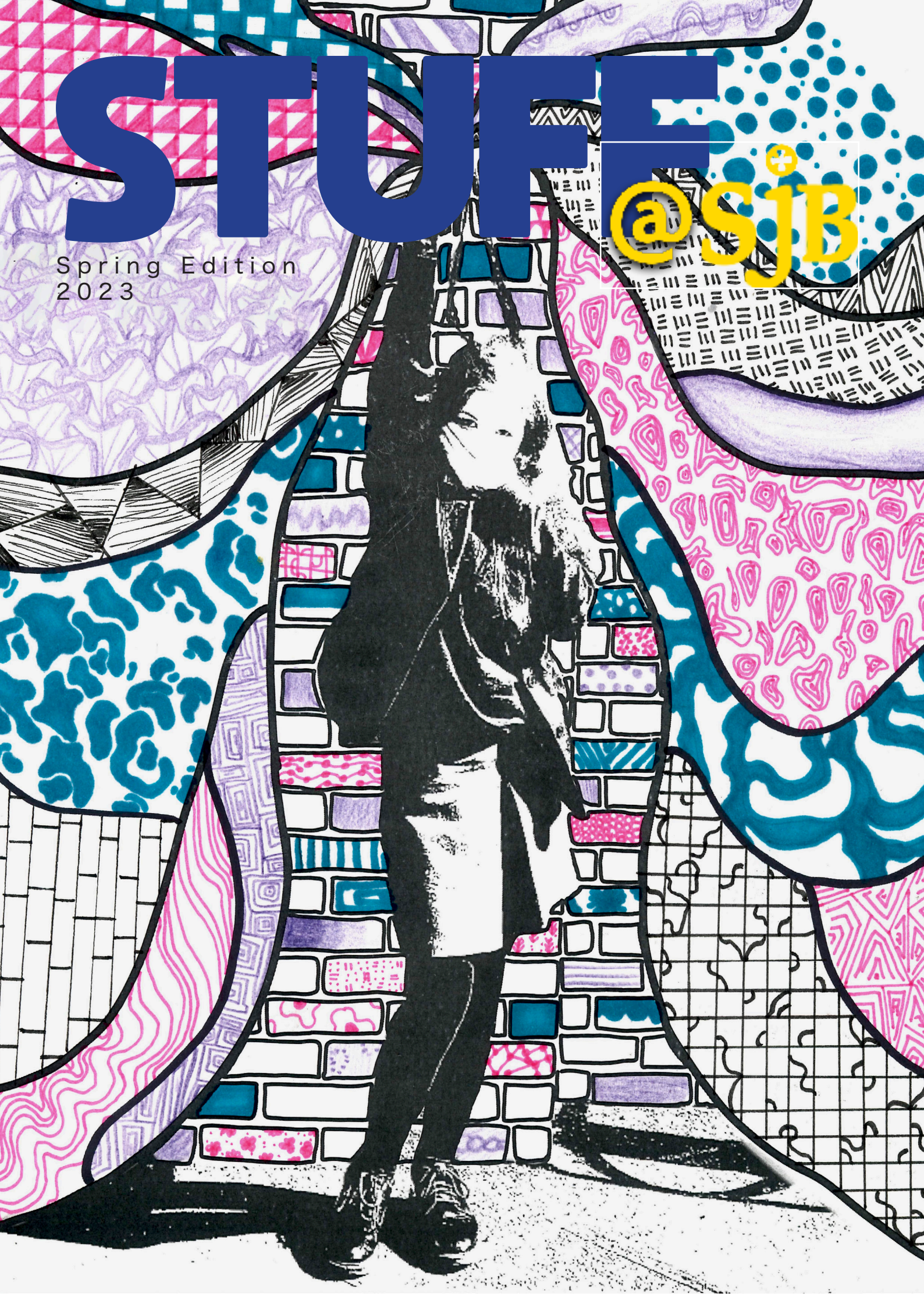


STUFF

@SJB

Spring Edition
2023





A very warm welcome to this final edition of Stuff@SJB for 2023. Wow, what a busy end we have had to this academic year! This year felt like a return to the old normal, as opposed to the new normal COVID created. Exams, school productions, concerts, sporting events and trips have been a huge part of this year and we look forward to pressing ahead with all these things once again next year.

Sadly, this time of year is always hard as we say goodbye to staff moving on to pastures new, and particularly this year, as we are losing some long-standing members of staff. Thankfull we were able to say goodbye to them in person, and for the students to celebrate their time at SJB in final assembly as well.

Mrs Belli is leaving us after 21 magnificent years to join the Xavier Central Team permanently; Mr Budny, Miss Frangiamore, Miss Findlay and Mr Witts are all having a change of career; Mrs Guncill has secured a teaching position nearer to her home; Mrs Petri, Miss Hammond and Miss Lovett have secured a promotion at other schools; Mrs Luscombe is retiring; Mr Walker has been promoted to Deputy Head at another school; Mr Thomas is taking a sabbatical; Mrs Gonzalez is on a one-year secondment; Mrs Areington is leaving us to join another local school; Mrs Hilton is returning to her previous school and Mr Weston, Miss Scott and Miss Christodoulidou are going back to university. We wish them all the very best of luck in their new ventures.

I must pay a special tribute to Mrs Belli, who I have

worked closely with for nearly fifteen years. The successes and improvements SJB has made are directly related to the appointment of Mrs Belli leading Learning and Teaching. The impact she has made on hundreds of teachers and therefore thousands of students is phenomenal, and her passion and enthusiasm for learning and teacher development will live on in all the staff at SJB.

As I am mentioning staff departures, attached to this newsletter is the final communication from Miss Magill, our CEO of Xavier, who, after over 40 years of impeccable service to Education, has decided the time has now come to enjoy retirement. The impact on national education made by Miss Magill is second to none, and there are dozens of schools across this country now led by Headteachers who have been shaped by Miss Magill's school of leadership and the education system is a richer place as a result.

Now for some baby news; since our last communication, Ms Barclay has had a beautiful girl called Mae Elizabeth and Mr Kaye welcomed a stunning little girl called Joni. We will have lots more SJB baby news to update you with in the new academic year.

Next year, we will be changing things slightly around the school, nothing that affects anything from your perspective, more a greater focus on the SJB values, and impressing on the students what it means to live these out positively. This is going to permeate every aspect of SJB life, so do not be surprised when the students mention at home that we are talking a lot about Aspiration, Service, Integrity, Respect and

Love!

I must give a huge thank you to both parents and students. Firstly, parents, thank you for your unwavering and continued support throughout the year. As I say to new Year 7 parents, you are the primary educators, and it makes our job so much easier working with such great parents. I would also like to set you a challenge over the summer – how much time can you encourage your child to be device/phone/social media free? The post-pandemic world has really shone a light onto how dependent children are on technology and devices, and I do think all of society has to do more to restrict this and find a healthy balance with our children. Good luck with that challenge – we will do all we can next year to ensure we strive to find that healthy balance in school.

Students, you have been brilliant this year! With such a lot crammed into the year, all against the backdrop of the last two years, your adaptability, positivity, hard work and brilliant sense of humour have been amazing. A special well done to our Year 11 and Year 13 students who were exemplary throughout the exam season. We are all looking forward to results day and seeing the deserved outcomes for all your hard work. See you in August!

