

MAIDA VALE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2026

LOWER SCHOOL PRODUCTION

CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT SUPPER

TRIPS, TALKS & WORKSHOPS

ZANZIBAR EXPEDITION

SPORTS ROUNDUP

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

SPRING MUSIC CONCERT

GARDENER SCHOOLS GROUP

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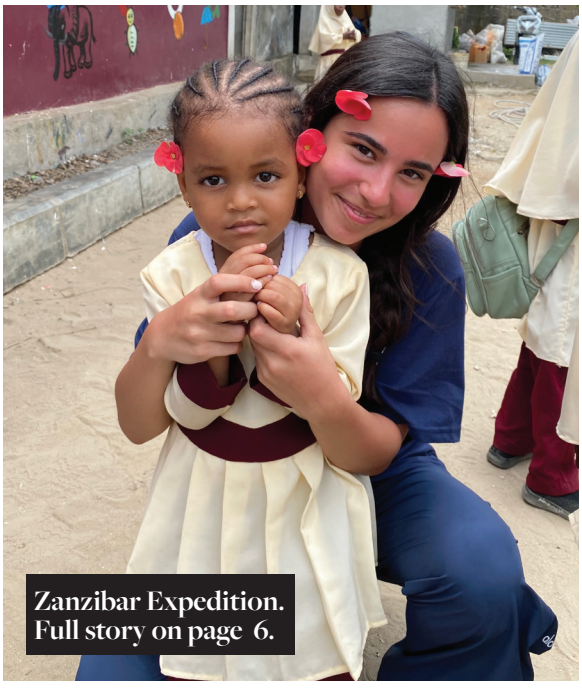
NEWS ROUND UP

04 **Design & Technology** Our Year 11 and Year 13 students have been fully immersed in their NEA projects. While Year 7 and 8 have been working with textiles and building personalised wooden boxes.

05 **Computer Science** Year 10 have been, working with LEGO Prime robots, designing and programming them to tackle a series of exciting challenges.

05 **Classics** This term, students have continued their MVS Latin journey, with many postcards being sent home for excellent classwork and prep.

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



Zanzibar Expedition. Full story on page 6.

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

09 **English** The stand out event for the English department has been World Book Day - 'read' all about the wide range of fun activities and challenges!

09 **Maths** Our students took part in the prestigious National Intermediate UKMT Maths Challenge, competing against thousands of peers across the country - find out how they got on.

10 **Sixth Form** Our Head Student Larkin reflects on a busy and successful Spring Term with students securing strong university offers, working hard academically and making the most of opportunities beyond the classroom.

11 **Sixth Form Subjects** Discover what's been happening in and out of the classroom in our Sixth Form only subjects.

12 **Art & Photography** It's been a vibrant and inspiring term in the Art Department, packed with creativity, exploration, and impressive achievements across all year groups.

14 **Gallery** A stunning showcase of some of this term's creative work across all year groups.

16 **PE & Games** Our sports stars have been busy this term competing in a wide range of activities including Football, Rugby, Netball and Swimming..

18 **Community** Our wonderful parents were out in force as the MVS Charity Quiz Night Supper returned with a bang, raising a phenomenal amount for our local charities!

19 **Drama** Our Lower School Thespians lit up the MVS stage with their vibrant performance of Bright.Young.Things by Georgia Christou.

20 **History & Politics** The department welcomed a visiting speaker from the Wiener Holocaust Library and our Model UN pupils had another successful trip to the YouthMUN in Central London.

21 **Geography** Creativity has been in full flow this term in the Geography Department, with students across the school showing curiosity and excellent geographical thinking.

22 **Enrichment Clubs** Our Staff and Sixth Formers have created clubs and activities that cater to every interest - this term the focus has been on Chess Club, Warhammer, and 3D printing parts for upcoming Robot Wars!

23 **Music** This term culminated in a wonderfully eclectic Spring Concert performance in the MVS Hall



Our Lower School Thespians lit up the MVS stage with their performance of Bright.Young.Things. (Full story on page 19).



Mr Magnus Bashaarat
Headmaster, Maida Vale School

English philosopher John Locke's influential book Some Thoughts Concerning Education (1693) was his empiricist attempt to describe what education for children should be. He wanted children to use their powers of observation in getting to know and interpret the world around them. He was also an early advocate of the revolutionary concept that boys and girls should be taught together. Locke's believers then developed the idea that learning by doing was paramount, and the emphasized the importance of technical, scientific and practical instruction over reading the classics (all that Xenophon and Homer!)

In this vibrant, action-packed edition of the MVS Newsletter, you'll discover a rich tapestry of student experiences across the physical, scientific, artistic, and cultural worlds. From inspiring creativity and dynamic performances to meaningful service and personal growth, this edition captures the heart of life at MVS. We hope you enjoy celebrating all that our students have explored, achieved, and truly taken pride in this term.



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Year 7 students working on their 'Ugly Doll' textiles projects

- TUNDE ORELAJA -

It's been an incredibly busy and exciting term in the Design & Technology department! As we head towards the warmer weather and the Easter break, creativity and innovation have been in full flow across all year groups.

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students have been fully immersed in their NEA projects, developing retail-ready products alongside detailed digital presentations that showcase their journey - from initial concept through to final outcome. Their dedication and professionalism have been truly impressive.

Meanwhile, our Year 7 students have brought imagination to life with their vibrant "Ugly Doll" textiles project. Along the way, they've not only produced some fantastic creations but have also developed a deeper understanding of textiles and the importance of sustainability in sourcing raw materials.

Year 8 students have been busy designing and making their own "Keep Safe" boxes, combining practical skills with thoughtful design. Over in Year 9, our GCSE cohort has been exploring mechanisms such as gears, pulleys, and levers - knowledge they will soon apply as they begin designing and building their very own aluminium can crushers.

Year 10 students have had the exciting opportunity to collaborate with Motive8 Ltd on a mock NEA project. Tasked with designing a sustainable gym cleaning station, students have been prototyping and presenting their ideas directly to company directors via Teams - an invaluable real-world experience.

Our Year 12 students have also been working closely with Motive8 Ltd on the same project, while simultaneously supporting the Drama department by creating stage props for the upcoming production, Bright.Young.Things.

All in all, it's been a dynamic, creative, and highly productive term - one that truly highlights the energy and talent within the Design & Technology department!



Year 7 textiles project



Year 8 assembling their own 'Keep Safe' boxes

INSIDE THE COMPUTER SCIENCE LAB

It's been an industrious and inspiring term in Computer Science, with students across all year groups developing vital digital skills and knowledge for the modern world.

