

Culture Week 2024









In July at JRCS we shared and celebrated our many diverse cultures in a different way this year. Culture Week 2024! The week was full of celebration and acknowledgement of the broad and varied community we serve as a school as students partook in multiple activities throughout the week.

We asked students to join us in acknowledging their cultures through pins and pictures of a huge world map in the egg. The outcome was fantastic with students pinning themselves in a great number of countries with examples spanning from Tanzania, Lithuania, Canada, Nigeria and Thailand.



On Wednesday we ran our culture day fair in the canopy, sharing music, delicacies, instruments, images and facts about the countries we come from. Bangladesh proved popular with a delicious biriyani. We had scones and cream from the united kingdom, belly dancing scarfs from North Africa, instruments from Albania and clothing from Nigeria. It was a fantastic and vibrant event in which students got to share their culture and celebrate others.

On Thursday we held a Social Time Showcase in which students performed poetry, songs and dances from their cultures. We had Egyptian singing,

dancing from Albania, poetry from Ghana, The atmosphere was electric with students donations going to the Red Cross and Unicef. Well done to all of our amazing performers!

Miss Hallas Students Aspirations Coordinator

Jack Petchey June 2024 Award Winners



A massive congratulations is in order to our brilliant June Jack Petchey winners! These students have been commended for their excellent achievements within school with a Jack Petchey award and have been awarded £300 to distribute to an area of the school of their choice. The students will be invited to attend a celebration event with the Jack Petchey Foundation where they will be formally awarded. These students are so deserving of this award and should be very proud of themselves!

Oakley Year7
Kornelijia Year 8
Samuel Year 9
Luke Year 10
Hanya Year 11
Sadiq Year 11
Maria Year 12
Luisa Year 12

Miss Hallas Student Aspirations Coordinator

ACHIEVE Days

We have had a fantastic week at JRCS at the end of the term. We started with the Year 11 prom. It was a great event and I hope everyone who attended enjoyed the evening! We then had two fantastic ACHIEVE days! Year 7 were busy bringing France to JRCS and also visited Kew Gardens. Year 8 produced some fantastic performances on Dance days. Year 9 enjoyed a variety of music workshops and Year 10 participated in a PSHE and employability day!















Ms Keane Headteacher

OSHL



On Wednesday 25th September we held our annual Out of Hours School Learning (OSHL) Fair under Keane's Canopy. The event showcased all extra-curricular clubs and opportunities on offer to our students ranging from Jazz Band and Amnesty Club to a brand new Geometric Art Club which proved very popular! Students were invited to explore all the clubs available and were able to speak to teachers and sign up to clubs at the stall. An enriched timetable provided every student the opportunity to get involved with before, during and after school clubs. There was a lovely atmosphere created by staff and students and the event was a huge success with lots of students signing up to multiple clubs this year. The timetable for all OSHL activities is attached separately.

We look forward to welcoming your child to as many of these as possible. We know that they have a significant impact on developing a range of skills in young people and we are always looking at developing our programme each term with students encouraged to give feedback.

Miss Bevan and Mr Cully
OSHL Co-ordinator and Assistant Headteacher







Introduction to Law Opportunities



In September students in Year 11 & Year 13 got a fantastic opportunity to hear from trainee solicitors from the international law firm Herbert Smith Freehills.

Students in Year 13 were given an insight into the world of commercial law but, more importantly, hints and tips about what they can be doing now to

make themselves appealing on an application, how to go about applying and, once through the door, how to approach an interview to show themselves off the best they can. Emily, Luke and Emma gave them an insight into the early years as a trainee and how working with a large firm gives them the opportunity to trial in different departments to find out what works for them from Real Estate to Disputes and Employment.

Serena from Graduate Recruitment further added to the insight by speaking about the opportunities and pathways into law, both in terms of HSF but also on a more general level. Later in the day Chloe, Claire, Naimah and Erik took the Year 11 students through their paces. providing an overview to law, the routes they took to get where they are now and the alternatives. Students were divided into four teams later in the session and then given the task to negotiate a settlement for either the individual or the company in the situation they were given. The teams set about preparing their arguments ready for presentation, trying to gain the best they could for their client but also trying to work out what the opposing team may be trying to get.