Now on to the reminders – please ensure you check your children's uniform to make sure all items of clothing fit correctly and that the children look smart for the start of the new academic year. As you know, we have high standards and expect the students to be ambassadors for SJB. Please ensure girls' skirts are touching their knees when standing up. Last year, we introduced trousers for girls and gave a year's grace of phasing out the boys' black trousers, which has now ended. Parents of boys, please ensure they are in mid-grey tailored trousers in September. In addition, please ensure your children attend school everyday wearing the correct footwear which is black leather shoes. Anyone not wearing the correct uniform will be sent straight home again!

In my last correspondence, students were reminded to empty their lockers before the end of term. Lockers will be relocated and reallocated next year so any left items will be disposed of or sold to raise money for charity. Thank you to all those parents who have donated items to lost property.

We look forward to welcoming our Year 7s and Year 12s on Tuesday 5 and Wednesday 6 September for their induction days, and to seeing all students on Thursday 7 September for the start of what we hope will be a fantastic academic year full of all the exciting and fun events which normally take place!

The PTA have asked me to send the below to all

parents:

SJB PTA SJB PTA NEEDS YOU!

THE PTA IS KEEN TO RUN A CHRISTMAS MARKET THIS YEAR, FIND SOME SPONSORSHIP FOR THE SCHOOL PRODUCTION IN NOVEMBER AND RUN AN AUTUMN TERM RAFFLE, BUT WE CAN'T DO SO WITHOUT MORE HELPERS. WE'RE CURRENTLY MANAGING WITH A SMALL BAND OF TWO OR THREE PEOPLE ORGANISING ALL EVENTS AND A FEW MORE WHO CAN HELP ON THE DAY. IF WE ARE TO RUN EVENTS (AND RAISE FUNDS TO SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL), WE REALLY NEED TO SPREAD THE WORKLOAD IN ORGANISING EVENTS.

WE'RE A REALLY FRIENDLY BUNCH AND WOULD LOVE TO WELCOME YOU ON BOARD. COULD YOU HELP BY TAKING ON ANY OF THE FOLLOWING JOBS?

- FINDING RAFFLE PRIZES
- ORGANISING THE ONLINE RAFFLE
- CONTACTING LOCAL ESTATE AGENTS TO AGREE A SPONSORSHIP ARRANGEMENT
- COLLATING THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PEOPLE WHO VOLUNTEER TO HAVE AN ESTATE AGENT'S BOARD
- FINDING LOCAL BUSINESSES TO TAKE A STALL AT THE CHRISTMAS MARKET, LIAISING WITH THEM AND SENDING OUT INVOICES.

IF YOU THINK YOU COULD HELP, PLEASE CONTACT US AT SJBWORKINGPTA@GMAIL.COM OR CALL MARY ON 07717695857. WE WORK AS A TEAM AND WILL SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS WITH THE JOBS. IT'S ALSO A GREAT WAY TO FEEL CONNECTED TO YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION AND TO KNOW THAT YOU ARE DOING YOUR BIT TO SUPPORT THEM AND THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY. WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!

On behalf of everyone within the SJB community, we wish you a great summer, look after yourselves and enjoy the sunshine!

Love

James Granville Hamshar

YEAR GROUP ROUND UP YEAR 7

In the final week of this term our theme of the week was 'fullness of life', one which we can confidently say as a year group we have embraced. The students had a phenomenally successful first Sport Day; battling the elements they showed courage and determination in both track and field. A special mention to Archie Livingstone who despite the wind and the rain narrowly missed the school record to secure gold in the Year 7 Boys Javelin!

Sporting success aside, the students also embraced the opportunity to visit Hampton Court Palace last week. Their passion for History was really evident as they eagerly answered questions on the Tudor

dynasty. My group were particularly impressed by the scale of the kitchens, although they did worry me when they asked if the smokey log fire was CGI!

Talking of celebration, we couldn't write about the end of our year without talking about SJB Day! What an amazing effort from Year 7 this year! Thank you to everyone at home for your help and support; we had fizzy pop fishing; homemade jewelry; sweetie bags and much more! A huge heartfelt thank you to everyone at home for helping to raise funds for the Lourdes pilgrimage and helping the day to be a big success.

Reflecting on the year in full, I cannot believe how fast it has raced by. Into the future I will continue to be very proud of the year group's achievements both at Parents Evening and in school, but also outside of school. It has been my pleasure to hear about their secret talents from World Dance Championships (Well done Isabella!) to Golf Champions and Taekwondo Winners (well done Alex M, Lewis and Alarico!). I look forward to watching them take on their next challenge of school tour ambassadors and helping to showcase the school at open evening (Thursday 5th October)! Wishing you all the best for your bright futures Year 7! Hope you have the best summer and rest up!

By Miss Bates



YEAR 8

It has been yet another busy period for Year 8 in a term that has been filled with whole school events, Sports Day, school trips and subject reward trips. The year group have approached each opportunity with enthusiasm and I am super proud of everything they have achieved, not only this last term but throughout the whole of Year 8.

A highlight of the year for me personally has been how exceptional the students have been when given the opportunity to take visitors to the school on tour. We have had countless compliments and positive feedback from our visitors, particularly regarding the students who have taken them on tours around the school. It has been amazing to see their maturity and ability to interact with both the adults and children they have taken on these tours; skills they have developed for life.

SJB Day saw the outstanding fundraising ideas the students put together come to life and has resulted in a remarkable amount of money raised for the students attending Lourdes. It was more incredible to note that multiple students in Year 8 put in the effort to run their own personal stalls, further increasing the money we raised. Thank you to all parents for your support in this.

I was lucky enough to attend both the zoo trips this term and see our amazing students learning and developing their scientific knowledge of the animals. I know each and every one of them did the school proud in how they represented us.

During this busy term our Year 8s were also given the chance to attend the Year 8 Disco. Some questionable dance moves were on show (mainly from Miss Daniels), but it was lovely to see all the students having a great time. A special thank you to the Sixth Form team for organising the event.

This week we concluded our busy calendar with Sports Day - another fantastic event. Students jumped, threw and ran their hearts out to accumulate as many points for their houses as possible. The Year 8 events were extremely well contested and there was a real sense of community around supporting their peers. The star of Sports Day was Emmy Bell, who ran the 1500m race in her inflatable pig costume we last saw on World Book Day - raising £720 for charity in the process. Well done, Emmy! We're all super proud of you!

Year 8 - it has been a pleasure being your Head of Year this year. I am excited to see your SJB journey continue and wish you all the best for Year 9. Thank you to all parents for your support, I hope you have a wonderful, restful summer!

By Mr Hacker

YEAR 9

This final term for Year 9s has been another outstanding one, with many accomplishments and achievements. The Year 9s have been working hard in their lessons, with the preparations for the start of their GCSE journey well under way, getting stuck into Romeo and Juliet, they were awesome to watch during their workshop at The Globe.

The Year 9s received their final set of monitoring of Key Stage 3 and I am so proud to say that it was a fantastic read. The students have worked so unbelievably hard this year, and this was demonstrated in abundance in their reports.