Our Year 7 students have been exploring the important issue of cyberbullying. Through thoughtful discussions and activities, they've learned how to stay safe online, how to prevent



Year 10 exploring robotics with LEGO

COMPUTER SCIENCE

- INGRID MAHDI -

negative behaviour, and what steps to take if they ever find themselves in difficult situations - empowering them to navigate the digital world with confidence.



Year 8 have been diving into the fascinating world of computer networks. They've discovered how networks operate, the essential components needed to build them, and the potential security threats they face - along with practical strategies to stay protected.

Building on this, Year 9 have taken their understanding even further by exploring networks in greater depth. From LANs and WANs to network topologies, security measures, and operating systems, students are developing a strong foundation that will support their future studies.

Year 10 have taken a hands-on approach to learning, working with LEGO Prime robots. They have designed, built, and programmed their robots using colour and distance sensors to tackle a series of exciting challenges. With just two topics left in the GCSE specification, they are on track to complete the course after Easter, before moving into focused revision and consolidation of key topics from Year 9.

Meanwhile, Year 11 students have been fully focused on preparing for their GCSE exams. Through practising past papers, revisiting challenging topics, and refining their skills in Python programming, flowcharts, and ERLs, they are building confidence and readiness for the exams ahead.

Overall, it's been a dynamic and productive term, showcasing students' growing confidence, creativity, and resilience in Computer Science!

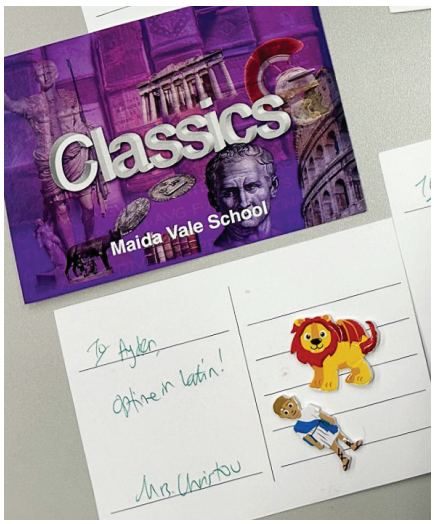
CLASSICS

- ANASTASIA CHRISTOU -

This term, Year 7 and 8 students have continued their MVS Latin journey, with many postcards sent home for students who collected ten stamps for excellent classwork and prep. Congratulations to Karolina and Georgina for achieving the highest scores in the year group in the Year 7 Spring Term Latin Assessment. Congratulations to Wolfe, Vera, Jacob and Reza for achieving the highest scores in the year group in the Year 8 Spring Term Latin Assessment.

In addition to Latin vocabulary and grammar, Year 7 and 8 students also learn about how the Romans lived and conduct research in cultural topics (such as Roman slavery, theatre, education and baths), comparing ancient and modern and producing very creative prep.

GCSE Latinists in Years 10 and 11 have continued to engage well with the GCSE course, honing their language skills, but also exploring Roman literature and civilisation, including topics such as Roman family life and religion.





ZANZIBAR EXPEDITION

In February half term, Ms Deedat and Ms Gammon set off with eight students for a nine-day expedition to Zanzibar. They spent two days exploring the island's natural environment, followed by five days volunteering at a local primary school, Al Ikhwan.

Thank you to all members of the school community who generously donated books, clothes, teaching resources, and a wide range of other items, all of which were given to the school, as well as to those who supported the fundraising events.

Here are some diary entries from the intrepid members of the expedition:

JOZANI FOREST

On our first morning we woke up super excited to take on the day. Even though we were all exhausted from the long hours of travelling, the idea of exploring the forest and relaxing on the beach kept us going.

In the morning, we went on a tour of Jozani Forest. Our guide taught us about the native fruits and wildlife of Zanzibar, especially the mangroves, which were fascinating. We learned that they play a vital role in protecting the island's coastline by preventing erosion, providing important habitats for wildlife. They also looked incredibly beautiful as the trees twisted in different ways. The baby Colobus monkeys were so cute as they swung around and play-fought with each other, we all stood watching them in awe.



We had lunch during the tour, then headed to the beach. The water was incredibly clear and warm, allowing us to relax, sunbathe, and enjoy smoothies together.

On the way back to the hotel, we drove through Stone Town and saw local shops selling handmade wooden furniture, as well as fresh, colourful fruit lining the streets.

- Sara (Y12)



OCEAN SAFARI AND STONE TOWN

On our second full day in Zanzibar, we had an amazing boat trip. Our first stop was a small island with crystal-clear water. As we got off the boat, we noticed lots of transparent jellyfish. At first, we were a bit scared, but our guide told us they were completely harmless, so we went in anyway.

Back on the boat, we had fresh fruit such as pineapple, watermelon, and coconut before heading to the reef to snorkel. We then stopped at another island for a lobster and prawn lunch and had time to explore the market. After that, we visited the mangroves, where the water was warmer and surrounded by plant life, making it feel calm and different from the beach. On our return, we saw dolphins swimming next to the boat, which was such a breathtaking moment.

In the evening, we went to Stone Town, explored the streets, found a nice café, and watched people playing football and swimming on the beach. We went to bed happy but exhausted.

- Scarlett (Y11)

VOLUNTEERING AT AL-IKHWAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

On our first morning of volunteering, we travelled through busy and noisy streets to reach the local primary school, not quite knowing what to expect but feeling excited.

As soon as we arrived, we were greeted by bright smiles, singing, and endless energy from the children, which instantly put us at ease. They welcomed us by singing in Swahili, and we all clapped along. We spent the day helping with basic English, and it was clear how eager the students were to learn.

There were around five classrooms organised by age, and the pupils were thrilled to see us. We worked in pairs to deliver lessons such as Maths, Art and Environmental Studies. It was challenging, as the classrooms only had chalkboards and there weren't enough desks or chairs. It was also incredibly hot and dusty. However, it was a truly rewarding experience and gave us a deeper appreciation of the community.

At the end of each day, we felt happy but extremely tired and sweaty. In the evening, we planned the next day's lessons before having dinner and going to sleep.

- Hanaé and Sarah (Y12)





Teaching and connecting with the children was a truly eye-opening experience. By the end of the week, it was incredible to see how much they had opened up to us, and how we had grown in our ability to support them. I really admired their resilience and positivity despite their challenging environment.

- Lulu (Y12)

Overall, the experience was incredible and truly eye-opening. I especially enjoyed meeting and teaching the children at the school, as well as seeing the impact we had on them and how they saw us. I would go again without hesitation, and I really encourage the younger years to go in the future.

- Devan (Y12)

STUDENT REFLECTIONS

We started our day by waking up early, enjoying some really good food for breakfast, and then getting on the bus. The journey was lively, and we were all excited for what the day would bring.

