PRIZE - Art 2D Individual

KS3: Nancy W – "Old Man" (Oil painting)

KS4: Hetty W – "Lines of Blue – Curved and Straight" (Flowers Monoprint)



'Old Man' Nancy W.

ISA REGIONAL AWARD WINNERS

Highly Commended - KS4: Lulu G – "Voices Unbound: Integration of Rights" (Mixed-media feminist piece)

FIRST PRIZE - Art 3D Individual

KS4: Mira L – "Remnants" (Pomegranate dress)

FIRST PRIZE - Drawing

KS4: Kenechi O – "Monuments in Modernity" (London Landmarks)

SECOND PRIZE - Sketchbook

KS3/4: Thandie C – "Portraits & Self-Identity"

Highly Commended – Textiles, Individual

KS3: Emilia S – "Nature" (Head scarf)



'Lines of Blue' Hetty W.

RICHARD ASH IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

The students were fortunate to spend a morning with renowned photographer Richard Ash. He shared insights into his work for the Imperial War Museum, captivating them with stories from his time in Afghanistan. During the workshop, the students gained hands-on experience with DSLR cameras, learning how to capture images using AV and TV priority modes. They even had the chance to experiment with one of Richard's own cameras, discovering how the length of a lens can dramatically alter the appearance of a face.

"I met Richard Ash and he was amazing! He showed me so many cool things about photography, and now I feel really inspired. The workshop was so much fun—I can't stop talking about it!" – Vinnie H