Once the teams set about negotiating it became very intense and easy to see that settlements might take some time. An untimely fire drill meant they had to leave their chairs, but the discussion carried on out to the lines and back again!

Eventually a settlement was reached in both "courtrooms" – interestingly the individual client came out with a better deal in one, whilst the company got a better deal in the other – what if those two teams had been against each other?

Overall, it was an amazingly insightful day, all students came away with new understanding of what it might be like to go down the law pathway and how they can set about doing it.

I am immensely grateful to the two teams of presenters that came from Herbert Smith Freehills – hearing it from the professionals is so powerful. I don't think they put us on the "fee clock" either!

Miss Campbell
Deputy Director of Sixth Form
Head of Year 13

Wellbeing Club



Last week we launched the weekly wellbeing club again. This runs on Thursdays from 3:05pm-3:45pm in the mentoring hub office. The club is open to all ages and encourages attendees to engage in a range of activities that are all about self-care.

The activities can range from puzzling to colouring, discussions to writing, walking to gardening – there is no limit to what we might try to better learn to take care of ourselves.

Our first week was very well attended and, as you can see from the photos, there were a range of activities going on. We look forward to welcoming more students along to the club and getting creative!

Ms Draisey Senior Mental Health & Wellbeing Lead

Bingo Winners!

Well done to our Summer Bingo Reading Challenge winners, Annelise, Tilly and Ari. They completed all the tasks and provided some wonderful evidence. They have each received a £10 Amazon Voucher.

Miss Sumsion Librarian and Reading Champion



SMSC Year 7

Year 7 Trip to Hainault Forest Park

On Monday 8th July, Year 7 students braved the weather to go to Hainault Forest Park. Students observed the many water birds by the lake, worked together to build a fort from logs, discovered new insects and bugs and climbed on the rope bridge. We were all surprised to see the fabulous view of London from the lookout where we ate our lunch! The students made



friends in the playground and deepened friendships they had made this year.

Ms Lynch Head of ARP

Kew Gardens













"Over the two ACHIEVE Days Year 7 were treated to a trip to Kew Gardens with the Geography department. Kew Gardens has over 50000 living plants across their UNESCO World Heritage site. Students went on the tree top walk, seeing trees from above and imagining what it would be like to live in the upper canopy.

They visited the warm Palm House, seeing tropical plants and experiencing the raised walk ways. The Hive is a sculptural work of art, humming like a bee hive and students walked under and around it. They also had a chance for out door activities in the twelve and under play area. Everything they experienced on this trip will help inform their Geography learning in Year 8, considering natural environments and biodiversity.

Ms Harland, who attended the visits,

said "I have never been to Kew Gardens and I've lived in London all my life. It was so beautiful, and the students were really well behaved." Mr Hassan, who attended on the second day, said "it was really nice actually, I liked the way they merged Art and nature." Mr Bourne, the trip leader, said "these ACHIEVE Days help our students to experience something which enhances their cultural capital. I would like to thank all of the staff who helped out and made these visits possible."

Mr Bourne Head of Geography

Year 7



Well done to our first lot of Year 7 students who have received 25+ achievement points within the first four weeks of this term. Their hard work and efforts were celebrated in this week's year group assembly. Keep up the great work Year 7!

Irfan
Nero
Ayomide
Abi
Tallulah
Layalli
Alessia
Alfie
Maximus
Calum
Nathan
Mohamed
Faith
Mehrin
Prospero
Lilly
Maksym
Shahana
Omari
Mia
Shakina
Jax
Hannah
Hope
Leandro
Daniel
Kai
Brandon
Charlie
Eric
Tingwei
Harley
Eliana
Amena
Serena
Gerardas
Summer-Rose
Muhamed
Guilherme
Rayan
John-Henry

Deilanas
Noor
Kapilan
Peyton
Emis
Dionne
Briken
Ameena
Sienna Annelle
Aima
Alexandra
Cagiva
Archie
Ashanti
Alexa
Daniella
Lily
Sema
Britta
Alia
Hayden
Jona
Sophia
Dovidas
Timothy
Shah Aayan
Fawwaz
Yusef
Chloe
Kieran
Skye
Cainan
Tyrese
Madison
Inteshar

Year 7 Team



SMSC Year 8

Year 8 Trip- Queen's House and National Maritime Museum





On Friday, 5th July, nine students from Year 8 visited the Queen's House and National Maritime Museum in Greenwich. All agreed that a particular highlight was the journey there on the Uber boat. They also enjoyed hearing that the Queen's House had been a gift from King James I to his wife as an apology for losing his temper after she had accidentally shot one of his favourite dogs while hunting!