When we arrived at the school, we began with construction and teaching. During construction, I did some plastering, which I found really fun and oddly satisfying. It took a long time but knowing it was for the children made it worthwhile. The man teaching me said I was a natural and seemed genuinely surprised at how well I did, which made me laugh because it was my first time.

My favourite part of Zanzibar was the teaching. Out of all the lessons, PE was the best because it was so nice to see all the children playing together and for us to join in too. For PE, we took the children out of the school grounds to a dusty courtyard, where bits of rubbish came in handy as goalposts and the children played in bare feet. However, we made the most of the basic facilities and really enjoyed playing together.

- Lily-Mae (Y12)





SCIENCE

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

Year 8 & 9 studentspresenting their projects at the MVS Science Fair

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

The theme for this year was curiosity and that was certainly inspired through our programme of activities to mark British Science Week at MVS.

Josh Forman, a former MVS Biology teacher, kicked off our celebrations with an assembly about his work over at Jnetics. Students learned about genetic diseases and how they can be more prevalent in certain communities due to inherited traits.



Josh from Jnetics

The session explored how genes are passed on and highlighted the importance of genetic screening, awareness, and informed decision-making to help reduce the risk of passing on inherited conditions. This thought-provoking talk gave students a meaningful insight into how science can directly impact people's lives.

We were also delighted to welcome a guest speaker from the Royal Institution, who delivered an experiment-heavy interactive talk on "Explosive Foods." This lively presentation captured students' attention as they explored how much energy is stored in various different foods. An endoscope video of food passing through the oesophagus and through to the colon was gruesome enough to make even the Science teachers in the room flinch!



A key highlight of the week was the Year 7 and Year 8 Science Fair, which was very well attended by parents and family friends. Students demonstrated excellent enthusiasm and confidence as they presented their projects, explaining their investigations and findings with clarity and pride. It was wonderful to see their hard work be celebrated by our 6th form prefect team, who were discerning judges on the day. They got hands on with all the projects and interacted with our lower school, for example by tasting different cake samples made with different raising agents.



Year 7 & 8 Science Fair

In addition to these events, break and lunch times were full of activities for students to drop in to. Ms Darwiche led a brain dissection, Mr Nicoll's "screaming jelly baby" demonstration was a particular favourite and Mr Greenfield hosted a movie night to watch the new Dinosaur documentary.



Explosions Club dissecting Brains

Overall, our British Science Week celebrations were a great success and everyone in our wider school community had lots of opportunity to be curious and find out something new.



ENGLISH

- ABIGAIL GAMMON -

WORLD BOOK DAY

This term, the stand out event for the department was undoubtedly World Book Day.

We fully embraced the spirit of the occasion, celebrating reading for pleasure in all its forms. Young people are far more likely to read when they see it as enjoyable, entertaining and social, and that is exactly what our activities were designed to showcase and there were certainly smiles all round!

Ms Pocock's Bad Blurbs challenge had the whole school buzzing, as students competed to correctly guess the books from deliberately misleading descriptions.



Winning Harry Potter cake

After school, Ms Gammon led another highly successful 'Bookery' event, where students recreated famous cakes from literature. Using extracts from Matilda, Alice in Wonderland and Harry Potter, students carefully read and interpreted the texts to bring these iconic bakes to life.

Congratulations to James D and Anil B, who won the vote for their brilliant recreation of Harry Potter's birthday cake. Close second were Ayla K and David K with their impressive Bruce Bogtrotter cake. Star bakes all round and a perfect example of the social reading that World Book Day celebrates.

Ms Pask's assembly reminded us that reading extends far beyond the English department. With contributions from Mr McNamee, Ms Wilkes, Ms Grasso and a range of students, it was inspiring to see such a wide variety of reading experiences being shared, reinforcing that reading truly is for everyone.

World Book Day was a fantastic opportunity to come together and celebrate reading as something fun, creative and alive far beyond the page as epitomised by our staff and student contributions.

MATHEMATICS

- LAUREN PROCTOR -

In January, students from Year 9 and Year 10 took on the national Intermediate UKMT Maths Challenge, competing against thousands of peers across the country. This prestigious competition is designed to stretch students' mathematical thinking, encouraging precision, problem-solving, and logical reasoning—skills that go far beyond the everyday classroom.

Despite the paper's high level of difficulty, our students rose to the challenge admirably, with many achieving impressive Silver and Bronze awards.





A special congratulations goes to Ferdi E (Y9) – Silver Award and highest score in the year group, and Lachlan C (Y10) – Silver Award and highest score in the school!

Additional Silver Award winners include Andreas E, Dylan G, and Jackson H, all of whom demonstrated exceptional mathematical ability.

Well done to everyone who took part and gave their best effort—we are incredibly proud of you. We now look forward to seeing how our Key Stage 3 students perform in the Junior Maths Challenge this April!

On March 14th, students celebrated Pi Day in delicious style with a creative bake sale led by Year 7. Students were challenged to design and create cakes inspired by the mathematical constant ϖ - and the results were both imaginative and impressive!

From cleverly decorated pies to intricately designed cakes, the creativity on display was fantastic. Students worked together with staff to sell their baked creations, raising money for charity and bringing the school community together.

A huge well done to Year 7 for their enthusiasm and effort, and a big thank you to everyone who supported the event by purchasing a treat. It was a wonderful way to celebrate maths - one slice at a time!



SIXTH FORM



Bocconi University Presentation

It has been a busy and successful spring term for our Sixth Form, with students securing strong university offers, working hard academically and making the most of opportunities beyond the classroom.

Our Year 13 cohort are celebrating a great set of university offers, with 70% of students currently holding places at Russell Group universities, with more still to come. Students have applied to a wide range of courses, supported by our university advisory team. Offers include Theology, Religion and Philosophy of Religion at the University of Cambridge, which is a significant achievement in only our second year of applications. There is also an unconditional place to study Industrial and Product Design at Central Saint Martins, alongside offers from universities including Durham, Manchester, King's College London and Exeter. US applications include University of Miami, Pepperdine, Northeastern and Fordham.

Year 12 students have also been preparing for their next steps. Their EPQ projects include 5,000-word dissertations on topics such as whether nightmares are more than just bad dreams and the impact of social media on anxiety. Students have visited King's College London, UCL and SOAS, as well as taking part in a workshop led by Imperial College. Bocconi University visited the school to talk through the European application process.

A particular strength of the Sixth Form this term has been student leadership.



Science trip to CERN



Cecily H has led a series of revision workshops for Year 10 and 11 students. Alongside this, Sixth Form students have continued to support younger pupils through peer mentoring, volunteering and leading clubs.