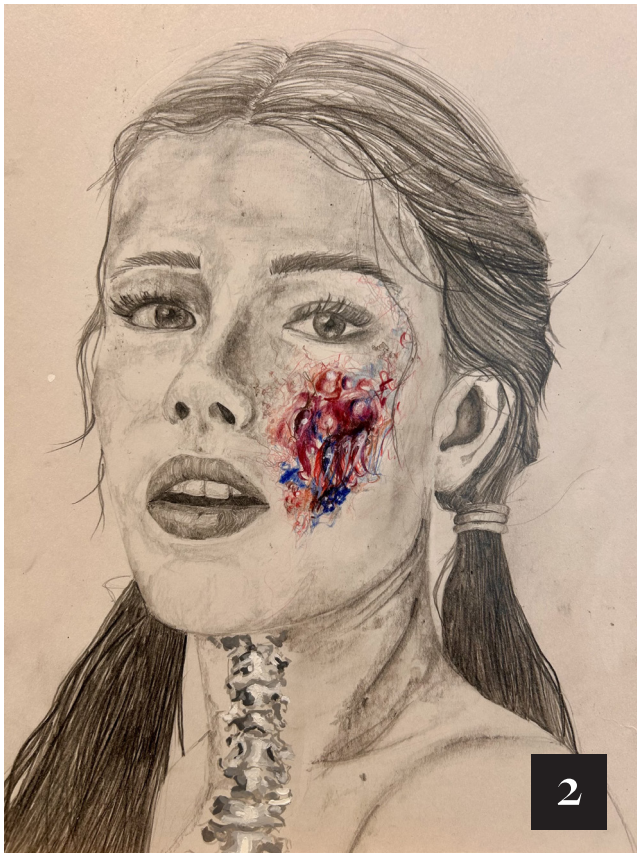


Richard Ash Photography Workshop

GALLERY

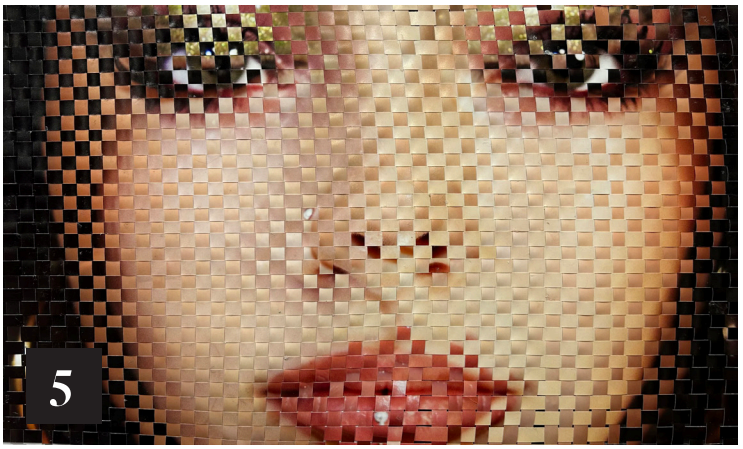
1. 'Medusa' by Kiara F, Y13.
2. 'Flesh' by Hetty W, Y12.
3. 'Flora & Fauna' by Parsa Z, Y11.
4. 'Flesh' by Lily-Mae T-M, Y12.
5. 'Twins weaved for Reflections' by Charlie P, Y12.
6. Clay Tile by Yujin S, Y7.

















7. Photomontage by Karolina L, Y7.

8. Self Portrait by Sid H, Y10.

9. Flesh Project by Year 12.

10. Observation Drawing by Ayla F, Y7.

11. Landscape by Jacob B, Y8.

12. 'Human Being' by Emilia S, Y11.

13. 'Flora & Fauna' by Sophia D, Y11.















AUTUMN TERM SPORTS ROUNDUP AT MVS

This autumn has been one of the busiest and most successful sporting terms Maida Vale School has ever enjoyed, with almost 50 fixtures played across football and netball. Our students have shown tremendous commitment, proudly representing the school in an exciting calendar of matches. With many more fixtures scheduled for the spring, we hope the momentum continues.

NETBALL AT MVS

Our Lower Netball team, made up of enthusiastic Year 7 and 8 players, has enjoyed a promising season as they learn to play together as a new squad. The standout moments came in their superb double victory over Fairley House, winning 16–0 and 14–1 in two dominant performances that showcased their rapid progress, as well as their very respectful tournament performance at City of London School for Girls.

The Middle Netball team also enjoyed a strong term, growing in confidence with each fixture. Their most impressive win came in a tightly contested away match at Harrodian, where they battled to secure a well-deserved 3–0 victory.

For our Senior Netball team, made up of students from Years 11 to 13, including several new additions, the season has been one of growth. Their commitment translated into standout results, including a brilliant 19–7 win over Kew House, our sister school, and a confident 13–7 victory against KPS. Even in a narrow defeat to Harrodian, the team showed just how much they have developed throughout the term.





PE & GAMES

FOOTBALL AT MVS

On the football pitch, our Lower Football team has earned the title of team of the year so far, remaining unbeaten throughout the autumn term. Their highlights include completing the double over Fairley House and impressive away wins against both Westminster and Arnold House. The depth of the team must also be mentioned, with 35 boys representing the school in fixtures this year.

The Middle Football A team have enjoyed an excellent run of form, winning 80% of their matches. Their 5–0 victory away at Highgate was a particular triumph — one of the most technically impressive performances seen at MVS. The B team has also competed with real spirit against strong opposition, producing exciting passages of attacking football in their fixtures with Westminster and Highgate.





Finally, our Senior Football team has had a very encouraging season, losing only three of their eleven fixtures. Hard-fought draws against both Highgate and City of London, which could have been won, highlight the level of ability throughout the squad. The team looks well positioned to continue building on this strong foundation as the season progresses.



SIXTH FORM

- DENA DEEDAT -

Sixth Form lessons and independent study in the ILC

It has been an exceptional and energising term in the Sixth Form, marked by academic ambition and community spirit. Our numbers have doubled, and the ILC has been busier than ever as students settle into studying across 23 subjects.

Among our Y12s, Sara is taking Biology, Chemistry and Art, aspiring to study neuroscience at university. In Y13, Sienna is studying Music, Creative Digital Media and Performing Arts and has applied to prestigious music schools. Their contrasting pathways highlight the diversity within our cohort.

Many sixth formers have stepped up as peer mentors, supporting younger pupils as a 'big brother' or 'big sister' figure. Year 13 have also been working hard on their university applications. Students are already celebrating offers from Russell Group universities including Durham, Bristol and Leeds, while others are awaiting decisions from U Miami, NYU and Cambridge.