Mrs Sweeney Teacher of SEN

Year 8



Well done to Sadrena and Esther in Year 8, who produced an amazing poster on Women's Equal Rights that can now be displayed around the school.

Miss Henry Teacher of Business Studies.

SMSC Year 11

Year 11 Prom

On Monday 8th July we celebrated five wonderful years with the class of 2019 - 2024.

The evening was a blast and enjoyed by all. We are now wishing all of Year 11 a restful and well earned summer break. We cannot wait to see them all again on GCSE Results Day on. Thursday 22nd August 2024.





































































Ms Muhidin, Ms Draisey, Ms Boulton and Ms Emeny

Sixth Form

Following on from her piece a couple of weeks ago, Monjola Year 12, passes comment on how young people should view the recent General Election result, and whether there is a change in how the parties are viewing the younger voters?

Will the voting system be the same when the next General Election is called?

Miss Campbell
Deputy Director of Sixth Form

"Monjola's Insights"

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Miss Campbell
Deputy Director of Sixth Form

Sunak out, Starmer in - how should young people feel about it?



An abundance of things is set to be different – as the Labour party settles into Westminster as the majority for the first time in over a decade, and their landslide victory takes its place in the history books. With the driving mantras of the party throughout the campaigning period being 'change' and 'getting Britain's future back', I think it's safe to say that they are not short on expectations or eagerness from the public to take effective and immediate action. I also think it's very necessary then at this time to highlight the immediate link this has to young people particularly, as they will spend most

of their lives in this futuristic Britain which Labour is now set to play a part in creating.

The new government has plans for young people to be better equipped to get into work and grow into careers – signaling that we should look out for a more guided and stable post –18 life, hopefully without some of the pressures of feeling so worried and unready. With the promises of apprenticeships, training or employment for all 18–21-year-olds not in education, young people can look forward to more distinct opportunities and alternatives to university. Also, the worries of young people about financial life as a working young adult should not be as tough as it has been – as discriminatory age bands are set to be removed so that all adults are entitled to the same minimum wage. Concern over local transport being unreliable and expensive is often something to be hopeful to change – as mayors will be given power to integrate and unify transport systems so that journeys are more seamless, and local communities will be given more control over routes and schedules.

Regarding school environments, Labour's plan to recruit 6,500 new teachers in key subjects means young people can be hopeful that problems of shortages of teachers in their subjects will be eradicated, so their learning is more consistent, and the quality of teaching is improved – making them less worried about missing out on learning content effectively. The growing influence of violence and antisocial behavior – is also something set to be reduced as Labour's respect orders for example will ban persistent adult offenders from town centers to protect young people, and have a plan to establish a network of Young Future's hubs as a source of mental health support to prevent them being drawn into a life of crime. These are all just a portion of the changes for young people to look out for and be hopeful for, as their daily quality of life is set to change.

The great margin by which the vote share transpired, has been said to indicate more of a big Conservative loss, than a Labour win – perhaps suggesting that younger generations should get prepared to live under what can be thought to be a more left-wing government, as regular

emphasis has been placed on the Conservative Party need to 'rebuild', including by now former leader of the party, Rishi Sunak himself and this is expected to take some time.

Perhaps now younger voters will take center stage and be more of a focus for Labour along with other political parties, as older voters traditionally been more likely to vote for the Conservatives. Additionally, when trying to understand the changes to the future political landscape that this election has made, we should consider that parties aside from Conservative and Labour achieved their highest number of vote and seat shares in this election compared to the last 100 years. This should draw our attention to the fact that voter support may be shifting away from a traditional two-party dominance, making it possible to predict fragments in the political makeup of the UK in the future.

