

# The Seagull



Issue 789 Friday 23rd May 2025

Week beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> June is Week 1

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Cultural Day



## Gold Seagull Winners

Congratulations to the Gold Seagull winners:



Freddy, Emilia, Abi, Eva and Dovidas in Year 7, Tanzir in Year 8, Leyla in Year 9 and Anacleto in Year 11 (pictured above).

Double Gold Seagull winner – Victoria in Year 9 (pictured above).

Gold Seagull winners – Faith, Skye, Nathan, Hannah and Alexa in Year 7, Emma in Year 9 and Gloria in Year 10 (pictured below).

Double Gold Seagull winners – Blessing in Year 7, Emile and Paul in Year 9 (pictured below).



Gold Seagull winners – Ayaan in Year 8 and Henrikas in Year 9 (pictured below)



Maximus and Castiel-Leonardo in Year 7, Victory, Lal, Riana and Mishall in Year 9 and Luke in Year 11 (pictured below).

Double Gold Seagull winner – Britta in Year 7 (pictured below).

Triple Gold Seagull winner – Aima and Adam in Year 7 (pictured below).



Jeremiah and Tsvetelina in Year 7, Hannah, Nadia, Grace, Georgia and Ollie in Year 9 (pictured below).

Double Gold Seagull winners – Miracle and Zane in Year 7 and Victory in Year 9 (pictured below).



Congratulations to all our Gold Seagull winners this half term. It's great to see so many students achieving their Gold Seagulls and upholding the standards of the school. I have been so proud of our students this half term. The way our Year 11 and 13 students have approached their exams has been amazing and I hope they all get the grades they deserve. Our Year 11 prom will be taking place on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June.

## Year 13

This half term I met with all our Year 13 students in their exit interviews. It was a pleasure to talk to them all and receive their feedback on what is working well in the

school and how we can improve. They were extremely positive about the support they received from staff and the fact that staff go above and beyond to help students. They also talked positively about the sense of community we have in the school. They felt a true sense of belonging and that the school was a friendly and safe space. They enjoyed all the extra opportunities and extra-curricular activities and trips and talked fondly about their experiences on ACHIEVE days! It was great to hear about all your plans for the future and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best of luck for the future. Our Year 13 boat party will be held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

### **Progress Evenings**

It was a pleasure to meet so many of you at Progress Evenings - I hope you found them useful. Following feedback from parents we have reviewed our procedures and next year and will provide parents/carers with a map so that they know where different subject teachers are seated. We recognise that the beginning of the evenings were very crowded in the hall which led to long queues. From next year we will be splitting the evenings into two halves and asking parents/carers to attend a session from 3.45pm-5.15pm or 5.15pm-6.30pm dependent on their child's surname. This will ensure we spread the numbers of parents/carers attending across the evening and reduce the number of parents/carers in the hall and hopefully waiting times in queues. Can I thank parents/carers for their patience, and we hope these measures will make the evening run more smoothly next year.

### **School start time 8.30am**

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers of the vital importance of punctuality. Arriving on time to school each day ensures that students make a calm and focused start to their learning, and do not miss out on essential instructions or activities that take place at the beginning of tutor time. Students are meant to arrive in school for 8.30am and have five minutes travel time once in school to ensure students are at registration on time. Some students are arriving at 8.35am and are therefore late to registration. From September the gates and

front doors will close at **8.30am promptly**. Any students arriving after this time will receive a late detention. Please speak to your child to ensure they leave early enough to arrive at school by 8.30am, allowing for traffic delays. Consistent punctuality also helps students to develop good habits that will support them not only throughout their education but also in future employment.

### **Uniform**

Thank you for your continued support with uniform. Uniform is important because it is about creating a sense of belonging and setting a standard. There is no point in having a uniform unless we enforce it. Our uniform is comfortable to wear and is not draconian like some schools. Please continue to support is ensuring your child wears their uniform correctly. Skirts should not be rolled at the waistband and should be knee length; boys should not be wearing tracksuit bottoms or shorts under their trousers and trousers should be worn to the waist. Hoodies should not be worn to school.

