

# SMSC “Flying High” Spring 2024

## Gold Seagull

Congratulations to the following Gold Seagull winners:

- Ari Year 7
- Jaydee Year 7
- Paul Year 8
- Sophia Year Year 9
- Nazim Year 9
- Catarina Year 7
- Alisha Year 7
- Jessica Year 7
- Nazmin Year 9
- Sabrina Year 9
- Teodora Year 7
- Chloe Year 7
- Mercy Year 7
- Sadrena Year 7
- Toluwalase Year 7
- Maruf Year 7
- Rio Year 7
- Zoha Year 10



## Gold Seagull Double winner

Leonard Year 7



Ms Keane  
Headteacher

## JRCS Christmas Hamper competition



Incredible generosity was shown by our school community in last year's JRCS Hamper Competition. There were some incredible designs and a huge amount of food bank donations that were gratefully received by families in our local community over the Christmas holidays.

The hampers were delivered to the London Riverside Church on 20<sup>th</sup> December by our Head Students and Miss Hallas.

Thank you to every one of you who contributed last year.

Ms Keane  
Headteacher

## Frosty Fantasy Disco



Year 7 & 8 students enjoyed an evening of fun and festivities at the Frosty Fantasy Disco on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December.

The disco was organised by our fantastic BTEC Business students who also worked amazingly hard to put on the Winter Fair and this event over the last week of the Autumn term.

Students danced the night away to banging tunes and were able to enjoy games and festive treats from the many stalls on offer.

Ms Keane  
Headteacher

## Christmas Family Dining Lunch



The school canteen prepared and served over 800 Christmas dinners to students and staff on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December.

Year 7 and 8 students enjoyed a family dining style lunch with their tutors and friends and the atmosphere in Boothroyd Hall was one of celebration and cheer.

There was lots of singing to Christmas music and students were very complimentary about the delicious Christmas dinner that was on offer.

Thank you to our catering team for all the hard work that went into preparing the feast.

Ms Keane  
Headteacher

## Goodbye Ms Osland!



It is with much sadness that we bid farewell to our Librarian Ms Osland in December who has been with us for the past fifteen years.

She was much loved by her library regulars who threw her a surprise farewell party at the end of the Autumn Term much to her surprise and delight. She is off to retire in France and we wish her the very best.

Taking over from Ms Osland is English teacher Ms Sumsion who has been part of the school since its very early days. As well as taking over the duties of Librarian, she is also our Reading Champion and will be promoting literacy and the benefits of reading via book clubs, workshops for reluctant readers and their parents/carers, author visits, encouraging all students to borrow books regularly from the library and generally making sure everyone understands the value and delight that comes with reading for pleasure.

There will be regular updates, information about events and recommendations from Ms Sumsion in *The Seagull*.

Ms Keane  
Headteacher

## A big thank you to JRCS staff from Reverend Faye Bailey



Every term staff donate food to the food bank which is shared with the church food bank at the end of each half term. The food bank is in the local vicinity of the school and is called The Shed.

The Shed is run by Reverend Faye Bailey at St Alban's Church on Vincent Rd.

This helps so many families in the local community.

Well done staff!

Mrs O'Keefe  
Student Services Manager

## Christmas Hampers



Last Christmas we once again teamed up with London Riverside Church to donate Christmas hampers filled with food bank donations to go to our local community. They were blown away with the generosity and creativity from the students at JRCS. This year we had some incredible entries including snowmen, advent calendars, sleighs, and a moveable Coca-Cola truck!

Students donated dried goods, games, handmade knitwear, books, Christmas decorations and toiletries and wrote heartfelt cards.

Riverside Church said: *'I wanted to send enormous thanks for the donations of hampers delivered before the Christmas break. This generous donation has allowed us to help a number of*

*individuals and families in Barking and Dagenham who are experiencing hardship. It is because of contributions such as yours that we are able to keep our food bank going.*

*Grants to food banks are increasingly limited so we are dependent on the generous donations of people in the community who are willing to help.*

*On behalf of LRC, thank you to the children and families that donated. Also, please pass on our appreciation to the pupils for the huge effort that they put into their hamper designs - they were amazing!*

The competition was especially hard to judge but form winners will be announced in assembly by Heads of Year in the coming week! Well done to all those involved for your creativity and commitment.

Miss Hallas  
Student Aspirations Coordinator

### **Are you a “Black Knight Tango” or “Sicilian Defence”?**



JRCS Grand-Master Chess Tournament started in the first week back after the Christmas break. The last six days have seen students battle in round 1 and 2. By the end of this week there will be sixteen students' left to go through and battle it out next week.