Monjola

Jeans for Genes



Jeans for Genes is a fundraising campaign aiming to raise money to make a difference for children affected by genetic conditions.

On 26th September 2024, Year 12 and Year 13 students wore jeans in support of the cause. With the help of the Sixth Form staff, delicious baked goods such as cupcakes, regular cakes, and even cookies were provided!



Furthermore, Sixth Form students and staff engaged enthusiastically in the bake sale along with partaking in the raffle for a grand cake. Congratulations to Mrs Hill from reception for winning the raffle!

Overall, we raised £369.12!! A record amount compared to last year's Jeans for Genes Day. This amount will go to Jeans for Genes, allowing them to help individuals and their families with accessing the right support when dealing with life-altering, genetic conditions.

Hephzibah and Blyss Year 13

Monjola Year 13

Welcome to the first of this academic year's articles from Monjola. Monjola is starting her final year at JRCS and is aspiring to enter the world of journalism. She will be contributing regularly to The Seagull with some of her thoughts and insights on what is occurring both around the world, in Britain and more locally in our community. Her insights come from her as a teenager growing in our society...

Miss Campbell
Deputy Director of Sixth Form

"Monjola's Insights"



Is knife crime finally en route to a steady decrease in Britain?

It is fact that knife crime has been concerningly persistent in its attempts to make a dent in our society. For young people, this has been in the form (for far too long, might I add) of a lingering distress of being in the wrong place at the wrong time, with this instantly spiking temporarily after every new case we hear regarding the unfortunate death or significant injury of yet another fellow young person. This problem is unequivocally too far rooted in British society and has heavily affected the experience of growing up in 21st century

England.

Since 2010, knife crime has risen by approximately a third, peaking at certain points across the last decade, including a record high 44,000 offences recorded in 2019, and zooming in to our local

area; 486 incidents took place here between 2022 and 2023. These statistics can paint a concise picture of the large imprint knife crime has in communities across the country, warranting a collective productivity to ensure a consistent awareness of what is going on in our society, which is a foundational step in enacting change. This in turn can help mould a precautious attitude that can gradually play a part in transforming the issue so that it is less and less impactful.

"We will make it a mission for our whole country to halve knife crime in a decade." The words of Labour's Home Secretary, Yvette Cooper, echoing the PM's manifesto promises, have set our hopes high on the matter, and we should look out for fast action and impactful results from our shiny new government. The latest action taken by Labour has been the law that has taken effect, as of last week – the illegality of possessing, manufacturing, and selling Zombie style knives and machetes – aiming to close the loophole on outlawing the weapons. This law follows an amnesty and compensation scheme which launched in the Summer, to try to encourage surrendering of weapons ahead of the ban. It also comes after a newly founded cross government coalition, surrounding Idris Elba and Sir Keir Starmer working

co-operatively with campaigners, victims' families, and young people to tackle knife crime. These steps towards creating safer streets seem overdue and Labour quickly pairing its spoken commitments with action, creates optimism around knife-infested streets being on a steady route to eradication.

The Southport stabbings of July remain a devastating incident and a pivotal trigger in stressing the high priority of the government's responsibilities to intercept the national knife crime crisis. Speaking from the scene, the Prime Minister expressed being "very worried" about the condition of knife crime and went on to assure that "his government will get to grips with it." Words from the Home Secretary reflected this attitude and repeated Starmer's promise of the "moral mission" that is Labour's fight to decrease knife crime. Campaigners saw it vital this translated to" tangible actions" - a view which unsurprisingly seemed shared with Ben Kinsella Trust CEO, Patrick Green, when he told the Independent newspaper it was a "significant statement" from the PM. There is an overarching watchful attitude of the public towards Labour's reaction to knife crime and it is clear his promises have put a serious pressure on his initiatives to produce considerable results. Due to his heavily weighted promises, knife crime can definitely be expected to be a bigger factor than we think in dictating the public's response to this new government, so let us stay alert for perhaps some of the biggest improvements to our knife crime problem yet.