### **Upcoming dates**

First day of summer half term 2: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

Year 11 leavers' assembly: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June

Year 13 boat party: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June

New intake evening: Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June

New intake day: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June

Year 11 prom: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June

ACHIEVE Days 3 & 4: Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July

Sports day: Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July (weather permitting).

ACHIEVE Day 5: Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July

Last day of term: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July students dismissed at 12.00pm

There has been a wealth of opportunities available to our students this half term. I hope you enjoy reading about these later in the newsletter.

Ms Keane  
Headteacher





## Media Enterprise Film Trip



On Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April Owen and Cara in Year 10 pitched their Enterprise Film idea to a panel of judges that included directors, actors and film producers. If they are selected, their film will be created and available for viewing at a Vue cinema. We are so proud of how they presented. The level of confidence and maturity that they showed was top notch!

Ms Branch, who took them to the pitch day event and took the photos, said "We should all be very proud of them. They did well." Ms Harland who has been working with the pair on shaping their ideas said, "Creating a unique narrative is really hard and not only did Cara and Owen do this, but they also created a prop book and presented to a panel of five industry experts!"

Mr Cully, lead for Careers, said "I'd like to thank Ms Branch and Ms Harland for all their hard work, this was an excellent opportunity for these students to learn about the creative industries. Thanks, should also go to Mr Cully and Mr Kersey for their help with transport on the day."

On behalf of the Jo Richardson community, congratulations - you are winners in our eyes, and we wish you all the luck with the big reveal, when we hear who has won later in the week.

All the best,

Ms Harland and Ms Branch

## Culture Day & VE Day

On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May our school was filled with vibrant colours, pride, and tradition as students wore their own cultural dress to honour the diversity within our community. This special celebration not only commemorated the end of World War II in Europe but also highlighted the many

backgrounds and heritages that make our school unique. From intricate embroidery to bold patterns and symbolic accessories, each outfit told a story of identity and heritage. It was a powerful reminder that while we reflect on history, we also celebrate the present richness of our multicultural community







event on Main Street and by receiving donations from the recent World Day of Cultural Diversity.

To date, we have raised £1,000. The students in Year 12 did a great job on the day and the younger year groups were able to interact with their stalls during their lunch and find out a little more about the work of the chosen charities.



Thank you to all the students and families who shared their culture with such pride and joy.

On VE Day the school held a two-minute silence at 12.00pm, giving us all a moment to reflect on the sacrifices made for peace and freedom and to stand with all those across the world who still face conflict and fear.

### **Year 12 First Give Social Action Day**

Over the course of this year, Year 12 have been working in collaboration with First Give to make a difference and raise awareness of the work that six local charities are undertaking. They have also fundraised by organising a social action and fundraising

The money will be divided between Adfam who support families dealing with substance abuse, AANCHAL, who support women dealing with domestic violence, The Salvation Army, who work to combat homelessness, The Trussel Trust foodbank in Dagenham, Hope Family UK, who also run a foodbank and clothing bank and Nia, who are also aiming to end domestic violence. All of these charities are doing great work in the community so we are very grateful to all who supported and donated.

Miss Duncan  
Deputy Director of Sixth Form

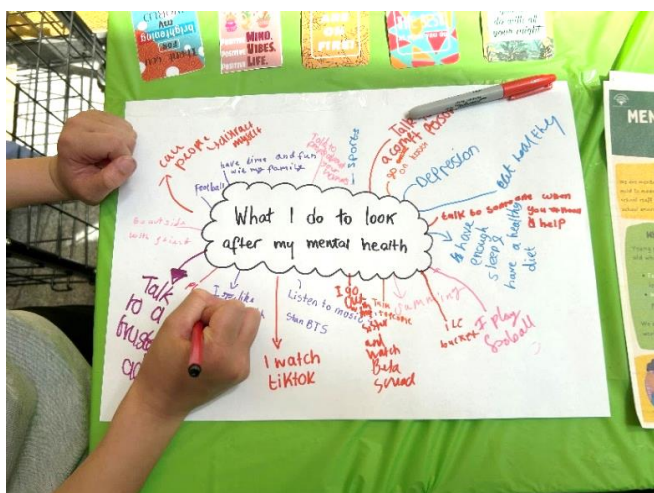
### **Mental Health Awareness Week 2025**