The tournament entry was open to all year groups and an amazing forty-two students signed up to play!

Students have been playing others from different year groups during their break and lunchtimes in the hope of progressing to the final stages.

There have been some very different games in terms of pace and strategy. In a couple of games, it has been down to the last few pieces on the board. It has been a privilege to watch the students develop their play and see some of the amazing sportsmanship between them.

One or two of the games have been quite one-sided. However, in most cases the more confident player has taken the time to offer advice and guidance at the end of the game – great spirit.

Congratulations to all those who entered and played. Good luck to those who are still in the competition!

Updates in next newsletter as the tournament progresses to the Quarter-Final & Semi-Final stage.

Miss Campbell  
Tournament Organiser

### **Careers Fair**



Our in-person careers fair attracted thirty exhibitors such as The London Ambulance Service, Essex and Met Police, BBC, KMPG and UCL, ACCA, DWP, HSBC, Clifford Chance Solicitor, Essex University, Financial Markets Banking, TFL, STEM Engineering, Greenwich University, Derby University, Civil Service, Brunel University, Online Oils, New City College, Amazing Apprenticeships and

Tim the Founder of Burrito Kitchen were present. The aim of the careers fair was to help students network. This event was ideal for those who are unsure of their next step, wanting to find out about careers or wanting to find out about a particular industry.



Each exhibitor had their own stall where students had the opportunity to meet with current employees and representatives to discover vacancies, know which qualifications would be useful for their chosen pathway and what skills are useful.

Every year group had the opportunity to ask questions and find out more about their options such as apprenticeships, vacancies and graduate programmes.

Ms Vincent  
Careers and Pathways Coordinator

### “White Queen to F7... Check?”



JRCS Grand-Master Chess Tournament has been in full strategy. The last couple of the opening rounds were played on Tuesday and the first of the last-sixteen games opened up on Wednesday.

By the time you read this all the last-sixteen games will have been finished and barring any stalemates the tournament is set up nicely for the Quarter-Final games next week.

As the tournament progresses into the later stages, so has the level of concentration and skill required from the players. One slip in concentration can put their King at serious risk or stretch their strategic powers to its limit to get themselves out of the predicament and in the commanding position to Check-Mate their opponent.

Our longest game so far of the tournament has taken over an hour!

Congratulations to all those who entered and played. Good luck to those that are still in the competition!

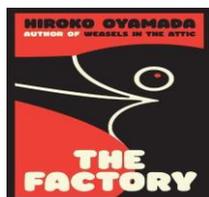
Updates in next newsletter as the tournament progresses to the Semi-Final stages.

Miss Campbell  
Tournament Organiser

### Library News

Here are reviews of our top reads for January.

These books can be easily found in our display in the library so please see Mrs Sumsion if you would like to borrow any of them:



**TITLE & AUTHOR:** *The Factory* by Horoko Oyamada

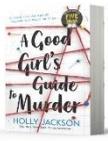
**SYNOPSIS:** Beyond the town, there is the factory. Beyond the factory, there is nothing. Within the sprawling industrial complex, three new employees are each assigned a department. There, each must focus on a specific task: one shreds paper, one proofreads documents, and another studies the moss growing all over the expansive grounds. As they grow accustomed to the routine and co-workers,

their lives become governed by their work--days take on a strange logic and momentum, and little by little, the margins of reality seem to be dissolving: Where does the factory end and the rest of the world begin? What's going on with the strange animals here? And after a while--it could be weeks or years--the three workers struggle to answer the most basic question: What am I doing here?

Reviewed by Mrs Sumsion:

‘This is definitely a show-not-tell type of narrative leaving the reader trying to work out what is this benign, yet also sinister place called the factory? Why do the workers seem unsure as to why

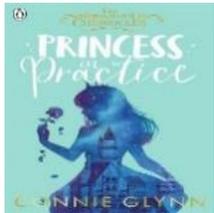
they are there and what their role is? An affecting, sometimes funny and surreal look at the modern workplace.'



**TITLE & AUTHOR:** *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* by Holly Jackson  
**SYNOPSIS:** This exciting thriller follows Schoolgirl Pippa Fitz-Amobi as she attempts to track down the murderer of Andie Bell.

Reviewed by Wania Year 10:

'This book was very interesting as it was exciting as the reader delves into the mystery with many different case files to read.'