Our Prefects led an excellent assembly on Artificial Intelligence, drawing on their IS (Individuals in Society) lessons about using AI safely, responsibly and within exam regulations. During IS Day, students explored digital footprints, and preparing for the transition to university.

The term has been rich with opportunities beyond lessons, with an average of one school trip a week.



Peer Mentoring



Sixth Form Artificial Intelligence Assembly

Highlights include theatre visits, art galleries, science exhibitions, the Anti-Racism Conference at Eton and a visit to Hardy's Dorset. The Zanzibar Team has met weekly to prepare for their upcoming expedition, raising funds through handmade card sales at the Carol Concert.

We ended the term with the much-anticipated staff vs sixth form netball match. Students have also volunteered in the community, including at Laurence's Larder foodbank.

Reflecting on their first term, Lily in Y12 says, "I've settled in really well, enjoying the netball fixtures and learning how to use Premiere Pro in Creative Digital Media Production." Arthur adds, "The step up from Y11 is big, especially studying Physics and Maths, but I've enjoyed the challenge."

INTRODUCING OUR YEAR 13 HEAD STUDENT TEAM

We are proud to introduce this year's Year 13 Head Student Team. Alongside the Prefect Team they have supported key events such as Parents' Evenings, Open Mornings and Open Day and together delivered a whole-school assembly. Our Head Student also chairs the Student Council and meets weekly with the Head of Sixth Form, ensuring student voice is listened to and acted upon. As a team, they are outstanding role models. We are grateful for everything they contribute.





Head Student: Larkin Cerri

Larkin brings a uniquely international perspective to her role, having lived and studied in Italy, Sweden and London. Now studying English Literature, Art and History at A Level as well as an EPQ exploring how capitalism has impacted the mental health crisis in the USA, Larkin plans to read English & Philosophy after a gap year. She is currently holding offers from the University of Leeds and the University of Manchester. Thoughtful, articulate and committed, she leads the Student Council with maturity and insight.

Deputy Head Student: Libby Lewis

Libby is an enthusiastic and committed member of the school community, studying Performing Arts, English Language and Creative Digital Media and is involved in every aspect of school life - from netball captaincy to mentoring. Her true passion, however, lies in drama: she has performed in numerous productions both in and out of school, including a role in a West End production. She hopes to study Acting or English Language at University. She brings energy, kindness and creativity to the team.





Deputy Head Student: Max O'Kane

Max joined MVS in Year 9 and is now studying DT, Economics and Psychology, as well as completing an EPQ based on encouraging recycling in schools. He is applying for PPE and holds a number of offers while awaiting decisions from King's College, London and the LSE. Max speaks Finnish and is half Irish. He is also a peer mentor, supporting younger students, particularly those managing dyslexia, something he has navigated successfully himself, even achieving a Grade 9 in English Literature GCSE. He is a thoughtful, calm and reliable presence in the team.



Minecraft Club

ENRICHMENT & CLUBS

- ROBERT HAMMOND -

This term has been filled with curiosity, creativity, and community spirit across Maida Vale School's enrichment clubs. Geopolitics students tackled global controversies and attended a specialist lecture, while Minecraft Club tested teamwork and resilience on a bespoke Daigon E-Sports map.

J.Soc welcomed inspiring guest speakers and celebrated Sukkot at Naima Preparatory School. Our Silver Crest students, Lavinia and Cassie, impressed with an ambitious STEM project on polio and vaccines, and our Zanzibar fundraisers showed great dedication ahead of their February trip.

In Dungeons & Dragons, students built imaginative worlds and even ran their own sessions. KS3 artists created ceramic and felt poppies for Remembrance and continued developing their watercolour skills. Model UN delegates represented Slovakia and Qatar at the Royal Russell Conference, debating global issues with students from across the UK.

Parkour Club pushed physical and mental limits, while our Community Fundraising team assembled well over 50 Christmas hampers through outstanding generosity. Fitness Club embraced high-energy workouts each week.