Whilst this term has been one of hard work, we've also had the chance to come together in different ways at SJB Day and Sports Day and even the chance to get out on some trips! To see the students out of the classroom and interacting differently with their peers is a pleasure to witness and each getting involved in some way. We have also been able to come together as a year group for one final time this summer with our celebration assembly and had the great opportunity to take some students to Go Ape as a reward for their consistent hard work!

I am incredibly impressed and proud of every single student and I am looking forward to September and the opportunity to continue working with such an outstanding year group. I want to thank you for your ongoing support, and I wish you all a restful and happy summer break. The rest is certainly well earned!

By Mr Young

YEAR 10

What a final half term the Year 10s have had! The calendar has been jam packed with many events and, as always, the year group attacked them with dedication and enthusiasm. Our most memorable day was the reflection day where we came together as a group for a brilliant day with Teelow and his JC4me team. A special shout out to Kevin, Philomena and Immi for taking part in the rap battle and to James G for winning hands down! Other events have included the Work Inspiration Day, the 'A day in the life of...' event, a medical workshop to get students thinking about the different careers within the medical industry, and of course, the Year 10 exams. It would be remiss of me to not mention the hard work and effort that went into the preparation for these exams which has been reflected in the attainment in the monitoring and the variety of children being nominated for awards.

Seeing the children at this point of Year 10, ready to step up into Year 11, makes me incredibly proud of each and every one of them and the young people they have become. It has been a pleasure being their Head of Year for the last 2 years, and I can honestly say that working with them has been a highlight of my career. A massive thank you also to you, parents, for your support, trust and guidance. It has been a privilege to get to know your families and work alongside you. Wishing you all a very well deserved, restful, summer holidays and I look forward to seeing the children back in school as Year 11s ready for another incredibly successful year.

By Miss Pailing

YEAR 11

I can't believe we have made it. Year 11 you have done it, and you have done it in style. I cannot express the pride I have for each and every one of you and I cannot express how much of an amazing job you have all done. We were able to celebrate spectacularly during both the first ever SJB colour run, which was a huge success, and also with the Year 11 Prom which was an amazing night. For those of you that are staying with us, we cannot wait to greet you all in September, for those of you going onto new adventures, we wish you the best of luck! Genuinely you have made everyday special and hilarious. Have a great summer.

By Mr Ali

YEAR 12

It has been a very busy but very successful term for the Year 12 students. All of the students completed a valuable week work experience in a huge range of organisations from the London Stock Exchange to the British Heart Foundation, and many local primary schools. They also completed their first set of formal exams since beginning their A-level courses and did a brilliant job in preparing for these with the

help and support of the fantastic Year 12 tutors! The last 6 weeks have marked the start of our Next Steps programme including talks about university and apprenticeships. This will continue into next year, starting with a personal statement writing workshop ready for beginning their applications in September.

They have also been very busy with Silver DofE, helping with student mentoring and careers events, Geography field trips, Biology, History and English trips amongst other things! Everything they have done this year they have approached with determination, resilience, positivity, kindness and with a great sense of humour. They are an amazing group of young people, and every student should be extremely proud of everything they have achieved this year!

I wish all the Year 12 students and their families a restful and well-deserved summer break.

By Miss Clark



Jonathan's JUNGLE ROAD SHOW



On the 3rd and 4th July, we in Year 8 were visited by Jonathan's Jungle Roadshow and it was amazing! We saw all sorts of rainforest animals and learnt about how they survive, just like we had been doing in our Geography lessons, learning about plant and animal adaptations. We saw and learnt about tarantulas, snakes, giant millipedes and more. We even got to hold some of the live animals too! My personal favourite was the Mexican Black King Snake, named Ebony. She was soft and slightly scaly, not at all as slimy as she looked. At the end Ebony even licked my nose! It was really soft and gentle, just like a feather! We loved holding Ebony, and we also enjoyed Jonathan's New Caledonian Giant Gecko. His name was Tiny, and he was so cool. He had clawed feet for gripping onto tree bark, and could even change from a lighter green to a darker green to blend in with trees and leaves. We also got to see him lick his eyeball clean up close (as he doesn't have eye lids), but our favourite part was when we got to stroke his back! It was so soft and felt like a giant marshmallow. I loved Jonathan's Rainforest Roadshow, and on behalf of year 8 I think we all had an amazing experience!

By Tio Andrews, Year 8



GARDENS OF IMAGINATION



Back in September, RHS Wisley Gardens approached me, asking if our students wanted to get involved in their Gardens of Imagination project. However, this wasn't just a gardening project; it was an opportunity for our students to use their voices, skills, and life experiences to create an exhibition for a new space at Wisley. With the aim to potentially change the way thousands of people think about the environment and the world we live in.

Big institutions usually remain the same, but the RHS wanted this project to challenge them. In collaboration with Ada Rose, who creates activist films and other activist creative works, and a small group of our Year 12 students from various subject areas, meetings took place at both Wisley and SJB. During the initial meetings, they explored the theme "What is a weed?" Weeds are often considered

undesirable and unattractive. They are judged and seen as something to be removed. However, who has the authority to decide what or who is desirable or valuable in a society? And are these attitudes changing?

Both Wisley and Ada Rose encouraged the students to engage in discussions, think critically, and express their opinions. The goal was to create something that would be different from any exhibition anyone had seen before. They delved into topics such as nature and why people feel the need to control it, biodiversity, climate change, plants, loneliness, and mental health. They also explored ideas about power and change, questioning whether something has to be "beautiful" or "useful" to be significant.

By Mrs Setterfield



Before the project, we were asked to explain why we believed we were the right fit for the project. Based on our responses, a selective group was formed. During our first session, we came together and explored the concepts of "Weeds" and "Exhibition," which sparked our ideas and set the tone for the entire project. The second session took place at RHS Wisley Garden, where we had the privilege of exploring their gardens and finding inspiration for future sessions. Since then, we have been continuously developing different aspects of the exhibition, building upon the ideas generated during our brainstorming sessions. It has been an incredible journey, both personally and creatively. We are all eagerly anticipating the outcome of the exhibition."