During the week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> May our Mental Health Support Team supported us in



Mental health awareness week is all about recognising that we all have mental health and that we need to work to keep it healthy. Just like our physical health, our mental health requires us to take steps to stay well. The MHST were asking students to reflect on what they do to stay well, and it was fascinating to see all of the wonderful ways students at JRCS take care of themselves and others.

See below for photos of the event!



## Media Animation Workshop

They spent the morning animating and the afternoon creating sound effects and foley sounds to add to their productions. Charlotte said, "This is one of the best days ever at Jo Richardson." Owen said, "It means a lot that we could have a whole day working on our productions." The group have been working together since January and have made a film for the Into Film Film of the Month competition.

As well as the animation day, the group have had a filming day and experimented using a

drone. Ms Harland said "It is great that we have such dedicated and enthusiastic students who enjoy film making. I hope they come back to JRCS for career talks when they are all working in the industry."

Miss Harland  
Head of Media Studies

### **Premier League Inspires, Social Action Project with West Ham United Foundation:**

In the final week before the Christmas break, Mr Pepper delivered assemblies to all of Years 7, 8, 9, and 10. He spoke about a project that is run each year by the Premier League and Premier League Inspires programme. Launched in 2019, the programme uses the power of football to inspire young people aged 11-18 to help them master their potential, to develop the personal skills and positive attitudes needed to succeed in life.

This challenge is designed to help young people to learn about some of the challenges facing their football club and community, exploring ways to overcome these issues. It is an opportunity to help support, develop, engage, and enable young people to make a larger impact to their school and wider community.

The topic this year was all about 'Gender Equality'. In the first week back after the holidays. There were 70 students who had signed up to be a part of this project. This had to be condensed down to 50 and the project was then underway.

The format of the project is as follows...

- Teams of five present a project in which they talk about the topic at hand and some of the research they had done into it.
- They then had to come up with an idea as to how they could create positive change with an action / event that they organise.
- Ten groups then presented their research and ideas to the other groups and four judges, including an external representative from West Ham.
- At the end of the presentations, each group got to vote on the two groups

other than their own that they thought done the best.

- The two teams that ended up with the most votes would go onto represent Jo Richardson at the regional round of the event at West Ham United academy training ground.

<b>Group 1:</b>	<b>Group 2:</b>
Alexia – 10I	Chinidu – 8H
Bethany – 10F	Fabio – 8H
Gloria – 10I	Jamal – 8J
Millicent – 10I	Joshua – 8H
Sabrina – 10I	Muhammed – 8J

The two groups above were nominated by their peers and moved onto the regional round of the event as the school's representatives.

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February, both groups went on a trip to the academy training ground and presented their projects and research to a panel of esteemed judges, including the Head of the West Ham United Academy, two academy players, a senior club representative, and a Premier League Representative. With other schools in attendance with their own project ideas and research, the competition was on.

The event was fantastic and included some visits from special guests including Nicole Farley and two West Ham Women first team players.

Club quote – Madi Hooper:

*"We were really impressed by all the hard work and dedication shown by all the groups in this year's challenge. The panel were really amazed by the creativity, teamwork and confidence each team displayed while presenting the importance of gender equality. It was really inspiring to see the students step up, work together, and deliver such impactful ideas. Well done to all."*

Staff quote – Mr Kersey:

*"We are all so proud of all the students involved in this project from the beginning and want to thank them all for their willingness to participate."*

After a lot of deliberation from the judges, they did have to select one team to represent the club at the national event this year at Wembley Stadium...

And the winners... of the regional round... were... JRCS Group 1!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!  
After continuing to work and develop their project, the group created a video that was shared by the club to promote their plan to help with gender equality. They changed their name to the Inequality Strikers and set their targets on striking out inequality and promoting gender equality within their local community and beyond.