**TITLE & AUTHOR:** *Princess in Practice* by Connie Glynn

**SYNOPSIS:** Boarding school fantasy full of intrigue and secrets.

Reviewed by Emmanuelle Year 10:

'This historical action fantasy was a nice sequel which flowed effortlessly from the first book. The series reminds me of a historical fantasy version of Alex Rider, merging both genres beautifully. I recommend this book to those who like the mix of history, fantasy and thriller. There is an underlying theme of questioning identity and sexuality.'



**TITLE & AUTHOR:** *PAX* by Sara Pennypacker

**SYNOPSIS:** Peter is forced to return the fox he rescued as a baby to the wild.

Reviewed by Jessica Year 7:

'A lovely story of a fox being left on the side of the road and a boy, the fox's 'owner' trying to reunite with the fox once he realises what a terrible mistake he has made.'

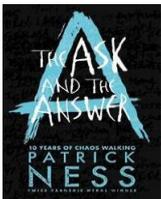


**TITLE & AUTHOR:** *Rising Dragon* by Katie and Kevin Tsang

**SYNOPSIS:** The bestselling fantasy series returns with unexpected water dragons and a deadly battle that could transform Billy, Dylan, Charlotte and Ling-Fei's lives forever.

Reviewed by Abeer Year 7:

'It was thrilling and exciting, very adventurous. After reading the first book I knew I had to read the whole series.'



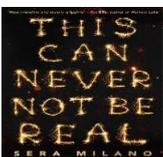
**TITLE & AUTHOR:** *The Ask and the Answer* by Patrick Ness (he wrote A Monster Calls)

**SYNOPSIS:** Fleeing before a relentless army, Todd and Viola once again face their worst enemy, Mayor Prentiss. Immediately imprisoned and separated from Viola, Todd is forced to learn the ways of the mayor's new order. And then, one day, the

bombs begin to explode.

Reviewed by Ariana Year 7:

'I enjoyed this book because it was full of mysteries and very unexpected things started to happen. It was so exciting that I found it really hard to put down. The story is intriguing and full of unexpected twists and turns.'



**TITLE & AUTHOR:** *THIS CAN NEVER NOT BE REAL* by Sera Milano

**SYNOPSIS:** A truly remarkable novel describing a terror attack on a small town from multiple perspectives, *This Can Never Not Be Real* takes dark and troubling subject matter and finds the hope and optimism behind it to create an exhilarating reading

experience.

Reviewed by: Isabella Year 8:

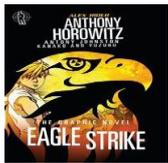
'I really enjoyed this book because all of the characters didn't know each other at first but then they eventually together to fight for survival.'



TITLE & AUTHOR: *Girls in Love* by Jacqueline Wilson

SYNOPSIS: Have you ever been in love? Do you like the way you look? How late can you stay out? Ellie thinks she's unattractive and boring, and that no boy will ever be interested in her. Not like her best friend Magda, who is drop-dead-gorgeous, and Nadine, her equally best friend, who is seriously cool and looks just like a model. Join the girls as they work out how to deal with all the surprises teenage life brings. Sometimes sad, sometimes scary, and often funny, don't miss this unputdownable and hugely popular trilogy for teenage readers by the award-winning Jacqueline Wilson.

Reviewed by Victory Year 8: 'I enjoyed this book because it shows the importance of friendships and spreads a valuable message to young girls of my age.'

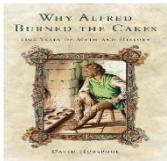


TITLE & AUTHOR: Alex Ryder Eagle Strike by Anthony Horowitz

SYNOPSIS: This Graphic Novel sees reluctant MI6 agent Alex Ryder is relaxing at his holiday home when a ruthless attack plunges him into a world of violence and mystery.

Reviewed by: Jason Year 8:

'I really enjoyed this book because it perfectly portrays the emotions of the main character, Alex Ryder and the problems he has with MI6. It never gets boring with amazing artistry depicting a mix of action and humor.'



TITLE & AUTHOR: *Why Alfred Burned the Cakes* by David Horspool.

SYNOPSIS: When the BBC conducted the Greatest Briton poll in 2002, Alfred the Great was the only king to make it into the top 20. One can be sure that the story of the cakes left to burn in a Somerset hovel by a disguised monarch on the run was much of what the voters knew about him. This brilliant book offers a memorable portrait of a great ruler and the myths that grew around him.

Reviewed by: Dominykas Year 7:

'I liked this book because it had lots of thrilling and interesting moments.'