By Daniel Alestrand, Year 12

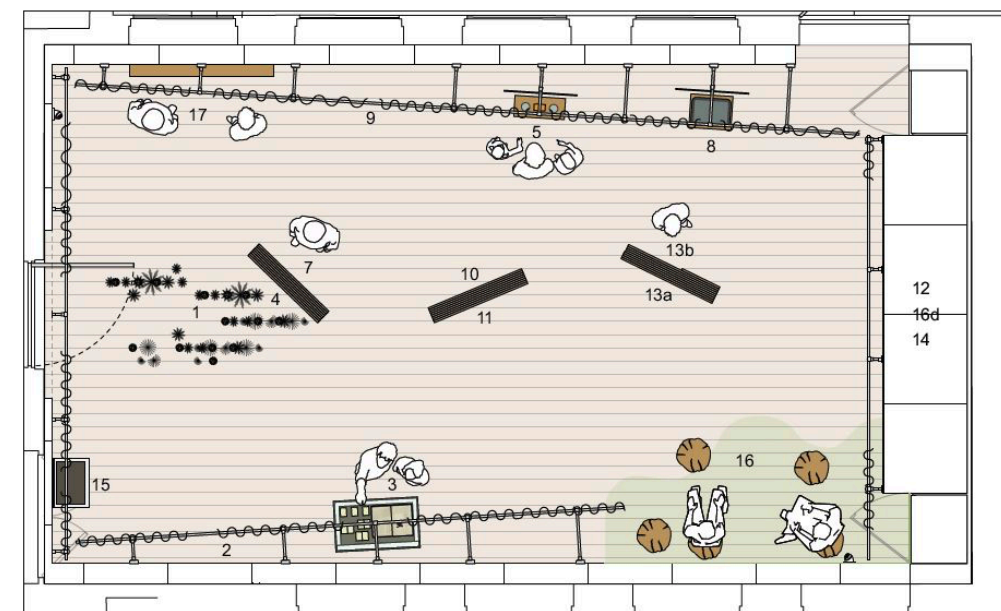
In my piece for the exhibition, I addressed the alarming trajectory of self-annihilation that our society seems to be on. I emphasised the urgent need for change if we genuinely care about ourselves, as well as the well-being of future generations, including our children and families."

Diego Miceli, Year 12

During this project, we delved into various interpretations of what could be considered 'a weed.' Each of us expressed our views through different mediums, such as art, sculpture, or writing. For my contribution to the exhibition, I chose to convey my perspective through written form. I focused on the unrealistic expectations placed on beauty and social norms, highlighting the impossibility of conforming to the standards portrayed as "normal" in society today.

Throughout the meetings, there was a remarkable collaborative energy. While organising the exhibition, we constantly bounced ideas off each other and offered praise and encouragement. This positive and supportive atmosphere was truly uplifting. The entire experience has been immensely valuable, and I hope that it culminates in a thought-provoking and impactful exhibition in September."

By Alicia Manrique, Year 12





On the 13th June, the Year 12 A Level English Literature class went to Stratford-upon-Avon on a Shakespeare trip as a way of helping us with our exam text "Othello" and coursework text "Hamlet". Stratford-upon-Avon is the place that Shakespeare was born and grew up. After a long minibus ride, we finally met up with a tour guide outside of the house that Shakespeare and his family all lived in. The tour guide taught us many facts about this house including that Shakespeare even ended up living in that same house that he grew up in with his wife Anne Hathaway and their children.



The tour moved around Stratford where we even saw that the taxis that went around were named after "Othello" which was very interesting to see. Once the tour was over, it was time for lunch where we had an hour to sit in front of a beautiful river and eat before we continued with our day. For the second part of the trip, we went to the education centre of the Royal Shakespeare Company and met up with a lady named Robin who is a director with the RSC. Here we learnt how "Othello" was performed and how the stage presence can be used to show how

the different characters are feeling. We took part in workshop tasks that Robin does with an acting company when she first meets them and we were even able to do acting ourselves of a few scenes from the play. I think as a class this was definitely the highlight of our trip as it was a very fun activity that brought us closer together. This workshop helped us to gain information that we can use in our essays in class.

Written by Bethany Byrne, Year 12

Online safety tips for parents & carers to KEEP CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE OVER SUMMER

School's out ... for summer! Yes, it's that time of the year again: around six weeks at home for ecstatic youngsters. For many young people, a bumper stint off school means a welcome chance to spend even more time with their games console, phone, tablet or smart TV. So whether your children are likely to be scrolling on Snapchat, nestling in front of Netflix or frying foes on Fortnite, we've put together some top tips to help you keep them safe online this holiday.

THERE'S NO NETWORK LIKE HOME

Teenagers, especially, tend to be delighted to find that a coffee shop, restaurant or shopping centre offers free WiFi. These public networks are much less secure than home WiFi, though, so discourage your child from making online purchases or entering personal details when out and about.



LIGHTS OUT, SCREENS OFF

This is a golden rule: try to limit how much screen time your child has towards end of the day. Staring at the screen of a phone or tablet for too long before bed severely impacts a child's quality of sleep – which can play havoc with their concentration, mood and energy levels the next day.



FOCUS ON FACTS

The internet is phenomenal at spreading gossip. When children of certain ages aren't in daily contact at school, the digital rumour mill can go into overdrive. Remind your child not to believe everything they're told online – especially if the person involved isn't around to provide their side of the story.



KEEP TALKING

It sounds blindingly obvious, but having regular chats with your child about who they're talking to online, what games and apps they're using and what shows they're streaming is a huge benefit. It doesn't have to be every day or even every week, but it can signal potential issues well in advance.



PRIVATE INFO STAYS PRIVATE

It's worth checking your child's social media or gaming profiles occasionally to make sure they aren't inadvertently giving away too much information. Details such as their full name, address or where they go to school could all be used to track them down by individuals with sinister intentions.



LIMIT SOCIAL AUDIENCES

When they're old enough, young people love to broadcast their summer holiday highlights all over social media. The unfortunate truth, however, is that we don't always know who might be viewing this content. Check the settings to ensure that only friends and family can see your child's posts.



DEMONSTRATE GOOD HABITS

Children often learn their digital behaviour from watching the grown-ups around them. So make sure your child observes you being positive and supportive on social media, for example – and, especially, sees that you know when it's time to switch the screen off, even though you're having fun.



WATCH FOR EXCESSIVE GAMING

With no school, children often take every opportunity to fit in 'just one more go' on their favourite game – sometimes at the cost of their daily routine, or having family time. A little extra gaming is to be expected in the holidays, but it could become problematic if it evolves into a recurring habit.



IT'S 'THE GREAT OUTDOORS' FOR A REASON

For most northern hemisphere-dwellers, this time of year is a rare opportunity to enjoy the outside world in pleasant weather. Remind your child how amazing it is to feel the sun on their back and fresh air in their lungs. Disney+ and Minecraft will still be there on drizzly Sundays in October.



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BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

INSPIRING STUDENTS BEAT ECONOMIC WOES WITH ENTERPRISING IDEAS

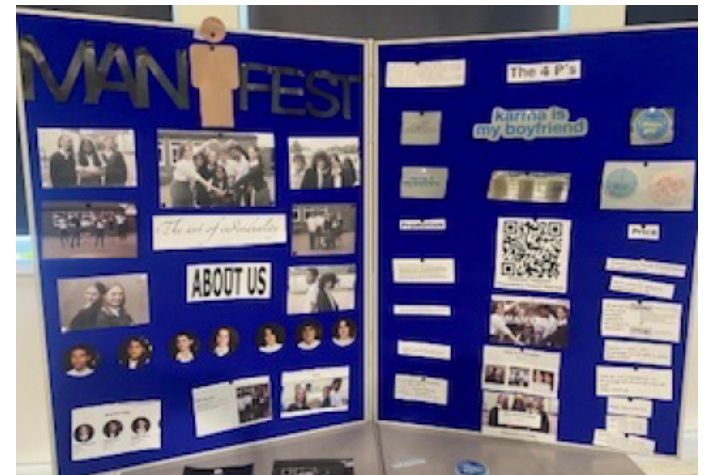


From Left to right: Rodrigo Vargas-Rios, Eoin Gerald, Milly Walker, Christina Amm

Students from St John the Baptist, Salesian (Chertsey), St Andrew's (Leatherhead) and St Paul's (Sunbury) showcased their ideas in a Dragon's Den style business plan competition and exhibition.