Soon, they went and represented JRCS and West Ham at the national finals at Wembley Stadium. They put their project up against the best that all the other clubs could offer from across the country. While we await the results, it is safe to say that those involved in this project have done themselves, the school, the club, and the community incredibly proud. The main purpose of this project is to facilitate opportunities to encourage young people to make a positive change on larger scale issues. It helps them with their confidence, as well as other personal and professional life skills, all of which were achieved by the amazing students involved.

Please see the video link and a link to some relevant articles on this topic inserted below...

[From Classroom to Wembley: Jo Richardson Girls Inspiring Change](#) (Video)

['Premier League Inspires makes me feel like I am helping people'](#) (Article)

Mr Pepper  
Community Hub Officer.  
West Ham United and West Ham United Foundation.

### London Youth Achievement Awards



On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May Maryjane and Mia in Year 12 attended the London Youth Achievement Awards at City Hall. Mia was shortlisted for the Community Action Award for everything that she has been doing to make the

streets of Barking and Dagenham safer for young people.

Maryjane won her category - Outstanding Achievement Award - which was presented to

her by Andrew Boff, Chair of the London Assembly. She was highly commended for the charity work that she has done, raising significant money for Race For Life and also for her resilience.

Maryjane suffers with Limb Girdle Muscular Dystrophy Type 21 which is very rare and debilitating, but Maryjane has not let this stop her from working hard towards her GCSEs and now A Levels or from doing a range of extra-curricular activities. The girls are an inspiration, and we are thrilled for Maryjane to have won the award - thoroughly deserved!

Miss Duncan  
Deputy Director of Sixth Form

### “Checkmate” in an enthralling Grandmaster Final

After weeks of pawns going on the attack and knights riding in to protect their King & Queen, it came down to the two final chess players in the JRCS Chess Tournament 2025 - Noah Year 10 against Wa Kwan Year 12.

A much-anticipated final was played on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March. Throughout the tournament both players had been clinical in their approach and were aggressive in their attacking play. Each knew the other would jump on any error and were therefore thoughtful before making final moves on the board.

As the pressure mounted, both players looked to take control of the board and force the other one into more risky moves or to knock them off their pre-planned strategy. It was so tight all the way to the final stages, when Noah took advantage of the difficult situation, he had placed Wa Kwan in. This seemed to be the key turning point and saw the balance tip in Noah's favour.

The handshake came as Wa-Kwan's King had to surrender to checkmate.

An enthralling final between two top class chess players, both of whom played with a high level of skill and sportsmanship.

Overall, a fitting finale to an amazing tournament. The questions have already begun about next year's tournament!



Congratulations to all who competed, to those who made it through to later stages, to Wa-Kwan for getting to the final (for the second year running) and obviously to Noah for being GRANDMASTER 2025.

GrandMaster Finalists 2025:  
Noah Year 10 v Wa-Kwan Year 12

GrandMaster JRCS Chess 2025  
Noah Year 10

Miss Campbell  
Deputy Director of Sixth Form

## Music

On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May the music department held a small recital for KS3 students to perform in front of an audience for the first time. All involved did incredibly well and we are so proud of the hard work they put into perfecting their pieces. Congratulations to you all! Next stop, Summer concert.



Miss Cummings  
Music Admin Assistant

## National Championships



In May Hannah in Year 7 represented team GB in the UK championships and won!!! She is competing in Greece soon for team GB in the world baton twirling championship.

Miss Emeny  
Head of Year 7

## The Essex Boccia Championship



On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April the Year 7 Boccia team represented JRCS at the Essex Boccia

Championship. The team had a great day and showed fantastic sportsmanship. The team were unlucky to be knocked out in the quarter finals and overall came 4<sup>th</sup> in Essex. Well done to all involved.

Miss Pridie  
Second in PE

## East London Dance Competitions

Skye in Year 7 competed in class C Novice Own Arrangement Solo and came 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the East London Dance competition. Well done!



Miss Emeny  
Head of Year 7

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