Sixth Form students have also taken part in two international trips this term, visiting Geneva and Zanzibar. The visit to CERN gave students the opportunity to see cutting-edge scientific research in action.

Creative Media Production students took part in an editing masterclass, while IS sessions have focused on practical skills such as CV writing and building LinkedIn profiles.

As we move into the final term, we are excited for what's to come, while also preparing to say goodbye to a truly fantastic Year 13.

Head Student, Larkin

SIXTH FORM SUBJECTS ROUND-UP

BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

- SAERA BUTT -

The Business and Economics department has had a busy and engaging term, bringing theory to life through real-world examples and case studies. In Economics, students explored market structures such as monopolies and oligopolies, using game theory to understand how firms compete and make decisions. They also examined how innovation can disrupt industries, alongside a detailed case study on Zambia, which highlighted the challenges of relying on a single export and the importance of sustainable development. This was supported by analysis of global data and a research project on urban mobility, linking economic concepts to current environmental and societal issues.

In Business, students focused on contemporary trends and strategic decision-making. They investigated how brands achieve viral success through marketing and consumer psychology, while also developing their financial skills by analysing major companies using key performance ratios and investment tools. Strategic frameworks such as Porter's Five Forces and Ansoff's Matrix helped students understand how businesses compete and grow in global markets, alongside discussions on the role and impact of multinational corporations. The department is now looking ahead to the upcoming Tutor2u revision workshops, which will support students in refining their exam technique and achieving their best possible results.

CREATIVE DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION

- NANA ABOAGYE -

Creative Digital Media Production students have had a highly productive and creative term across both year groups. Year 12 students have been working on their exam brief, creating original horror mystery film trailers. Through this, they have developed skills in planning, filming, and editing, while experimenting with camera techniques, lighting, and sound to build tension and engage audiences. It has been particularly encouraging to see their confidence grow as they apply key film conventions in increasingly imaginative ways.

Year 13 students have begun their final major project, producing short films in small groups. This has required them to take full responsibility for the entire production process, from initial ideas through to filming and editing, while demonstrating strong teamwork and organisation. Across both year groups, students have also explored industry practices such as audience research and film classification guidelines, helping them develop a more professional approach. A highlight of the term was a talk from industry expert Tommy Edwards, which provided valuable insight into the film and television industry and inspired students as they consider future career pathways.



Editing with Premiere Pro



HOSPITALITY

- AGNES KIANI -

Hospitality students across both year groups have had an engaging and hands-on term studying European Cuisine as part of Unit 10. Students developed a strong understanding of the history, cultural influences, and regional diversity of European food, exploring dishes from countries such as France, Italy, Spain, Greece, Germany, and the British Isles. This has helped broaden their knowledge of traditional ingredients, cooking methods, and presentation styles.

A key highlight of the term has been the weekly practical cooking sessions, where students prepared and presented a variety of European dishes. Through this, they have built confidence in the kitchen while improving essential culinary skills such as knife techniques, timing, organisation, and hygiene. Alongside their practical work, students also completed written assignments to analyse and evaluate their dishes, demonstrating thoughtful reflection and a growing ability to identify areas for improvement.

SPRING TERM IN THE ART DEPARTMENT

It's been a vibrant and inspiring term in the Art Department, packed with creativity, exploration, and impressive achievements across all year groups. From gallery visits and competitions to ambitious exam projects and after-school enrichment, our students have truly embraced every opportunity to develop their artistic voices.

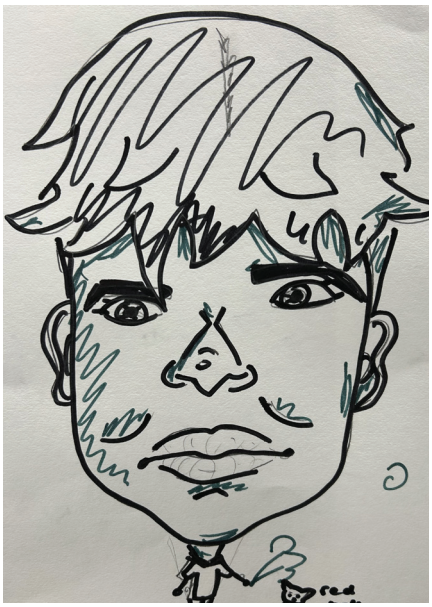
This term has seen a whirlwind of artistic activity. Students have taken part in exciting trips, entered prestigious competitions, prepared portfolios for Art Foundation college applications, and participated in a variety of Art Clubs. The term concluded with our dedicated Year 11 students completing their intensive 10-hour GCSE Art exams!



We are especially proud to have submitted seven artworks to the Royal Academy of Arts Young Artists competition. We eagerly await the results in May and wish all our entrants the best of luck.

KS3 ART ENRICHMENT

Our Tuesday after-school Art Enrichment sessions have been a hub of creativity. Students have explored watercolour landscapes, caricatures, and realistic portraiture, with themes chosen collaboratively each week - encouraging both independence and imagination.



INSPIRING ART TRIPS

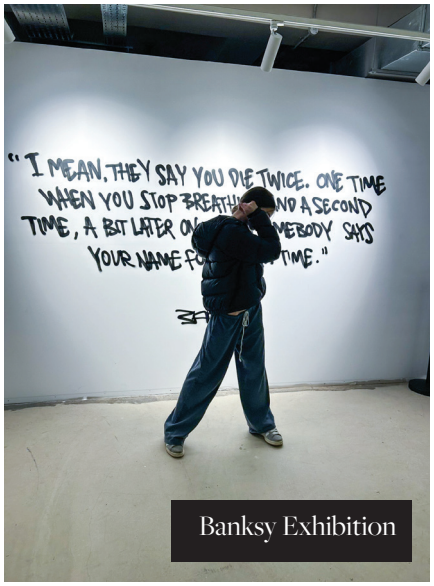
Year 11 students had the privilege of visiting the posthumous exhibition "No Rush" by Norman Hyams, (Arlo's dad), at the Hannah Barry Gallery. The visit included sketching and a fascinating discussion about the artist's work. Later in January, they explored the galleries of the Tate Modern, gathering inspiration and developing ideas for their exam themes such as Contrasts, Movement, Time, and Nature.

Year 8 students enjoyed an exciting trip to South Kensington to view works by the renowned street artist Banksy. Seeing


Norman Hyams Exhibition



his stencil graffiti up close - especially the interactive graffiti wall - was a highlight and will inspire their own designs next term.