With the news dominated by headlines of strikes, cost of living crisis and recession, the positivity and enthusiasm of students from local secondary schools is a real antidote. They dedicated their time and energy to coming up with business ideas to make a difference and meet some of society's challenges with enterprise solutions.

There were some excellent examples of how a seedling idea can sprout legs and gain momentum. Without exception, there were elements from each of the team's ideas and pitches that impressed each one of the Dragons." Commented Head judge, John Daly, founder of "The Engagement Effect". I say this with absolute sincerity - I hope all the budding entrepreneurs who took part feel proud about what they did and achieved. Standing up, presenting their idea and pitching it to people they've never met is not easy! There are adults with many years business



experience who shudder at the thought of doing it. They all gained a great deal of respect from all the Dragons for putting their hat in the ring and getting up there. I hope it has given them the bug of what it feels like to have a great idea, work closely with great people to build a great business and go on to deliver real value to positively impact their customers – and then reap the rewards. It was abundantly clear how much effort, business thinking, teamwork and research the teams had put in.



The evening started with students showcasing their ideas at an exhibition, with each team preparing a stall and talking to guests from the local area about their ideas. It culminated in a Dragon's Den style business pitch where the team presented their ideas to a panel of judges from industry who put them through their paces with a Q&A session afterwards. The panel were from diverse businesses such as Shelley Wilkinson, who is the Finance Director of the Peter Jones Foundation which aims to promote enterprise within schools, as well as Iain Bell who is the founder of Minted Box, a software and web development company and John Daly who is the founder on the Engagement Effect, a Recruitment and Human Resources consultancy.



There were so many great business ideas, but the business winning 'most likely to succeed' was Tichy from SJB School which means "Peace" in Slovak. The team represented many nationalities, from Slovakia, South Africa, Mexico and India but the one thing they all had in common was suffering from exam stress. Their product aimed to use essential oils embedded in a bamboo bracelet to beat exam stress. Team names: Milly Walker, Christina Amm, Eoin Gerald and Rodrigo Vargas-Rios who are in Year 10 at SJB and all study Business GCSE. The Best Exhibition stand went to "Releaf" from St Paul's School for a recyclable water container and snack box, and the best "Pitch" went to "Gifted" from Salesian for their well-being gift box.

By Mrs Phillips

YEAR 10 REFLECTION DAY



At the beginning of June Year 10 came together for a day of reflection to think about their journey so far here at SJB and where they want the future to take them. It was an opportunity to take pause, rest and spend some much-needed time together as a community. The day was filled with prayerful moments of reflection, creative tasks, meaningful group discussions and lots of fun including a guess the tutor line up and an epic rap battle! But the highlight of the day for all the students had to be our guest speaker, Tolu (or Teelow as he is known in the music world), a Christian grime artist who just so happens to be a past student of ours. Tolu and his bandmate Nathan captivated the Year 10 audience with their testimony of how faith has shaped their life, and talked about the challenges of staying true to who God has made you to be when you leave school, and the importance of

recognising every person as a child of God, including yourself! They finished the morning in school with an outstanding performance of some of their music, where even the tutors were up out of their seats dancing, and then spent the afternoon visiting each tutor group and speaking with the students. We are very fortunate to have past pupils who are willing to return to SJB and share their experiences with the current students; it's so important for them to see the successes of those who have been sat right where they are now!

By Mrs Hodgson



LONDON

YEAR 7

TRANSITION

GROUP TRIP



On Thursday the 15th of June, the transition group trip, led by Miss Turner and Mr Rowan, took place. We started our day by walking down to Woking train station at 9:30, bought our own train tickets and then got the train to London Waterloo. When we got off at London Waterloo, we split up into separate groups to buy lunch and snacks for the day.

Our first stop was the London Eye: Did you know the London Eye was launched in the year 2000, it was built by Marks Bayfield architects and takes 30 minutes to go round?

We took some quick pictures and that's when some people had bag issues (including Mr Rowan finding a squashed banana at the bottom of his!) but nevertheless we kept on walking. We stared into the cool waters under Westminster Bridge and took in the view of the beautiful Big Ben and Houses of Parliament. We then carried on walking across Parliament Square and towards Buckingham Palace.

Incidentally on the way, we saw the guards practising drills so we took some pictures and then carried on to the stunning Buckingham Palace. We took lots of

pictures outside Buckingham Palace and we also saw the Tiffany Fountain which we threw coins in to.

By the time we had seen all those landmarks and monuments, we need to re-fuel so we found a quiet place in Saint James' park under a tree to eat. This is where we were 'attacked' by many pigeons and a few geese, but luckily it didn't spoil our picnic lunch.

After that, we started to head back towards Waterloo but that was not the end of our journey! On the way we bought ice cream and saw lots of other famous places. These included: Trafalgar Square, Cleopatra's needle, the Marble Arch and so much more. We then got back to Waterloo at 2 o'clock and got a train back to Woking which arrived at 2:30. After another short walk back to school (through the park), we had finally completed our trip. Although we were a little tired, we had such a fun trip and made many memories!

By Sofia Pugliese and Teagan Tapsell, Year 7



The Year 8 Marwell Zoo experience was certainly very interesting, whether it was the animals and their adaptations, or cheesy zoo jokes. (I went to the zoo and saw a baguette in a cage. I asked the zookeeper what it was, and he said it was bread in captivity!) The most interesting animals were probably the Addaxes. They were fighting and chasing each other around with their massive horns! I wasn't sure if this was okay fighting, it looked more like a territorial squabble. Their horns kept on crashing together with big smacks and a big 'ooooohhh' rippled around my science class. The tiger was absolutely magnificent. It was an Amur tiger and it had deep orange fur and jet black stripes. My favourite adaptation of this tiger was its gigantic paws and pads, designed to let it creep silently before attacking its prey and stinking in its razor sharp teeth and claws in.

SCIENCE AND LEARNING AREA

In the science and learning area, we were able to view some confiscated animal skeletons and skins. The

fact that animals are still under threat is devastating however, from this, we were able to learn more the amazing adaptations of these animals.

SNAKES

Snakes (like pythons and Caimans rat snake), are poached for their skin across the globe. Reptile skin is commonly used to make "luxury" items such as bags, watch straps, belts, boots and wallets. In the science and learning area, we were able to see some skeletons of snakes that had been preserved and were able to learn about some of snakes' incredible adaptations.

We were able to see snake skeletons including their venom-injecting teeth. A venomous snake's fangs are either hollow or equipped with grooved to allow snakes to channel venom from their Duvernoy's gland. This incredible adaptation allows snakes to immobilise their prey before swallowing them whole. Tasty! They have an amazing amount of vertebrae and



ribs. Whereas humans have 33 stacked vertebrae, snakes have around 100-450 vertebrae in their main body and 10-205 in their tails. This adaptation allows a wider range of motion and flexibility. The excess of ribs supports a snake's mobility. As well as this, it allows a snake to consume a meal far wider than

its own body as the ribs can stretch to provide extra room. However, a downside of this is that they are surprisingly delicate as their skeleton is practically a spine with a tail. This means that if they suffer trauma to the spine, they will be paralysed from the injury downwards.