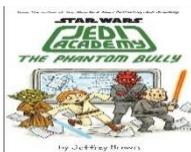


TITLE & AUTHOR: *The Last Bear* by Hannah Gold

SYNOPSIS: Both absorbing animal adventure and subtle commentary on climate change and the plight of endangered species, *The Last Bear* revolves around April, the daughter of an Arctic researcher, and her chance encounter with a lone polar bear.

Reviewed by Poppy Year7:

'I liked this book because it was a little sad with a terrific ending. It really makes the reader think about endangered animals.'



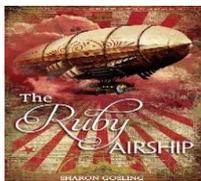
TITLE & AUTHOR: *Star Wars Jedi Academy The Phantom Bully* by Jeffrey Brown

SYNOPSIS: Award-winning author/illustrator Jeffrey Brown returns for the third installation of the NY Times Bestseller Star

Wars: Jedi Academy! It's hard to believe this is Roan's last year at Jedi Academy. He's been busier than ever learning to fly (and wash) starships, swimming in the Lake Country on Naboo, studying for the Jedi obstacle course exam and tracking down dozens of vorkak clones don't ask.

Reviewed by Ifraz Year 9:

'This story was a little weird but very enjoyable with interesting characters.'

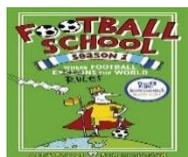


**TITLE & AUTHOR:** *The Ruby Airship* by Sharon Gosling

**SYNOPSIS:** In this action-packed sequel to *The Diamond Thief*, trapeze-artist Remy has left the circus and her life as a jewel thief behind, but doubts that young detective Thaddeus Rec will ever truly trust her. Torn between her new life and her old, her mind is made up when Yannick, a fellow circus-performer from Remy's past, arrives in London. Remy decides it's time to go with him to France and rejoin her best friend Claudette and the circus. But Thaddeus is sure that Yannick is up to no good. He's determined to track them down and win Remy back, even if he has to embark on a perilous journey by airship to do so.

Reviewed by Jason Year 8:

'This book is simply fantastic. It encourages the reader to stop and form images as to what the characters are like, the landscape, the machines. This story is a marvelous mix of genres including romance, action and adventure.



**TITLE & AUTHOR:** *Football School* by Alex Bellos

**SYNOPSIS:** A groundbreaking new series from two bestselling writers that teaches you about the world through football. The first book is packed with awesome true stories, real science and fascinating facts and will make you laugh loads.

When do footballer's poo?

Can you play football on Mars?

What is a magic sponge?

You will find the answers to these questions and more in chapters on subjects such as history, geography, biology, and maths. Illustrated throughout with hilarious cartoons and filled with laugh-out-loud gags this is the perfect book for any boy or girl who loves football.

Reviewed by: Sienna Year 8

'I really enjoyed this book because I enjoy football. It gives a different perspective to the game with lots of fun and interesting facts.'

Mrs Sumsion

Teacher of English



**“Pawns; They are the soul of Chess”**

**Francois-Andre Danican Philidor**

JRCS Grand-Master Chess Tournament has moved towards the end game. In January saw the Round of sixteen take place between the following students.

Maxie Year 8..v..Noah Year 9

Victor-Petru Year 13..v..Vadim Year 9

Toby Year 9..v..Huxtable Year 9

Matas Year 11..v..Dominic Year 9

Armaan Year .. v..Wa Kwan Year 11

Joel Year 12..v..Danny Year 11

Matas Year 11..v..Luis Year 8

Luke Year 10..v..Charlie Year 11

This week is Quarter-Finals Stage.

Victor-Petru Year.13..v..Noah Year 9

Charlie Year 11..v..Harry Year 9

Danny Year 11..v..Matas Year 11

Matas Year 11..v..Wa Kwan Year 11

The last remaining eight students battled it out to make it to the last four and the Semi-Finals.

Games were played on Wednesday & Thursday and duly delivered the thoughtful and strategic levels of chess play one would expect.

Several changes in strategy were required as players matched each other's moves making the overall aim to call "Check Mate" more difficult.

Next week we have the victors of the Quarter-Finals renew their concentration to take on a new opponent to reach the Grand-Master Final.

Semi-Final Games:

Victor-Petru Year 13..v..Charlie Year 11

Matas Year 11.. v..Wa Kwan Year 11

Congratulations to those that have made the later stages of the tournament. It has truly been a great competition to watch and see the different year groups interact and show great sportsmanship. For those that have been on the wrong end of "Check Mate" watch out for Grand-Master 2025! Get practising!!