Power League football delivered fast-paced action and spectacular plays, and Robot Wars engineers progressed to digital bot design. Rock & Pop Club remained a lively space for musicians of all levels, and Warhammer enthusiasts began building their miniature armies.

Rehearsals for the Lower School Production, 'Bright. Young. Things.', are well underway. Table Tennis Club saw fierce but friendly competition, while Jewellery Making students crafted intricate wax moulds for future casting.

Fantasy Football sparked strategic battles for leaderboard glory, and MVS Radio nurtured budding podcasters as they began recording segments for their own shows.



Radio & Podcast Club



Jewellery Making Club





Parkour Club





Warhammer Club



Crafters Club





COMMUNITY

- MILLIE POCOCK -
- ARCHANNA PATEL -
- NANA ABOAGYE -
- SAERA BUTT -

MVS has a proud and longstanding commitment to charitable work, and this term our community once again showed just how generous and spirited it can be. One of the highlights was our Macmillan Coffee Morning, which brought students, staff and families together for a wonderful cause. Thanks to an array of delicious homemade bakes and the enthusiasm



of everyone who attended, we raised an outstanding £1,813. A huge thank-you to everyone who baked, donated and supported the event.

Our annual poppy-selling tradition for the Royal British Legion also continued with great success. Braving early mornings outside Queen's Park tube station, students and staff greeted commuters with smiles and dedication, raising an impressive £390. Their willingness to give up their time embodies the spirit of service we aim to foster at MVS.

We were also delighted to run our Sixth Form volunteering scheme for a second year. Each week, students give up one of their supervised study periods to support one of our partner charities. From helping at local food bank Laurence's Larder to assisting at LDN, a day centre for adults with disabilities, our volunteers are gaining meaningful insight into their community while making a real difference to the lives of others.

These initiatives show the impact we can make when we work together — and we are incredibly proud of every student and staff member who contributed.

MVS CHRISTMAS HAMPER 2025

This term, staff members Nana Aboagye, Archanna Patel and Saera Butt launched Maida Vale School's new Community Club, aiming to raise awareness of local issues and inspire students to take action.

The school has supported Laurence's Larder for several years, but recent volunteer visits revealed a sharp drop in donations due to the rising cost of living. Determined to help, the team set a target of 50 Christmas hampers—an ambitious goal that quickly gathered momentum after a generous early donation from the Ashley-Lass family.

Students and staff across all year groups contributed essentials such as toiletries, pasta, rice, biscuits and tinned goods. Thanks to this whole-school effort, we surpassed our target, creating 57 beautifully filled hampers. With help from Paulette in Learning Support and hardworking student volunteers, each box was wrapped and packed with care.

On 8 December, Saera Butt delivered the hampers to Laurence's Larder, where staff were "gob smacked" by the generosity. The charity later shared heartfelt thanks for the school's incredible support.

This successful campaign marks a promising start for the Community Club and highlights what our school can achieve when we work together with compassion and purpose.



INDIVIDUALS IN SOCIETY DAY 2025

Our third Individuals in Society Day, following statutory guidelines for PSHE, brought the whole school off timetable to focus on personal growth and community.

It's a chance to pause, reflect, and explore what it means to be an individual in society - preparing students to make wise choices and positive contributions to their communities.

Students engaged in anti-racism and hate crime workshops with Show Racism the Red Card, reflecting on their role in creating a fairer society.





They explored self-esteem, healthy relationships, and sexual health with 'Brook', and tackling misogyny, online porn, and life transitions with Dr Aric Sigman.

Sessions on study skills by Positively You gave pupils practical tools to thrive both inside and outside the classroom.

Maida Vale School is committed to ensuring that all students receive high-quality, age-appropriate education on relationships, health, and personal development.


'Positively You' workshop

CLASSICS

- ANASTASIA CHRISTOU -

This term has been an exciting one for Latin among our students embracing language learning, Roman culture, and a healthy dose of academic curiosity.

Our newest Latinists in Year 7 have embarked on their Latin journey with great enthusiasm, with many postcards sent home for students who collected ten stamps for excellent classwork and prep - a fantastic achievement so early in their studies. Special congratulations go to Karolina and Georgina, who achieved the highest scores in the year group in the Autumn Latin Assessment.