We were also able to see another awesome adaption which snakes possess - their insanely flexible jaws. Most species of snakes, have flexible ligaments (unlike humans) which allows them to loosen their upper and lower jaw to ensure they can open their mouths wide enough to swallow prey even larger than them! Humans can extend their jaw around 26° whereas a snake can open their jaw around 160°

ELEPHANTS

Another animal we were able to view in the science and learning area was the elephant. It is well known that elephants are poached for their tusks, but, in parts of Asia, they are also poached for their skin. The issue of poaching elephants has caused the deaths of around 20,000 elephants a year. We were able to view one of the confiscated elephant tusks as well as a colossal ear as well as a gigantic molar.

Elephants have 26 large, strong, grooved teeth, 2 of which are their tusks. Inside an elephant's mouth, they have 24 molars arranged in rows of 4. This means that whenever they wear a tooth down, the molar from the row behind slides in like on a conveyor belt.

Elephants ivory tusks are essentially just protruding, extended incisors that grow continuously throughout an elephant's life. The tusks help with a variety of tasks: digging, lifting objects, gathering food, stripping bark from trees (to eat) and defence. The tusks are made of ivory which is one of the main reasons that elephants are hunted as ivory can easily be carved upon.

The African elephant has the largest ears of any animal. These serve a distinct purpose. Like many other animals in hot climates, their large, floppy ears allows them to release excess heat from their bodies. This helps elephants as they cannot sweat. Not being able to cool their bodies with sweat means that they must rely on the dissipation of heat through their ears.

SNOW LEOPARDS

Snow leopards are often hunted for their skin as it is thought to be a deluxe carpet which is leading snow leopards to becoming endangered. However, snow leopards in nature have different uses for their skin.

The rosette spot patterned fur helps them to camouflage in the Savannah grasses and trees while the shortness of the hair allows them not to overheat in their hot environment. These are not the only

adaptations that the snow leopards possess.

In their paws, they have retractable claws and strong muscles. Their retractable claws come in handy as they allow the leopards to move silently: their claws do not scrape against the ground as they stalk their prey. Alongside their strong muscles, the claws also bolster their tree climbing ability.

Furthermore snow leopards have highly adapted eyes. As they are hunters, their eyes are forward-facing to allow them to judge depth. They also have excellent night vision to allow snow leopards to hunt at night.

We were able to learn a lot in the science and learning area. Even though it was sad to see animals had been poached, it was an amazing experience as we were able to see the animals so close in person.

TROPICAL AREA

Another one of the areas we were able to see was the tropical area. The tropical area allowed us to see the animals in an environment similar to their natural habitat.

One of the animals we met there was the crested wood partridge. Crested wood partridges are sexually dimorphic which means that the male and female of the species look different. The females are green in colour whereas the males are more blue to black and can be identified by the bright red crest situated which is what gave the species its name.

Another animal we saw was the gecko. Geckos live on all species apart from Antarctica however the one we witnessed in the tropical area was especially adapted to the tropical rainforest. When we visited Marwell, we were lucky to see it eating its natural vegetation. A final group of animals we were lucky enough to see a creep (group) of Egyptian tortoises. They have pale colouring which helps them survive the heat of the desert and also camouflages them. It was also interesting to learn male tortoises are smaller than females but (to make it up) males have longer tails.

To suit the animals, living in the enclosure, the area was very warm and humid. This simulates the environment of the rainforest as in the rainforest, it is warm and humid all year round as the equator runs through it. This made it feel as though we were actually seeing animals in their natural habitat which was absolutely amazing.

By Rosie Bryden and Pippa Pang, Year 8



A couple of weeks ago we were fortunate enough to get invited to go and see the Life of Christ at Wintershall. We were very excited to go and support Mr Bergin who was playing Jesus in this amazing performance. The amount of families and schools who turned up was astonishing and it created an atmosphere full of faith and love as we were all there for the same reason, to celebrate Jesus' life. All of the actors involved were not only amazing actors but also amazing people and were all so fortunate that we came along. We could tell how dedicated they were and how their faith always comes first. But it wasn't just the people involved that was impressive. It was the animals too. Sheep, horses, donkeys and birds all helped to bring the scenes to life!

In the middle of the performance there was a question and answer session where we had the opportunity to ask questions to the producers, director and a few actors. One question that we as a school asked was: Why do you choose to give up your time to perform in the Life of Christ? The answer that we received was

heartwarming and in my opinion sums up perfectly what the whole show is all about. The actor playing Peter replied, "I do it because of the community that it forms and I do it so that I can share my faith and beliefs with all of you." He then went on to mention how he does it with his wife and children which shows how the show is open to anyone who wants to come along, adults and children. Even the audience are really made to feel involved. An example of this is when we were included in crowd scenes; from actually eating bread at the feeding of the five thousand and becoming part of the jeering crowd at the crucifixion. If you haven't been to Wintershall I highly recommend it as it is a very educational and fun experience in a naturally beautiful setting. Thank you SJB for giving us this opportunity.

By Vivienne Townend, Year 9

SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE



On Wednesday 28th June and Wednesday 5th July, the English department took Year 9 to the Globe theatre in London. It was fascinating. We started the day by getting split into groups and meeting our tour guides, who then guided us around whilst explaining some interesting and historical facts.

We learnt that the Globe Theatre we were standing in at was actually the 3rd building of its type; this was because the previous globes were destroyed. The first time it was destroyed was because of a fire and the second was an accidental cannon firing.

The groups were then shown around the main feature of the day: the theatre. We explored inside where we were taught more about the Shakespearean plays that were performed here including Macbeth.

We then went to the second part of the day which was a workshop with our tour guide this was definitely a highlight; we experienced acting for ourselves by reading the Romeo and Juliet script which then brought the day to a really fun end.

By Fern Ezenwanne (9SPI)



SJB DAY

2022



On Friday 30th June the whole school celebrated the Feast of our school Patron with our annual SJB Day (a day in which we raise funds to support the staff and students from SJB that will attending the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes). We started the morning with a beautiful liturgy commemorating the life of St John the Baptist and were reminded of his values of truth, courage, integrity, and service, and the importance of them living on in our school community today. We also heard from our students and staff, who will be serving as helpers in Lourdes, about the significance of what they do to support the sick and disabled pilgrims whilst they are there and why Lourdes is such an important trip to them personally. Next, Mr Granville Hamshar and Mr Kelly kicked off the festivities of the day with the long-awaited return of the inflatable Sumo suits. Watching them make their way down



the aisle and being rolled onto the stage was truly a sight not to be missed! A beautifully chaotic hour of fundraising ensued, and our school playground was transformed into a festival of food, rides, and homemade fairground attractions, not forgetting the ever-popular soak the teacher stall. Seeing the efforts that the staff and students had gone to in order to make the day so special really shows just what a caring and generous community we have here at SJB. Thanks to them all, and the support from our neighbours and families, we raised just over £5,000 to help support our staff and students going to Lourdes. Not bad for an hour's work! Well done everyone, we can't wait for next years celebrations.