Networked Scholarship Launch Evening



I was delighted to attend the Head Office of London based International Law Firm Herbert Smith Freehills on Wednesday 2nd October. We have developed a great partnership with the firm over the last fourteen years and have been part of their "invitation only" scholarship scheme since the second year it ran in 2011.

You may have read through The Seagull of last year's cohorts' journey from insight days and workshops of their bids to secure one of just five places on the scheme.

The scheme is a four to five year scholarship which looks to support students in their final year at school, help them whilst studying at university and start them on their own networking journey. They do this by providing a mentor, who works in the area that the student is interested in, does not need to be law but does need to be a city-based interest. They meet regularly and also have group events at the London office developing skills and understanding of a corporate world and their own skillset.

After Year 13 exams are completed, the group do a three-week internship at the firm, earning invaluable firsthand experience – and getting two major highlights – travelling to one of the

European offices (usually Paris), then pitching to a significant client of Herbert Smith Freehills – Goldman Sachs!

The support continues with the mentor as the students progress through their university course and there is also some financial support given.



We were delighted that four of our applicants made the final assessment centre this year, a major accomplishment for all of them.

Katelyn, however, went one further and secured one of the five scholarships and I was both delighted and extremely proud to join her and her parents at the official launch event for their scholarship journey.

Congratulations on an amazing achievement!

Miss Campbell Deputy Director of Sixth Form

Religious Studies



Year 12 and 13 A Level Religious Studies students had a fantastic and slightly wet pilgrimage in London on Friday 27th September as they completed the 'Coronation Line'.

They visited twelve sites of religious interest as part of this walking tour exploring ancient sites linked to the church and monarchy. This included the oldest church in the City of London, a church that was destroyed during the Blitz, as well as climbing to the top of St Paul's Cathedral. The students, along with their RS teachers, visited a secret Roman temple to the god Mithras which is hidden under street level. A fantastic, exhausting, reflective and fun day. Well done for completing the mini pilgrimage!

Photo credit: Isabella, Year 13. St Magnus the Martyr Church, Billingsgate.

Ms Brookman Teacher of Religious Studies

SMSC Business

'The JRCS Apprentice 2024 - Task 3:Interviews





In July we saw the candidates go through a gruelling interview process with Deputy Headteacher Mr Smith and the Headteacher Ms Keane. Students had prepared a business plan featuring the idea for the stall that they want to run come September.

Feedback from our interviewers was overall very positive and candidates had held themselves very well, with some ideas that really impressed them and some students that really impressed





them. In the boardroom four candidates were then fired whose business plan stalls included DolcePop, POWER UP and Cookie Bitez. In a shocking twist, two students paired up to make a partnership in order to secure a place in the final alongside the two other candidates.

Next week we watch the final unfold, where the remaining candidates will pitch their stalls to a live audience to be crowned the WINNER of

the JRCS Apprentice 2024. The remaining candidates ideas were Citrus Circuit, Shake It Up and Mindful Ink.

Miss Henry
Teacher of Business and Economics

Year 13 Take to the water and

cause a rip tide!!



Year 13 students headed to Stubbers in September to rejuvenate their energies – ready for the tough academic year ahead.

Students were in eight different groups, and all got to try four different activities. Raft Building went well, mostly, except for group four who never made it into the lake at all due to the fact that as they picked up their frame, the buoyancy barrels slipped out of their bindings – no Boy Scout badges for knot tying there! However, not to be defeated, it became a challenge to see if a buoyancy barrel could support a student, or two, with a paddle – as the wringing out of shirts and

trousers proved... no was the answer!

Other groups seemed more successful and gathered their paddles to cast away for the middle of the lake. Lots of good communication saw many pick up good speeds, stay balanced and enjoy the challenge. Having said that, disembarking proved more difficult than it looked and by the end there were plenty of wet students.





Canoeing proved to be slightly less wet, except for those who were at the front when the canoe was pushed into the lake. Water came over the sides as the canoe went in tip first – with one student falling out completely! Everything was calm and controlled other than that... until the hailstones and thunder struck in the afternoon session. Everyone made it back to shore safely.



Archery saw many hit the target, something we hope they all do with their academic studies this year! Many impressed themselves and also us with their pinpoint accuracy – others need to aim higher!