Miss Campbell  
Tournament Organiser

### **What a show!**

Congratulations to all staff and students who were involved in Shrek the Musical. I was blown away by the talent on show. It was great to see so many students involved in the production. I hope you enjoyed the performance. This is our first show since the pandemic and what a way to start! These are the types of experiences that students will value and look back on and remember once they have left school. It takes an incredible amount of work from both staff and students to put on a show of such quality; a huge thank you to everyone involved.





Ms Keane  
Headteacher

### Sixth Form Diamond Award winner



In February we celebrated our Sixth Form Diamond Award winner Aisha Year 13 who embodied the ACHIEVE principles. Students work incredibly hard to achieve these awards and make the most of the vast opportunities on offer at JRCS and I hope to present many more of these in the coming months. Involving ourselves in the community is one of the ACHIEVE principles and it is important to us that our excellent reputation in the local community is upheld.

Ms Keane  
Headteacher

### Shrek the Musical 2024

The end of January saw the end of our 2024 musical 'Shrek'. Shrek was the first full-scale musical performed after a pause from Covid, since 'Hairspray' in 2017.

Shrek the Musical is a [musical](#) with music by [Jeanine Tesori](#) and book and lyrics by [David Lindsay-Abaire](#). It is based on the 2001 [DreamWorks Animation](#) film [Shrek](#), along with elements of its



sequels. The original [Broadway](#) production opened in December 2008, followed by a tour of the United States which opened in 2010, and a re-vamped [West End](#) version opened in June 2011.

Shrek has an abundance of wonderful, weird, wacky and colourful characters and offered great opportunity to cast a large amount of our incredibly talented students which, as you can imagine, was a very difficult thing to do!

It shared the poignant message of 'what makes us special, makes us strong' and though we may be different, we are united.



Without the work of our fantastic team, this performance would not have been possible. The beautiful set was hired in by the fantastic **SCENETEC** and our amazing costumes were by **COSTUME SOLUTIONS**.

The Shrek team would like to thank Ms Keane for your endless support, our amazing colleagues for your kind donations towards props and extra costume, the DT department for your brilliant additions, the numerous staff who have offered their help in various ways, the Business department for your support with interval refreshments, the site team and cleaners for always being on hand, our wonderful Year 13s who have supported, lifted and taken time out to help and our amazing orchestra for their musical assistance. Thank you all so much!

Our students have worked so hard, giving so much of their time towards making this musical a reality. Your tireless commitment and energy are commendable, and

we can't wait for you to share your talent with the world!

*'Shrek changed a lot of parts about my life, helped me grow not just as an actor but in general, as a person, this musical was a way for me to express myself, it helped me stay positive and bright, especially during the jump from year 10 to 11 and all of the exam stress, needless to say it definitely relieved it all.'* - Louie, Year 11

*'I'm very grateful for every single person who took part in this production to make Shrek the Musical a spectacular show that will be forever cherished in JRCS history. Without commitment, determination, perseverance and resilience, this show wouldn't have been possible. The musical has been a wonderful opportunity given to the school, which allowed me to socialise more during Shrek rehearsals and make new friends. My favourite part of the whole experience is - other than the last show - learning and developing the importance of self-love. We're all different, and that's what makes us united and who we are. I hope we have more successful productions in the future for many years to come!'* - Mmachi, Year 9

*'I helped out in the Shrek musical by being a costume assistant, makeup assistant, prop designer, and with set changes as well. Although I wasn't even in Shrek the Musical, it did make me realise one thing - the process and the making of it, as well as the teamwork, were the most important. And the reason behind this is because I got to experience a bit of each of those 4 roles, giving me an insight of what it would be like, which made me really enjoy this. Not only that, but I was also able to see the other side of all the drama teachers, performers, and everyone else that was involved, experiencing all the friendly teamwork in the lovely and genuine environment.'* - Raminta, Year 10

*'Shrek has brought me joy and self-worth, resilience and the rush of being in stage.'* - Michelle, Year 8

Miss Hallas & The Shrek Team

## An amazing experience for our JRCS social action team.

Our students presented their social action plan based on tackling mental health issues in our wider community, football club (WHU) and our school.

Presented in front of a brilliant panel which included The Head of WHU Academy along with WHU Academy Scholars.



After an intense competition against other schools, it was our students who came out on top and will be representing West Ham at the National Premier League Inspire event hosted at Arsenal Football Club's Emirates Stadium in April.