Banksy Exhibition

For Cultural Capital Day, Year 8 visited Kew Gardens and the Musical Museum. Armed with sketchbooks, students captured the beauty of nature, with particular interest in the iconic Chinese pagoda - linking to their studies of East Asian art. Congratulations to Matvei P (1st prize), Walter S (2nd), and Dexter (3rd) for their outstanding sketches, and to Reza L


Y8 at Kew Gardens



ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

- SOPHIE JIMENEZ -

for a thoughtful poem inspired by the visit.

EXAM PROJECTS & COURSEWORK HIGHLIGHTS

Year 13 Art & Photography students are preparing for their 15-hour exams, exploring themes such as Night Sky, Fairytales, Hands, and Lost and Found. We look forward to seeing their final outcomes. Year 12 Art students have completed their Conflict of Space project, producing sculptures and site-specific work based on seven emotions. Their confident presentations showcased both creativity and critical thinking. Year 12 Photography explored storytelling through their project "It's all in the timing. It's all about the story", producing work across fashion, photojournalism, experimental, and street photography. Year 11 students have worked tirelessly on their exam projects, supported by lunchtime and after-school intervention sessions. Their final pieces will be showcased in our Art Exhibition this June. Year 10 are developing portrait-based projects and preparing for their mock exams, building strong observational drawing and research skills.

KS3 HIGHLIGHTS

Year 9 have explored printmaking techniques such as mono printing and drypoint etching, and are now developing textile projects - creating embellished blazers inspired by themes like Punk and Expressionism. Year 8 have studied Chinese and Japanese art, producing work including Manga drawings, ceramic dragon eyes, and decorative fans. Year 7 have investigated masks, creating expressive Modroc plaster designs inspired by gargoyles and grotesques.

CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT RAFFLE

We were incredibly grateful to receive generous donations from professional artists for our Charity Quiz Night raffle. Highlights included: Jonathan Parsons' Lyra, a constellation painting; Jim Anderson's lino print inspired by Macbeth; Kirsty Banks' mixed-media iceberg piece of Svalbard; Tina Sexton's vase inspired by Madame X; and Tania Salha's Kaka Kaboom: Watercolour Study No. 7.

LOOKING AHEAD

With so much talent and enthusiasm on display, we are excited for what the summer term will bring - especially our upcoming Art Exhibition in June. Thank you to all students and staff for making this such a dynamic and successful term in Art!



GALLERY



1. Uchiwa Japanese Fan by Thomas B, Y8.
2. Frida Kahlo inspired Self Portrait by Sam G, Y7.
3. Chinese New Year Dragon by Carter G, Y8.
4. Gargoyle Green Man by Sam G, Y7.
5. Uchiwa Fans by Year 8 Art.
6. Three Portraits Sketchbook by Nancy W, Y10.



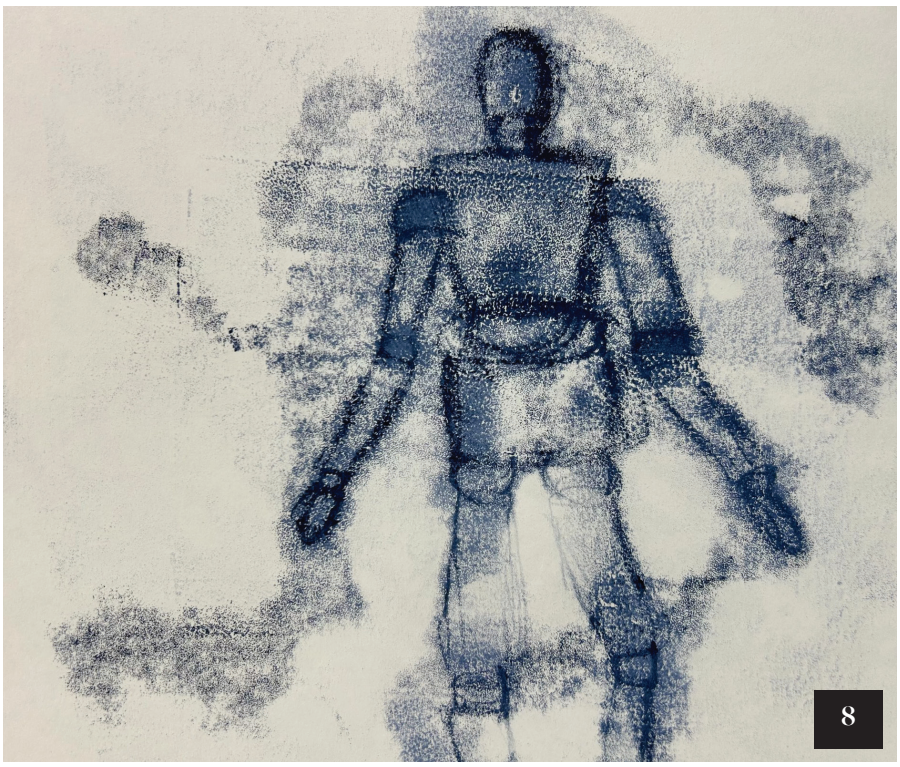


















7. 'Conflict of Space' by Thandie C, Y13.

8. Monoprint Artist Model by Vinnie H, Y10.

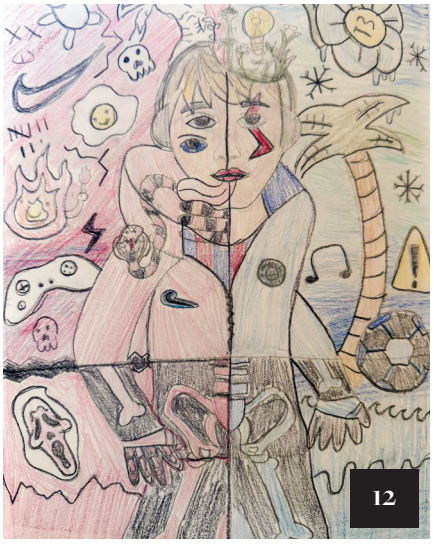
9. Movement Prep Sketchbook page by Charlie B, Y11.

10. Happiness Lesson, Year 12 Art.

11. Photo-booth by Charlie P, Y12.

12. Frida Kahlo inspired Self Portrait by Rafi C, Y7.

13. 'Anger' by Lily-Mae T-M, Y12.







FOOTBALL

It has been a remarkable season for our Lower School football team, who have lost just one match all year. Demonstrating impressive squad depth, 36 players have represented the A team across all competitions. With one final fixture remaining, the boys are on the brink of being crowned champions of the North London Boys Football League in their debut season, which would be a fantastic achievement. Wolfe and Walter have led the scoring charts with 8 and 7 goals respectively, while Foloyemi has been a rock in defence, earning three Player of the Match awards. Player of the Season, however, goes to Charles, whose seven clean sheets have been instrumental to the team's success.