Year 8 students have continued their progress with equal energy and commitment. Once again, numerous postcards were sent home to recognise excellence in classwork and prep. We are delighted to congratulate Wolfe, Vera, Jacob, and Reza for securing the top marks in the Autumn Latin Assessment.



To wrap up the term, students in both Year 7 and Year 8 brought their learning to life by designing and playing their own Latin language and Roman civilisation games. Their imagination, teamwork, and engagement shone through, showcasing just how deeply they've connected with the linguistic and cultural material explored this term.

Our GCSE Latinists in Years 10 and 11 have also made an impressive start to the academic year. They have shown strong commitment across all areas of the course - from translation and vocabulary to literary analysis, source evaluation, and exploring the daily lives of the Romans. Their hard work is already evident in the progress they are making.

Across all year groups, this has been a term filled with achievement, curiosity, and creativity. We look forward to building on this momentum as students continue their Latin adventures next term. Latin may be ancient, but at MVS, it's very much alive!





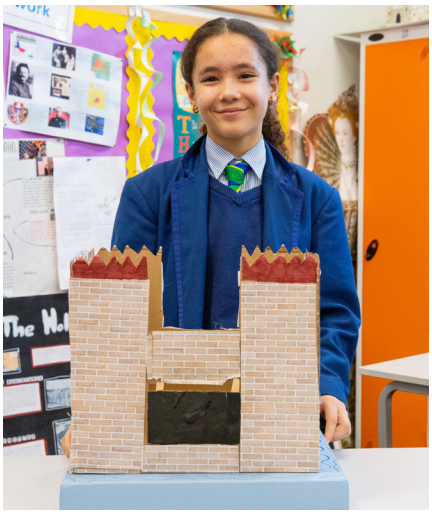
Thomas Becket
'Freeze Frame'

HISTORY & POLITICS

- EDWARD HOPKINS - ELLIE WILKES - TANJA BIALOJAN -

It has been a vibrant and engaging autumn term in the History and Politics Department. Our Year 7 students embraced their creative side with an impressive castle-building prep project and immersive lessons on the power of the monarchy, culminating in dramatic freeze-frames exploring the Murder of Thomas Becket. Year 8 have deepened their understanding of the First World War, marking Remembrance Day with thoughtfulness and maturity. Further up the school, Year 10 historians have taken dynamic approaches to their study of the Civil Rights Movement in the USA, producing news reports and original songs that brought the perspectives of protest movements to life.





We are also delighted to see our Sixth Form continuing to grow, with thriving cohorts in both History and Politics. Our Year 13 historians have embarked on ambitious research projects spanning a wide range of topics, including the Vietnam and Gulf Wars, the Tudors, the Second World War and Cambodia.

Across the department, we have also marked Black History Month under the theme of "Standing Firm in Power and Pride," reflecting on the resilience and achievements of Black communities past and present. It has been a term full of curiosity, creativity and critical thinking, and we look forward to building on this momentum in the spring.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

MVS debating world issues at Royal Russell MUN!

From 18–21 October, eleven MVS students proudly represented our school at the prestigious Royal Russell School Model United Nations Conference. Acting as delegates for Qatar and Slovakia, they tackled real-world environmental, security, human rights, and economic challenges, debating and negotiating alongside students from across the UK and around the globe.



Over four exciting days, our delegates built resolutions, challenged global policy, and confidently defended their nations' positions - whilst connecting with students from different countries and backgrounds. The experience boosted public speaking, teamwork, and diplomatic skills — and showed just how talented and globally-minded our students are. Well done to everyone involved!



DRAMA



- ANASTASIA ARGYROU -

In December, the Drama Department celebrated its students' work and achievements with friends and family in a Drama Showcase. Students from Years 8, 9, 10, 11, and 13 presented their acting, design, and directing work through a series of short performances, duologues, and monologues. The performances ranged from the works of Shakespeare and his contemporaries to pieces from the 21st century, exploring themes such as media, mental health, and the influence of social media platforms.