By Mrs Hodgson



PEAK DISTRICT

Year 7 Residential



Students had a successful summer residential, with lots of the students across both trips enjoying bush craft! Planning a BBQ over the holidays? Many of our students are now equipped with the skills to light a fire safely using flint and steel, fire strikers and wooden bow drills! Please also ask the children who went on the trip about the mining museum; a new addition this year and a welcome respite from the rain! The students read about the history of mining and the associated dangers of lead mining in England, before many were brave enough to enter the dark tunnels and scale the mining shafts themselves! The hope is students will remember this experience ready for studying the industrial revolution in Year 8.

The trip, despite the traffic, was a success; highlights included Miss Findlay showing the Year 7s they could dance even if there is no routine on TikTok; Miss Tandon's DJ's skills; Water balloon duels between Mr Mander and Miss Bates; caterpillar trains and heads



down thumbs up with Miss Mobbs; storm watching and tracking with Mrs McNeil; Mr Budzynski-Seymour braving the zip wire and Alex's fun facts book! We would like to extend a huge thank you to the staff who surrendered their weekend to help with our summer residential, as well as the staff who organised fun activities back at SJB for our students so they could celebrate their transition year also.

By Miss Bates





YEAR 10 FRENCH TRIP TO ROUEN

The French trip was such an incredible experience! I had never been to France before so I was extremely excited and I must say that if I had not gone with the school, I would not have had half the fun that I did. The French language lessons were so enjoyable and didn't feel like school at all whilst still fully immersing you in French and getting you out of your comfort zone, like the time we had to go to a park and ask people some questions in French! We were a bit nervous but it really rewarding

when they actually understood you. Throughout the trip we were allowed free time around the towns where we could go off in groups and explore the shops and get some treats. My favourite part was going on the carousels in the town centres! I made so many amazing memories and friends on this trip! I would do it again any day!

Vicky Mckenzie, 10EGN

In early July 2023, twenty Year 10 GCSE French students went on the Year 10 trip to Rouen. We were both so excited and had an amazing time. For two of the days we went to French in Normandy (a French language school) for three hours each morning. Personally, we both found this highly educational and interactive since we were given the opportunity to go into the local park and formulate conversations with French people. In addition to this, we explored a beautiful town located next to the ocean, Honfleur. We were very fortunate to have lovely weather whilst we were given a couple of hours to wander around freely, shop and practise our French with the shop keepers. Afterwards, we went to the capital of Normandy, Rouen, which is an old town with beautiful buildings including Cathédrale Notre Dame de Rouen. The following day, we went to Monet à Giverny which was a gorgeous flower garden where Monet, the famous painter, lived. Later on, we had some fun at the bowling alley! The teachers were great at it! On our last day, on the way home, we stopped at a Carrefour hypermarket with many shops where we spent a few hours shopping, eating and having fun! Overall, we made spectacular memories on this trip which will never be forgotten and we highly recommended this trip for anyone in the future years.

By Emma Chan 10KHE & Maya Jose (10GRN/VE)



Hampton Court Palace



YEAR 7 HISTORY TRIP

Hampton Court was Incredible! The Astronomical Clock in the courtyard, the King's Chapel, the gardens and the kitchens, we don't where to start. The location was perfect for our visit as it was a short drive and the scenery was beautiful. When we arrived it was clear that this place was fit for kings. We all lined up in an orderly fashion and were presented with our ticket for the day. Reading the workbook we had been given, it surprised us to learn that two of Henry's wives had been held there before their execution. Walking into the garden, the sheer sights blew us away and the vastness of the space was hard to believe. The maze was so cool and was far better than Chatsworth House from our residential trip and multiple times we got lost much to our friends amusement. After the gardens we arrived in the kitchens of the palace and saw the roaring fire where the king's and queen's food had been cooked. We could not understand how big the fireplace was as it nearly reached the roof. It was hard to imagine the hundreds of dishes that were cooked there every night. Then we saw the clock. Towering over us, it's intricate patterns and wonderful designs. It was hard to believe that it had been made nearly six centuries ago. Then we met our tour guide and she taught us about the lines of royals at this palace. We did numerous activities with her and she made sure everyone was involved. When she took us to the Great Hall, we were awestruck by the art and huge tapestries displayed on the walls and the detailed stained-glass windows. Furthermore, she took us to some of the King's closest quarters.



The smaller the rooms, the more important you were. After a goodbye to the guide and a quick lunch we were on our way to the chapel. This was the highlight of the day for us. Just being in there puts you at a peaceful state of mind. It was fascinating to hear that Katherine Parr had married Henry VIII in this very room. But as we walked past the crown everything just got better. The astonishing detail and its priceless value showed how lucky we were to even catch a glimpse of his headdress. Then sadly it was time to leave all but far too soon. What an incredible adventure.

By Joshua Blackman and Sofia Monterege, Year 7



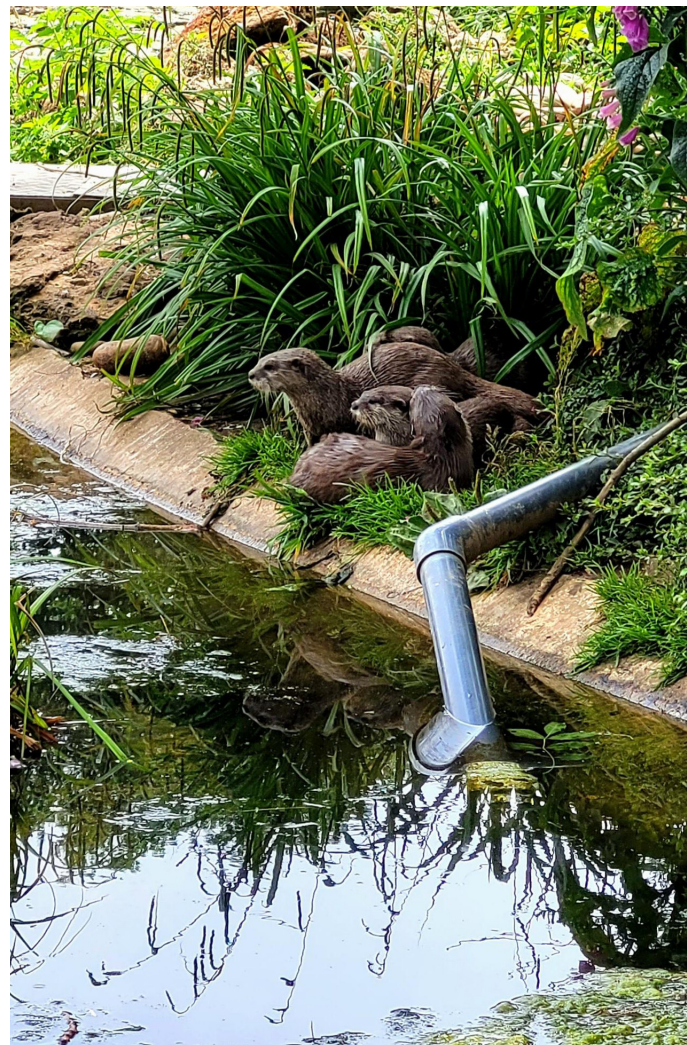


THE A-LEVEL BIOLOGY TRIP 2023

Whipsnade Zoo is most famously known for its association with the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) who strive for the conservation and restoration of wildlife worldwide. Based in the UK, Whipsnade Zoo has been widely recognised for their work in their ground-breaking reintroduction of the Scimitar-horned Oryx. As of now, over 370 Oryx roam in the reserve nearing close to the project's goal. Whipsnade Zoo provides protection of species as well as education for all, which is taught through workshops from ages 5-18 allowing for future generations to experience and learn more about the importance of animals on our planet and spreading awareness of the work modern zoos provide today.