Very proud of our students



#plinspires  
#winners  
#mentalhealth  
#socialaction

Miss Hallas  
Student Aspirations Coordinator



## “Check.... but still one round to Check-Mate!”

JRCS Grand-Master Chess Tournament has just one more week left before the Grand-Master makes their last move to proclaim “Checkmate” in next week’s final and claims the title of “JRCS Grand-Master 2024”.

Thirty eight games of competitive chess have been played out over the last four weeks with representatives of all year groups involved. Competitors of all experiences have put their best pawns forward and strategised to get to the next round.

This week our remaining four players took their seats to execute the opposition, King. Concentration, study and focus was evident across all four semi-finalists and the ability to be adaptive to their opponents moves, never more important.

Those involved in the semifinals:

Victor-Petru (Year 13) v Charlie (Year 11)

Matas (Year 11) v Wa Kwan (Year 11)

Next week we have the victors of this week’s semi-finals knowing they are just one perfect game away from winning the Grand-Master Final.

## Finalists JRCS Grand-Master Chess Tournament 2024:

Victor-Petru (Year 13) v Wa Kwan (Year 11)

Tune into next week’s Seagull for the unveiling of this year’s CHESS GRAND-MASTER.

Miss Campbell  
Tournament Organiser

# SMSC Year 8

## Year 8

On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January thirty Year 8 students had the opportunity to attend a speed dating style STEM event where students had the opportunity to talk to professionals such as dentists, finance, engineers, and technology employers about their industry and what it takes to get into these careers.

Students engaged with the speakers and really took on board the advice that they were given to assist them in being successful on these pathways should they decide to study STEM subjects.

Ms Vincent  
Careers and Pathways Coordinator

# SMSC Year 9

## Year 9 Dance Workshop



In January Year 9 students took part in a professional dance workshop with an artist from Avant Garde this week. Students were able to develop their technical skills in Hip Hop theatre as well as learn about the companies' piece fagin's twist.

Mrs England  
Head of Dance

# SMSC Year 11

## Year 11 Wellbeing



This week during our Year 11 wellbeing session we had motivational speaker David Hyner in to speak to the year group about being a better you. David taught them a memory technique to help with revision and gave them all a boost of confidence they need to tackle these final few months! #bearhino 🐻



Miss Boulton  
Assistant Headteacher

# SMSC Sixth Form

## First Give Project – The Ben Kinsella Trust

12B are raising awareness about knife crime for their Year 12 First Give project and one way they want to raise awareness is by writing a Seagull article:

### The influence of Ben Kinsella and the younger generation

Ben Kinsella was unfortunately a knife crime victim, one who may have had things he wanted to achieve and accomplish, but his life was cut short at the age of 16 on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2008. This is due to a mistake made by an older group of teenagers who had mistaken him for someone else. The mother of Ben Kinsella has stated that “they just cruelly took his life away with knives for no apparent reason”. This is one of the many crimes that have been carried out by young people.

In 2023, a staggering 50,000 knife-related incidents darkened the UK landscape. More distressing is the revelation that a third of these attacks are motivated by gang and street violence, each statistic representing a personal story of despair and societal neglect.

Recognising the pressing need to combat knife crime, communities, policymakers, and individuals in the UK have joined forces. Crimestoppers' Fearless initiative provides young people with a secure platform to report crimes without fearing retaliation, fostering a culture of collaboration and trust. In a significant move, policymakers have implemented the Offensive Weapons Act 2019, introducing harsher penalties for carrying knives. This legislative step aims to deter potential offenders, sending a clear message that the consequences for engaging in knife-related activities will be severe.

To prevent any further tragic crimes like this, these crimes need to be reduced because if this does not change then our future is at risk. Although crime rates have decreased by 15% by the end of 2022, this does not mean that crimes like stabbings to young people will not occur again. We need to make a change to this and show that we can give young people, a safe place to be and allow them to feel comfortable in their own environment. Taking part in workshops, walking home with other people to feel safe, showing the world how serious knife crime is in social media are all examples of people trying to make a change to eradicate events like these from ever occurring again.

Make a change today!

By Joel, Sahil, Adam & Manuel – Year 12

## Workshop 1 - First Give



Year 12 have been working as Tutor Groups on a project to develop a presentation on behalf of a charity. They have been creating social actions to raise awareness of both the charity and its cause. On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>

January a group from each form will present to Year 12 and a panel of judges their completed project. If the judging panel is impressed enough and declares them as the winning team, then they will get £1,000 awarded to their charity. Later in the year there will be a non-uniform day where the proceeds will be divided between the six charities represented, and more information will be available about the work they do.