Our Middle School football teams have enjoyed a busy and competitive season, playing an impressive 22 fixtures. The Under 15A team delivered several standout performances, including a dominant 5–1 victory over Highgate School. Andreas secured the golden boot with 14 goals, closely followed by Otto on 11. The strength of the squad is evident, with nine different players earning Player of the Match awards. The goalkeeper, Kabir, also deserves recognition, contributing four clean sheets and two Player of the Match performances.

The Under 15B team also showed great resilience and development. Despite a narrow 4–3 loss to Wetherby in their most recent match, the team's performance was commendable. With 27 players representing the side, there have been many highlights. Ferdi's outstanding saves (and even two goals when playing outfield!), Adrian's determination in defense, Julian's tireless work ethic, and Ethan's attacking flair, with particular mention about his spectacular long-range goal against Wetherby.

Our Senior football team have enjoyed a breakout season, securing notable victories against KPS, Halcyon and LPS. Equally impressive were hard-fought draws against Highgate School, City of London and DLD College, matches that could easily have resulted in wins. Devan, Alex, Todd and Finn have all contributed significantly, each earning two Player of the Match awards. Congratulations also to Luca, who finished as top scorer with 9 goals, and we look forward to seeing if he can reach double figures in the final match against Wetherby.

NETBALL

It has been another strong season for netball across all age groups. The Lower School team have been particularly impressive, completing a double over Fairley House and securing a notable win against St Paul's Cathedral School. New recruits Savannah and Georgina have made a significant impact in both defensive and mid court roles. Mallory Otero has been outstanding in attack, scoring an incredible 22 goals this season.

The Middle School netball team have shown great promise, with highlights including a victory over Harrodian School and a closely contested match against North London Grammar. Zara and Cassie have been central to the team's success, consistently performing at a high level and earning the most MVP awards this season.

Our Senior netball team have also had a successful campaign, highlighted by a three-match winning streak against KPS and Kew House. Captain and taliswoman Libby has led from the front with three Player of the Match performances, while Eloise has matched Mallory's impressive tally with 22 goals this season.

Both Senior football and netball teams have thrived under the excellent guidance of Mr Rabstein and Miss Ware. We also extend our sincere thanks and best wishes to our Year 13 students, who have contributed so much to Maida Vale sport during their time at the school.





PE & GAMES

RUGBY

This term, our Lower School pupils have had the opportunity to experience a wider range of sports, including competitive hockey and Rugby fixtures. A standout moment came shortly after February half term, with a commanding 25–5 victory over St Paul's Cathedral School. The team performed superbly, with Finlay and Walter particularly impressive in transitioning play from defense into attack.

SWIMMING

Many congratulations to Greg K for winning a Gold and 4 Silver medals at the '2026 Chelsea & Westminster Swimming Club Future Stars Development Meet' swimming competition on 22nd March – what a fantastic achievement!



ISA FOOTBALL 6-ASIDE TOURNAMENT

A further highlight of the term was our participation in the ISA 6-a-side football tournament at LVS Ascot, the schools first appearance at this national event. The Under 13 team made an outstanding impression, winning their opening match 4–1 against Ipswich High School before drawing 0–0 with eventual champions Dulwich Senior School. They progressed confidently through the group stage and into the knockout rounds, eventually reaching the semi-finals. In a dramatic match against Gad's Hill, Walter scored a last-minute equaliser to force penalties. Despite a valiant effort, the team narrowly missed out on a place in the final, losing 5–4 in the shootout. They should be immensely proud of their achievement.

The Under 15 team showed great determination after a slow start, bouncing back with a crucial win against Trinity School to keep their hopes alive. A narrow defeat to Wychwood meant they progressed to the Plate competition, where they secured an excellent 3–0 victory over St Michael's School Llanelli, with goals from Leo (2) and Jackson. Their run came to an end in a closely contested semi-final against Trinity School Teignmouth, where, despite dominating much of the game, they were unable to find an equaliser.





COMMUNITY

Charity Quiz Night

CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT

In February, we were delighted to welcome over 60 members of our school community to MVS's 2nd ever Charity Quiz Night in support of Learning Disability Network (LDN) and The Lady Garden Foundation. The evening brought together parents and friends of the school for a fantastic event that combined a (highly) competitive quiz, alongside dinner, raffles, and an auction.

Whilst the quiz and raffle both proved to be highlights of the evening, it was our auction in particular generated great enthusiasm (potentially verging on overzealous at times), with some very hotly contested bidding, managed gracefully by our auctioneer/ Headteacher, Mr Bashaarat. Our standout lot was the opportunity for a student to become "Headteacher for a Day", for which the bidding was especially fierce between parents looking for their child to rule MVS, and Mr Fisher, for one day only.

Thanks to the generosity of everyone involved, the event raised an impressive total of over £6,000 for our chosen charities. This is an incredibly meaningful contribution to the important work carried out by both organisations which we are delighted to support.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who attended and supported the evening. Your presence and enthusiasm helped make the event a huge success, and it was wonderful to see our community come together for such important causes.

A special thank you must also go to the many parents who generously donated prizes. We are incredibly grateful to those who offered experiences and professional services, such as sessions and consultations within their fields of expertise, as well as those who donated physical items and products from their businesses and creative work. Such kindness and generosity played a crucial role in the success of both the auction and raffle, and for which we are very grateful.



SIXTH FORM VOLUNTEERING

Over half of Year 12 students are a part of our Sixth Form volunteering scheme. Students are in various volunteering placements, which they have sacrificed their free periods to take part in weekly.



Girls Allowed project

'I volunteer at a charity called Girls Allowed. The aim of the project is to create a safe and supportive space where girls can be active and build confidence. During the sessions, we organise different activities and make sure everyone feels included and comfortable. I enjoy volunteering there because it's a really positive environment, and it's rewarding to see the girls having fun and trying things they might not have done before.'

- Thandie, Year 12

'I have been volunteering at Laurence's Larder since November. When I'm there I set up for the food bank on Wednesdays - for this I count and sort the beans, tomatoes, tuna and pasta. I enjoy it because the people there are very friendly and it is extremely rewarding to help out'.