The last activity was Laserquest. Split into two teams, the groups were given the task of taking out the opposition by hitting a target on their weapon which deleted a life. Once all three had gone, then that person was out for the round. Lots of running, tactical groupings and some random weapons that never seemed to get hit – great fun and much debate about who was the sharpshooter!

Overall, an excellent day of challenge and fun. Without knowing it many students challenged themselves to overcome fears and invisible barriers and were rightly proud of what they achieved. Now to take those learnt lessons and increase self-esteem into our studies and future pathways.

Miss Campbell
Deputy Director of Sixth Form (Year 13)

Year 13 University of Westminster Trip

On Wednesday 17th September Year 13 went to visit University of Westminster as a continuation of their post-18 enrichment and understanding. During July we visited University of Essex to find out what a "campus" looks like; this time we were looking at a "city" university. We coincided with enrolment day at the Marylebone site – so a real sense of busyness and buzz around the building, which happens to be opposite Madame Tussauds.

We heard from two members of their team about putting together the best personal statement and the application process via UCAS, and then another presentation about the financial element – student finance. Both complemented the work done in post-18 week at the end of Year 12 and the student finance acted as a prelude to the talk we give to students and parents in February/March.

The advice of what to say, where to research and how to budget are all key to students progressing along their pathway once they leave us. Whilst we were at a university, it was important information for those thinking of taking an apprenticeship route or going straight into a job.

An excellent afternoon which will help our students stand out to universities and future employers – a big thank you to Ms Vincent for organising the trip and to Caitlin Pedder of University of Westminster for hosting us and creating the programme.

Miss Campbell
Deputy Director of Sixth Form (Year 13)

SMSC DT

Textiles Club











I would like to start by thanking the students that every week come down to DT and give their 100% on what they do, your commitment and dedication are impressive and very inspiring.

Over the term we had few new starters, and it has been wonderful to see the girls supporting each other, demonstrating resilience and resourcefulness, sharing tips and ideas.

I am extremely proud of all textile's students; they all aspire to be their best and engage with the opportunities and challenges new techniques may bring, and It's lovely to see how confident and resilient they all have become.

You are a wonderful bunch to be around, always keep up the good work \circ



Miss MIr Teacher of Technology

SMSC Media

Media









In September Media tried to get #JRCSOpenEve2024 trending during our Open Evening. Parents/carers and prospective students were encouraged to take a photo and share via Instagram, tagging in the school @jorichardsoncommunityschool.

Here are some of the photos taken by staff and helpers on the night. Ms Harland would like to thank Ms Muhidin and Mrs Patel, her fun and enthusiastic media team, and Lacey in Year 11 for her excellent work showing the visitors her media coursework on Photoshop, getting people involved in stating their favourite film, series or game, taking photos and disguising herself as a cat, all in the name of promoting the school!

Ms Harland Head of Media and Film Studies



In October two of our A Level Media students had the opportunity to visit JAMVFX, a visual effects company based in Angel. They spent the morning touring and speaking to professionals in the Media industry. Leeyah and Isabella were "a credit to the school", according to the organisers at ITV Academy. Laura, from ITV, said "They were both fantastic, polite and enthusiastic...

they really enjoyed the session (they looked super engaged and asked questions) and I've told them to contact me about working experience and a potential Dancing On Ice set visit".

Isabella, in Year 13, said "We had to sign an NDA (non-disclosure agreement), it felt really secretive and special. We were learning about the industry inside information". Leeyah said "It was so good you know! We asked so many questions and the organisers were really nice".

Ms Harland, Head of Media at JRCS, said "I am so proud of both of these students, we were lucky to get offered these places and they both grabbed at the two slots, taking the opportunity as it

arose. I'd also like to thank Ms Johnson from Social Studies who created the networking opportunity for this to happen.

Miss Harland Head of Media Studies

SMSC PE

Year 9 Football



On Wednesday, The Year 9 JRCS Girls team won in an exciting game in the Essex Cup putting us through to the next round. Scoring 5 goals in each half and conceding none, we are extremely proud of the girls, and we are excited for the next round of the cup

Come on you Seagulls!

Mr Sengulay-Thomas Teacher of PE