## Workshop 2 – Mark Evison Foundation



Mark Evison Foundation came and gave a presentation to Year 12 before Christmas and since then a number of students have been working on project proposals that they will present in order to hopefully get funding to complete the project. Frieda from the foundation has been in a couple of times to help the

proposal progress further and Wednesday this week was the “pre-judging meeting”. It is hoped that six projects will make the final meeting. They vary from Trekking to Computer Gaming, from Cultural Dress to Biking London to Paris.

Miss Campbell  
Deputy Director of Sixth Form  
Head of Year 12

### London Zoo Trip, Psychology



In January, Year 13 Psychology students went on a trip to the ZSL London Zoo. We had an amazing time, learning about animal intelligence and how it links to psychological terms that students have been learning about as part of their course, for example, classical and operant conditioning; with Dane (acting as a Gorilla) being conditioned to change his behaviour to earn bananas!

Students were given the opportunity to carry out their own observations using iPads on an animal of their choice and found some really interesting results. One group even conducted their observation on the four-day old baby gorilla that had been born the Thursday prior - it was lovely to see Mummy Gorilla cuddled up to her baby and showing him/her off to us - certainly an experience none of us will forget!



Mrs T House  
Teacher of Psychology & Social Studies

### Project Proposal Judging – Mark Evison Foundation



We were delighted to welcome Margaret Evison to school in January from Mark Evison Foundation. Margaret set up the foundation in memory of her son Mark to provide small grants to students who wish to create, plan, and experience a challenging project of their interest.

We have worked with the Foundation for over thirteen years and had some amazing previous student projects. We have had a Primary school session delivery about Powerful Women, a poetry book published, a scaled architectural building created a trek along the south downs to name a few.

This year’s cohort has really upped the level of their challenge and we will hopefully see our first international project. We had six groups go to the final judging meeting, more than any previous year.

Of those four of the groups have been given the go-ahead – so watch out for information about a Cultural Fashion Show, A mountainous trek in the Lake District, A new computer game and a Bike Ride from London Eye to Eiffel Tower. The other two projects have got a yes in principle but need to update some of their proposals to get the solid yes – Climbing Ben Nevis and designing & building a radio-controlled car.

A lot of the project will probably take place in July but updates on progress will be shown in The Seagull.

Margaret commented on how good the proposals were and what a delightful, passionate bunch of students she had the pleasure of meeting.

Congratulations to all those that are now Mark Evison Award holders (and will be!). Keep an eye out for future Seagull Articles detailing their progression.

Miss Campbell  
Deputy Director of Sixth Form

## Year 12 First Give FINAL



Year 12 have been working as Tutor Groups on a project to develop and present a presentation on behalf of a charity. They have been creating social actions to raise awareness of both the charity and its cause.

On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January a group from each Form presented to Year 12 and a panel of judges their completed project. The panel of judges comprised of the Young Mayor of Barking & Dagenham, a Senior Social Outreach Worker, Ms Keane (our very own Headteacher), Mikey & Anastasia from Year 13 who had both been part of First Give last year – Mikey being part of the winning group for 2023. Sophie, from First Give, who completed the workshop with the presenters hosted the Final.



Having done the workshop last week to get last minute hints and tips about improvements and impact – the students provided an amazing final bonanza of innovation, information and emotion across all six charity presentations. Each one had a unique selling point and they all stuck to the clear rules about number of slides and slide information.

Audience participation was required in a number of the presentations and Year 12 duly supported their peers by taking part in full effort. Presenters spoke clearly and in many cases without the need for prompt notes! Some groups were colour co-ordinated; others supported their charities T-Shirts.

Closing comments from the judges showed the level of achievement from all groups, Ms Keane has judged over the last few years and was quick to point out that yet again the level of presentation had risen, providing the judges with a difficult task. Mikey agreed that they would have had a tough fight on their hands had his group presented this year.

The groups have supported a wide range of charities in their projects. The six on show were, “NIA” Ending Violence Against Women & Girls; The Ben Kinsella Trust” Stop Knife Crime; “Power The Fight” Empowering Communities To End Violence Affecting Young People; “MIND, Havering” Supporting Mental Health; “Bloody Good Period” Fighting for Menstrual Equality; “Via Subwise” Drug & Alcohol Abuse Support.

Hisham & Lubaba were given the judges award for Individual Presenters for their powerful delivery and passion that came from them for their charities.



The winning group in Year 12 representing “Bloody Good Period” Fighting for Menstrual Equality. Their message was powerful and hard-hitting. It is the first time that the charity has been awarded any funds from First Give.