Once we arrived at Whipsnade, we were led to an education room with colourful displays of facts and animals designed on the walls. For the morning, we where we provided activities and talks of the importance and roles of a modern zoo. The work we did reflected the actual work of a Conservationist, this highlighted the importance of their work in breeding programs, ex-situ and in-situ conservation projects but also cooperation worldwide with other societies working towards the same goal.

Following our workshop, we were free to roam around the zoo. Starting from Europe, we visited wolverines, bison, brown bears and penguins. The animals were



kept in quite open enclosures providing space, food and other individuals of their species to interact with. Turning left from the main road, we also witnessed otters squealing and interacting with the visitors, and giraffes as tall as a building sitting majestically on the straw-coloured grass.

Suddenly, our interest was pulled into the Birds of the World Arena, where Scarlet macaws, owls, falcons, African red-billed hornbills flew across the sky above us. It was amazingly explained how Whipsnade had aided in the conservation of these birds allowing for reintroduction and breeding programmes to help the small population.

Our attention was then turned to The Great Whipsnade Railway, where alongside some fellow classmates we explored the wildlife of Asia where we saw Asian Elephants (even a baby one!), Rhinos, Camels, and Oryx. Around the entire zoo, there are a variety of small animals wandering around that are free to roam in an open space. From an ethically point of view this is beneficial for the animal as it allows for them to experience freedom in their environment and doesn't hinder their natural instincts.

Overall, the experience at Whipsnade Zoo was a once-in-a-lifetime experience as it not only spreads awareness of the importance of these species in our world but educates future generations on the importance of conservation of animals, insects, and habitats. Modern zoos are shown not to simply be for commercial purposes but for the benefit of animals across the world that it is our duty to protect.

By Althea Laguisma, Year 12





On the 17th of July 2023, the biggest event of the year at SJB happened; Sports Day. Throughout the morning there were some amazing performances by all students. The competition was really close and very hard to call a winner; to demonstrate this we had two houses (Bosco/Pankhurst and King/Stang) tied on 1,341 points each after all events had finished, however Bosco/Pankhurst ended up winning more events tipping the scale in their favour.

There were some outstanding individual performances such as Dylan Vuurbroom who broke the Year 7 Boys High Jump record with a score of 1.4 metres, Lawrence Sloane who broke the year 7 boys Welly Throw record with a score of 20.45 meters; Sophie Boylan who broke the Year 8 Girls 800m record with a time of 2:18; Liam Trinidad who managed to break two records, one being the 100m where he got 11.12 seconds and the other being the 200m where he got 23.69 seconds, Samuel Afrifa who broke the 6th Form Boys 100m record with a time of 11.46 seconds; Emily Frankland who broke the 6th Form Girls High Jump record with a score of 1.4 meters; and Kirsten Ankobia who broke the 6th Form Girls Long Jump



record with a score of 4.24 meters.

It was great to see the enthusiasm involved in the staff relay, which was won by King/Stang, with Mr Hacker narrowly winning by around 50 meters. Everyone loved seeing a fantastic cheerleading performance, the team did an outstanding job.

A special mention to Emmy Bell who ran the 1,500 meters in a pig costume, raising £720 for the Samaritans and WWF.

The venue, music and atmosphere really raised spirits, which lead to everybody cheering their teams on and thoroughly enjoying the day. Even some really heavy rain showers couldn't dampen people's spirits whilst running through the rain.

By Grace Childs, Year 8



SB Nominations

Every lesson, your teachers aim to nominate at least 2 students who they think have displayed one of our 7 learning behaviours (the Student 7). The learning behaviours are:

THINK FOR YOURSELF, BE INDEPENDENT
COLLABORATE WITH OTHERS
CHALLENGE YOURSELF, DON'T GIVE UP
CURIOUS AND CREATIVE
PARTICIPATE FULLY
POSITIVE ATTITUDE
TRY YOUR BEST TO IMPROVE

Well done to the top nominated students this year:

YEAR 7 - SOFIA PUGLIESE
YEAR 8 - OOSHA DONOGHUE
YEAR 9 - TABITHA EZZARD
YEAR 10 - JESS CORREIA
YEAR 11 - JAMES MANGOLD
YEAR 12 - CASSANDRA CLARK
YEAR 13 - SUALA VAS

A huge congratulations to you all!

By Ms Cavell

Well done to the students who have been able to receive all 7 nominations badges (the star badges)

ALICIA DORRINGTON - 7
DANIEL JACOBS - 7
AVA JONES - 7
SIENNA MITCHELL - 7
JOSHUA ORIGGI FERNANDO - 7
SOFIA PUGLIESE - 7
TEAGAN TAPSELL - 7
TIO ANDREWS - 8

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Once again our upper school students have been given the chance to complete their DofE award.

In Year 10, over 100 students have signed up for Bronze. Each student must complete periods of 3-6 months of learning a new skill, volunteering within the community and completing a physical activity. Alongside this they have trained to complete a two day/ one night expedition. This involves navigating along a planned route carrying everything they need to be self sufficient for the weekend. Option 1 have completed their expedition, while Option 2 are ready to complete their expedition in September.

Our Silver students have just completed their expedition in the New Forest and, despite the sideways rain, had a great experience!

Thank you to all the staff, parents and carers who have supported the students with any of the sections! Please keep encouraging them to finish the job by uploading their assessor reports to the eDofE website so they can receive their certificate.

By Miss Sears



THE MEDICAL MAVERICKS ACADEMY

We were thrilled to welcome the incredible team from Medical Mavericks to SJB. Year 10 students were in for a treat as they participated in a brilliant workshop that left them inspired. The workshop began with an engaging presentation, where the Medical Mavericks team introduced the students to the fascinating world of medicine and healthcare. They shared insights into various medical professions, showcasing the diverse opportunities available in the field. The students were captivated by the team members, who were themselves medical professionals. But the highlight of the day was undoubtedly the hands-on activities that followed the presentation. Medical Mavericks set up interactive stations where students could



explore different aspects of medicine. From taking blood pressure and attempting keyhole surgery to creating their own ECG and even practicing taking blood, our Year 10s were immersed in a world of medical discovery.

The workshop not only fostered a sense of curiosity and enthusiasm among our students but also provided valuable insights into the practical aspects of medical careers. The Medical Mavericks team patiently guided each student answering questions with great expertise. The hands-on activities allowed our students to experience the excitement and challenges that medical professionals face every day.

By Miss Atherton



STUFF

S U M M E R E D I T I O N