Congratulations to our Year 13 students, Libby and Sienna, for their love and dedication to the Drama Department throughout their secondary school journey, and well done on their brilliant performances as Olivia and Viola from Twelfth Night, and Nora and Kristine from A Doll's House.

A huge well done to our Year 11 Drama GCSE students for their brave exploration of sensitive themes, their dedication and positive attitude toward their devised pieces, and their professionalism in creating, designing, producing, and performing original work.

Finally, congratulations to all our LAMDA students on their outstanding results from their recent Examinations in Acting and Public Speaking, every single one of them received Distinction, on Grades 4, 5 and 6 - a true testament to the talent and commitment within our school!









MUSIC

- MATTHEW SALTER -

This term has been a wonderfully vibrant start to my time at MVS as the new Head of Music. The department has been alive with creativity, collaboration and curiosity as we prepare for the Christmas season and continue to build our extracurricular provision.

Our El Sistema programme is now up and running across both Year 7 and Year 8, giving students the invaluable opportunity to work closely with professional instrumentalists each week. These sessions



culminate in end-of-term ensemble performances, and we hope they will inspire many students to go on to join our orchestra, string group and other chamber ensembles as they develop confidence.

Many students are also taking advantage of our growing instrumental lesson programme, with a large number now receiving private tuition on a range of instruments. We are delighted to have recently welcomed a new cello teacher to the team, expanding the options available and giving students yet another avenue to explore their musical interests.

In curriculum music, Year 7 have thrown themselves into the study of rhythm with great enthusiasm, composing their own marches, fanfares and waltzes, with plenty of singing woven throughout their lessons. Year 8 have been exploring harmony through the lens of different scales and modes, ranging from traditional church modes to the wonderfully expressive sound world of the Freygish scale in Klezmer music.

Our GCSE musicians have been equally busy: Year 9 are delving into jazz and composing with Logic Pro in the Mac Suite; Year 10 are getting to grips with their set works while honing their performance skills; and Year 11 recently approached their mock performances and exams with impressive dedication as they prepare for their final GCSEs later this year.

The department has been buzzing with students throughout lunchtimes and after school; practising, forming bands, rehearsing ensemble pieces and simply enjoying the chance to make music together. It has been an exciting time to join MVS, and I am very much looking forward to building even more opportunities for our young musicians in the months ahead.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT ST JOHN'S

The Music Department is still humming with festivity after our recent Christmas Concert, a truly joyful evening that brought our community together in celebration. We were delighted by the fantastic turnout at the beautiful St John's in Notting Hill, where parents, students and staff gathered to share in an evening of song.

The concert opened in magnificent style with Mr Pash's rousing Bach organ solo, 'In Dulci Jubilo', filling the church with its bright, jubilant energy. This was followed by a moment of stillness and tradition as Georgina W's beautiful treble carried the opening verse of 'Once in Royal David's City'. Our choir joined her for a charming rendition of 'Candles in the Window' from Home Alone, a firm favourite that set the festive mood perfectly. Another stand out performance was Ayla K singing the opening solo in Rutter's 'I wish you Christmas' beautifully!

The newly formed orchestra made an impressive debut, delivering a spirited performance of 'Little Drummer Boy'. Our chamber ensembles were up next including a confident showing from the Trombone Club and expressive playing from the String Orchestra, led by Music Scholar Dylan N. A particular highlight was Ola Gjeilo's 'Seasons', featuring a beautiful cello solo from Otis E-B and Violin solo by Dylan N.

The concert concluded with a lively sing-along atmosphere as we moved through a selection of congregational carols before being treated to a festive burst of Shakin' Stevens, led confidently by Chloe R on vocals, with Mr Fisher joining in on bass!

With mince pies, mulled wine and plenty of smiles all round, it was truly a lovely way to usher in the festive season.











GARDENER SCHOOLS GROUP

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

KEW GREEN preparatory school

KEW HOUSE SCHOOL

MAIDA VALE SCHOOL

RAVENSCOURT PARK preparatory school