- Angus, Year 12



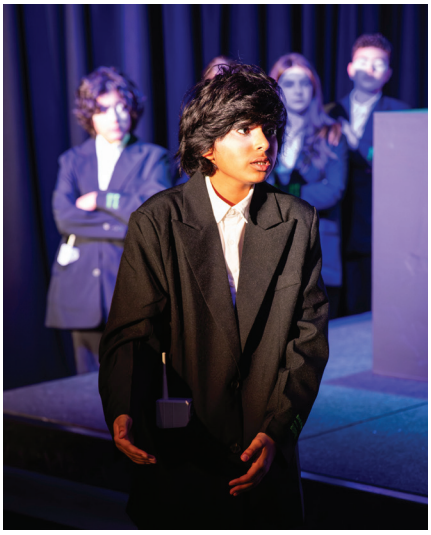
DRAMA

- ANASTASIA ARGYROU & ANDY MCNAMEE -

BRIGHT.YOUNG.THINGS

Tuesday, 24th March marked the culmination of months of dedication from our Lower School Thespians, as they took to the stage in Bright.Young.Things by Georgia Christou. This fast-paced, darkly comic play explores the pressures of modern life through the lens of a ruthless, Britain's Got Talent-style game show, offering a sharp and thought-provoking commentary on fame, competition, and identity.

Since auditions in November, the cast and creative team have demonstrated exceptional commitment. Balancing academic life alongside the demands of rehearsals, they approached the process with energy, focus, and resilience. Their maturity and determination have been evident at every stage, as they worked collaboratively to bring this vibrant and challenging piece to life.



Among the many standout performances, Lavinia captivated the audience in her role as Hester, delivering a performance marked by depth and assurance. Otis impressed with his confident and engaging presenter skills, commanding the stage with natural charisma. Simona also shone as Lady Rustington, bringing flair and precision to her role with great effect.



The journey from audition room to performance stage is never without its challenges. It demands discipline, trust, and a willingness to take creative risks—qualities this group has embraced wholeheartedly. What audiences witnessed was not only a polished performance, but the result of sustained effort, growth, and a genuine commitment to the craft.

We are incredibly proud of all involved. Their enthusiasm, teamwork, and dedication have made this production a resounding success, and we look forward to seeing how their talents continue to develop in future performances.

LAMDA AT MVS

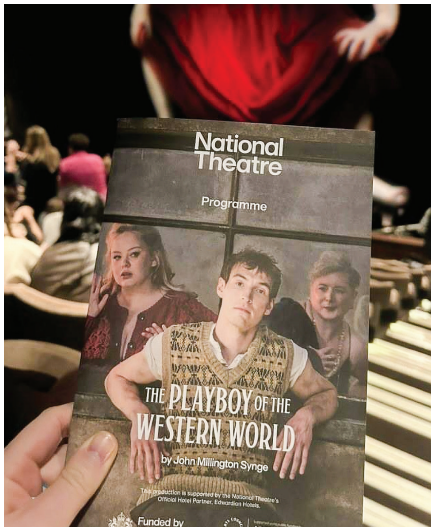
This term, students took on complex characters from ambition-chained Macbeth to the love-sick Helena (A Midsummer Night's Dream), demonstrating bold command of the heightened performance style through their energetic physical and vocal performances.

LAMDA Programme Director and Speech & Drama specialist, Rachel, says of their work, "We are so proud of the progress made by all of our LAMDA students, it has been such a pleasure to see their confidence flourish through the first year of the programme at Maida Vale and I have high hopes for all their future successes."

THE PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD AT NT

The play is set in the early 1900s, in a rundown public house on the west coast of County Mayo, Ireland. All actors were able to use their physical and vocal skills to contribute to the tragicomic atmosphere. Nicola Coughlan played the character of the barmaid 'Pegeen Flaherty', who I perceived as very sharp tongued, feisty and tough. Coughlan's sharp delivery and quick shifts from humor and sarcasm to pure irritation helped create a very energetic and lively atmosphere. She also portrayed Pegeen as bold and demanding, by constantly moving with very quick purposeful steps, having her hands on her hips constantly, or leaning forward towards the other actors. Her thick Hiberno-English accent, gave the pub scenes a very bustling and loud atmosphere, making me feel like I was placed into a very Irish community. Although the play has its comedic moments, Coughlan also made her tone soft in more emotional and quieter moments of the play, to reveal Pegeen's vulnerability. Additionally, her chemistry with Christy, performed by Eanna Hardwicke, linked to the dramatic and lustful tension of the play using proxemics. She often stood close to him, constantly looking up at him with her head tilted, while putting her hands on his chest. This helped to heighten the romantic setting that was created when both actors communicated with each other. Her tone also tended to soften around him, demonstrating her love and adoration towards Christy.

Review written by Fade, Y11





HISTORY & POLITICS

- ELLIE WILKES - EDWARD HOPKINS & TANJA BIALOJAN -

Peter Morgan from the Wiener Holocaust Library

It has been another busy and engaging term in History and Politics, with students across all year groups developing their knowledge, skills and curiosity about the past and present.

Year 8 students have been deepening their understanding of the Holocaust as part of their current unit of study. We were very fortunate to welcome an external speaker from the Wiener Holocaust Library, whose powerful and thought-provoking session helped bring students' learning to life. This visit also coincided with wider Holocaust Memorial activities in school, encouraging reflection, empathy and meaningful discussion.

In Year 7, students have begun exciting cross-curricular work with the English department as they work towards their Gardener Schools Award. Their focus has been on British monarchs, exploring the question of whether historical rulers should be remembered as heroes or villains. This has prompted lively debate, thoughtful writing and the development of strong historical judgement skills.



Meanwhile, our Sixth Form politics students have been exploring the functioning of the United States political system. They have examined key institutions, the roles of different branches of government, and how power and accountability operate in practice. Students have shown great enthusiasm in discussions and have begun to make thoughtful comparisons with the UK system.

MODEL UN

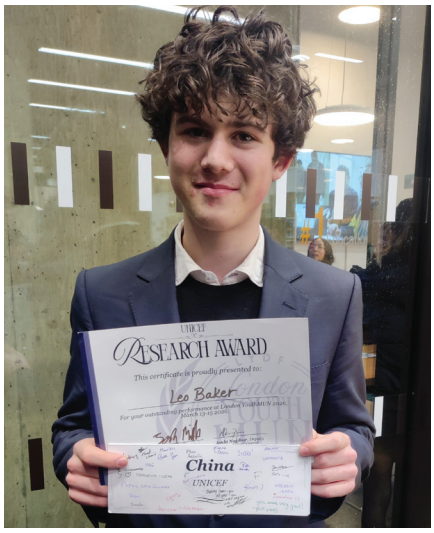
After meeting every Tuesday after school to debate, research, and hone their diplomatic skills, the MUN Club travelled to YouthMUN to showcase their talents.

The Conference started on Friday, 13th March, at Friends House near Euston with a diplomacy panel and the opening ceremony. Students then moved on to deliver speeches in their assigned committees. Our school's delegates represented Canada, China, Germany, Poland, Haiti, and more.