When the charity came in to speak to Year 12 they were passionate about their role in bringing this plight to the bigger audience. Year 12 has provided over £1,000 to help them do this. £1,000 being the donation from First Give to the winning

presentation and Year 12 also made money via their social action.

A very successful and rewarding project, hard hitting messages have been delivered and awareness raised across all charities represented.

There will be a whole school non-uniform day later this year to further support all the six charities. During the day Year 12 teams will be on hand at information hubs to raise understanding and awareness even more in our school community about the great work these charities do.

Congratulations to all those involved, not just the presenters.  
Fabulous job Year 12!



Miss Campbell  
Deputy Director of Sixth Form

### Year 13

Alice in Year 13 has started her training as a special police constable after being accepted into the Metropolitan police. This is a lengthy process and is the first step for her to enter the career path she wishes to follow. Special constables are volunteer police officers who play a vital role in making London safer. By investing her free time, she has the same powers as a regular police constable, and we are very proud of her for giving back to the community. She will need to complete a 20-week training programme and a minimum of 200 hours annually, equating to 16 hours per month. Specials wear the same uniform and have the same powers and responsibilities as regular police officers and enjoy a variety of roles. She carries out duties such as:

- Responding to 999 calls
- Foot and vehicle patrols
- Tackling antisocial behaviour
- Road safety initiatives
- House-to-house enquiries
- Helping ensure public safety and security at both local and major events.
- Presenting evidence in court
- Taking part in 'hotspot' operations to tackle underage drinking, criminal damage, and nuisance and public disorder.
- Offering crime prevention advice and promoting property marking initiatives.

Congratulations Alice from the Sixth Form team.

## Year 12 Westminster Trip



Our politics class went to Westminster where we were given a tour around Parliament. As we explored each room, we learnt about the importance of the art and statues around the building and we got to go into the House of Lords, the second chamber of parliament. Inside, we learnt about how the Lords get their role and could see the throne the King sits in for the State Opening of Parliament. We also went into Westminster Hall, where Queen Elizabeth laid in state for four days.

During our visit, we briefly encountered the conservative MP Sir Jacob Rees-Mogg. Then, after our tour, we took part in a workshop, where we learnt more about the process of laws being made. Splitting into groups, we then had the opportunity to enact our own parliamentary

debate, taking on the role of the government and the opposition. We debated whether a new law should be introduced lowering the minimum voting age to 16 and came to the conclusion that 16-year-olds should be allowed to vote. Overall, we enjoyed exploring parliament and gained a greater insight into the political history of the government.

Katelyn Year 12

## SMSC PDE

### EuroVoice Trip Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January:



Congratulations to Nathan, Sabina, Sallyann, Valentina, Melisa, Ehizojie, Tamara and Alexia for being selected and taking part in the EuroVoice Workshop and Q&A session.

The European Youth Parliament UK (EYPUK) is a political, youth led organisation that has a mission to inspire and empower young people to be open minded, tolerant, and active citizens.

This workshop allowed these students to discuss/ debate with five other schools on topical issues such as passivism in the media, social class and mobility, vaping, and racial discrimination; this was achieved with confidence and dealt with these topics maturely and sensitively, too.

Well done.

Miss McMillan  
Teacher of PDE



## MP Question Time Experience



Year 9 are currently learning about leadership and took part in a Question Time experience with their Local MP ( Margaret Hodge), the Former Mayor of Hackney (Sudenaz Top), Ms Matin, Dr Jain, Mr Summers and 2 JRCs Student Voice members (Joseph and Elois). The year group took part in an intellectual Q & A session where each form raised their concerns about living in Barking and Dagenham and questions regarding politics and its importance.

Well done!

Miss McMillan  
Head of PDE

## SMSC Maths

### Maths feast competition 2024

Congratulations to the following students for coming second in the Maths feast, which is a national competition in the borough:

Kiera, Tia, Ishmam and Nathan in Year 10.

Miss Fernandes  
KS4 Maths Coordinator

## SMSC PE

### University of Essex Visit



On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January a group of selected Year 11 GCSE PE students and Year 13 A level students were given an elite opportunity to visit the University of Essex.

All students took part in two workshops designed to enhance their knowledge of Exercise physiology and Biomechanics. Within these workshops students were given the opportunity to use state of the art technology which are used in a professional sporting lab.

Students were also able to explore the campus and work alongside university students.

Both the Year 11 and Year 13 conducted themselves amazingly throughout the day and were a credit to the school.

Well done to all!

Mr Howard & Miss Pridie  
PE Department