Christopher, Gabriel, and Jasper (all Year 11) tackled the Libyan Crisis of 2011 in Historical NATO. Meriam and Valida discussed statelessness and human rights. Leo B, who also won the award for Best Research Paper and managed to convince his entire committee to hold a 45-minute unmoderated caucus on the final day, advocated for Chinese children's rights during climate catastrophes as a delegate in UNICEF.

Clementine defended Poland's scientific contributions in the Legal Committee, Andreas addressed the rights of Indigenous peoples in SPECPOL, and David tested his debating skills in Interpol by discussing digital terrorism.

On Saturday evening, everyone danced the night away at the beautiful Barbican venue. By Sunday, resolutions had been drafted and submitted, and by 6pm all delegates left a UCL lecture hall with new impressions, valuable skills, and new friendships.





GEOGRAPHY

-ARCHANNA PATEL -

It has been a fantastic term in the Geography department, with students across the school showing curiosity, creativity and excellent geographical thinking.

Year 7 students brought geography to life by creating their own "Biomes in a Box." The creativity and effort on display were outstanding. Students researched different global biomes and designed detailed models to represent them, carefully including climate, vegetation and wildlife. Presentations were a real highlight, with students confidently explaining their research and clearly applying the success criteria.

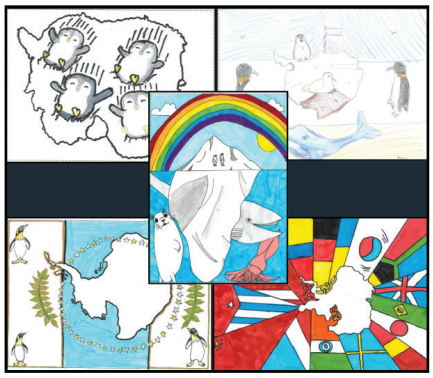


We have also recently received our Antarctic Flags back from their incredible journey to Antarctica. We are extremely proud of the students whose flags were selected and travelled all the way to one of the most remote places on Earth. It has been fantastic for students to see their work returned after such a unique geographical adventure.

Year 8 have been exploring how populations change and why population patterns vary around the world. This topic sparked great discussion and curiosity, particularly when investigating population policies. Students finished the unit by examining China's One Child Policy and debating how successful it has been and the long-term impacts it has had on society.

Year 9 have successfully completed their unit on hazardous environments and have now begun exploring urban environments. This learning will lead into their exciting summer term field trip to Brent Cross. Throughout the term, students have been strengthening their geographical vocabulary through regular retrieval practice and preparation tasks to help embed key concepts.

Year 10 students have recently completed their unit on Economic Activity and Energy. Their enthusiasm shone through in a series of engaging presentations exploring energy in the UK. It has been fantastic to see students confidently sharing their research and discussing the challenges and opportunities surrounding the UK's energy future.



Year 11 students are now fully focused on exam preparation. Lessons have included a variety of revision strategies, from demonstrating sampling techniques using Smarties to exploring development processes through Geography-themed Snakes and Ladders. Students have also been analysing exemplar essay structures and developing their own responses to exam-style questions to help them secure the best possible outcomes.

We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, hard work and geographical curiosity shown by students across all year groups this term.



Year 7 Biome in a box projects



3D Printing Robot Wars

ENRICHMENT & CLUBS

- ROBERT HAMMOND -

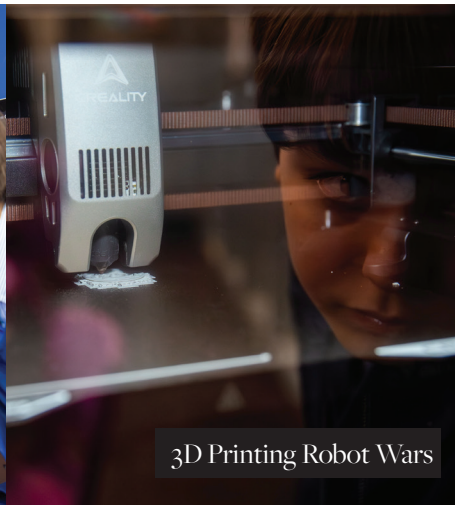
The Spring Term has been a vibrant celebration of curiosity, creativity, and community spirit, reflected in a diverse range of enrichment clubs. From the arts to science, students have engaged enthusiastically across all areas.

Film Skool returned with a new group of aspiring filmmakers, who explored the full creative process from scriptwriting to editing. Their teamwork and enthusiasm have been impressive, and we look forward to their film screening at the Curzon theatre in Mayfair next term.

Creativity has also thrived in Warhammer, where students have begun developing their model painting skills, showing strong progress with more challenges ahead. In the performing arts, Bright Young Things has been full of energy, with students rehearsing a contemporary play and building excitement towards their upcoming performance.

Chess Club has continued to flourish, with students sharpening their strategic thinking under expert coaching, while Model UN concluded with a three-day conference at the London School of Economics. Students represented countries in high-level debates, with one earning Best Position Paper—an excellent achievement.





3D Printing Robot Wars



Warhammer Club



Film Skool



Chess Club

Meanwhile, Explosions Club has remained a highlight for science enthusiasts, offering hands-on experiences from dramatic chemical reactions to biological dissections, all met with curiosity and enthusiasm.



MUSIC

- MATTHEW SALTER -

MVS Spring Concert

Our first Spring Concert at MVS was a brilliant evening and a great snapshot of how much music is thriving across the school.

There was a real mix of styles throughout the night. The choir gave a strong start, ushering in the season with Here Comes the Sun, a fitting choice for our spring concert, as well as a lovely solo from Karolina L in When I Grow Up. It was also great to see all of the GCSE bands performing. Year 11 brought real confidence with Sultans of Swing and a Hendrix number, led by Tobias V on guitar and vocals. Year 10 performed Radiohead with Leo B on vocals and bass, and Year 8 gave a punchy performance of Someday by The Strokes, with Ethan S leading.

There were also some lovely smaller moments in the programme. Solo performances from Lavinia C, Simona and Dylan N were all beautifully done, and the piano duet from Katya and Clementine was a highlight. A really special moment was the Billie Eilish arrangement for flute, piano and violin, performed beautifully by Jay A, Dylan N and Emilia S. The string quartet also gave a strong performance of the Corelli Sonata.

Both halves ended with the rock band, with Chloe leading on vocals and bringing great energy to close each section.

It's also clear that classroom music is in a really good place at the moment. The El Sistema programme is starting to show real results, especially with the ensemble work coming from Years 7 and 8.

A big well done to everyone involved. We're looking forward to building on this with the Summer BBQ and more concerts to come!









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