



# SMSC “Matters”

## Autumn 2021

### SMSC General

#### Exam results!

Congratulations to our A Level and GCSE students who achieved fantastic results this Summer. Below is a selection of results achieved by our students along with some of the exciting destination.



#### KS5 results:

Clare achieved A\*A\*A and will be studying English at Cambridge.

Nathan achieved A\*A\*A\* and will be studying

Astro Physics at Birmingham.

Abigail achieved A\*A\*A\* and will be studying Psychology at Kings College London.

Tiana achieved A\*A\*A and will be studying History at Birmingham

Lauren achieved triple distinction star in Health and Social care and will be taking a gap year.

Lauren achieved BBB and will be studying Criminology and Law at Leeds Trinity University

Abu achieved triple distinction star in Business and has secured a place on a degree

apprenticeship at BT

Fesal achieved triple distinction star and secured a place on a degree apprenticeship with Amazon



## GCSE Results:

Sammi Nine 9s and an 8  
Gloriane Nine 9s and an 8  
Mayowa Seven 9s , two 8s and a 7  
Luisa seven 9s and three 8s  
Adiyat one 9, five 8s, 7 and two 6s.  
Darcey one 6, four 5s, three 4s, two 2s



Ms Keane  
Headteacher

## The Island Day

On Thursday we had our Year 7s in for their first full day at JRCS and what a fun packed day it was. Our Year 7s were set the task of surviving on a desert island with only their wits and each other for help. They were put into challenging situations throughout the day in various subjects. Situations that would require them to show resilience in overcoming any problems, being resourceful and creative with the materials they had at their disposal and respectful when dealing with their classmates and members of staff. There was also the opportunity to reflect on the day and how it went. They had a chance to meet their form tutors and some of the staff who will teach them in Year 7, but more importantly they got a chance to work with the members of their form for the first time.

What was really amazing during the day was to see how our Year 7s threw themselves into every session they did. We had students making rafts in DT, spaghetti towers in Maths, team building and problem solving in PE, harvesting clean drinking water in Science, communicating via the mediums of sound and dance and many more interesting activities. The effort and work throughout the day was so impressive with some of our students receiving their very first letter of commendation, which will be on its way soon in the post. All in all, the day was a great success and the Year 7s really enjoyed their time.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to the members of staff and departments who offered to run a session, our Year 10 peer mentors and to the Year 7 team for their support throughout a stressful and tiring, but worthwhile, day. Most importantly, I'd like to thank our newest year group to the school, the Year 7s, for their patience, energy and spirit that made the day a success.

Remember the journey we started, how we felt at the beginning of the day and how that changed by the end! Continue to think about how you can improve and what things you need to change in order to do so.



Lastly, well done on your first day at Jo Richardson!

Mr Gaudoin  
Director of Learning Mathematics and Numeracy

### **Congratulations PC Halleron**

I must take this opportunity to say a huge congratulations to our school's Metropolitan Police Officer, PC Halleron, who this week was honoured as Schools Officer of the Year (London East). PC Halleron, one of just 32 Schools Officers to be honoured out of more than 400 across London, attended a ceremony at the New Scotland Yard where his hard work as part of the Safer Schools Partnership was recognised by the Metropolitan Police Deputy Commissioner. I have included some pictures of PC Halleron in his full uniform at the commendation ceremony, looking very smart indeed. We thank PC Halleron for his continued support of our students and for all the work he does to keep JRCS students safe.



Ms Keane  
Headteacher

### **Hello Yellow**

On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October it was World Mental Health Day and to mark the occasion in school we joined the Young Minds initiative to wear yellow. It was a joy to look down Main Street and see hair scrunchies, headbands and scarves in all shades of yellow. My favourite yellow items being Ms Keane's bright yellow socks and Mr Glover's highlighter yellow trousers!

Alongside wearing yellow, we had Mrs Richardson and our wonderful student Wellbeing Team out on Main Street spreading awareness by:

- Handing out bright yellow stickers to fill the school with yellow
- Creating bunting by asking students to write down how they look after their wellbeing (pictured)

- Laying out cakes and biscuits in the staff room for staff
- Getting students to complete challenges to spread positivity such as, giving someone a compliment or smiling at a friend

As we continue to strengthen our approach to wellbeing in school, we are working on how we support young people at school and home. As part of our work to support students at home, we have developed a new section of our school website entitled, The Wellbeing Hub. Here students, staff and parents can find useful information on how to maintain positive wellbeing, what can affect our wellbeing and how to seek more help for mental health concerns.

Here's to positive wellbeing for all members of the JRCS community and if you have any ideas on how we can continue to tackle this issue, then do get in touch!

Our Year 12 and 13 students went all out!

Check out Ms Keane's socks with the wellbeing team.

Mrs Richardson, the Wellbeing Team and the start of our 'How to keep yourself well' bunting!

Ms Draisey  
Head of Year 10 & Mental Health Lead  
odraisey@jorichardson.org.uk



### Planet Super League

A sustainable diet is one that is generally healthful and has a low impact on the environment and food supply. Adopting a sustainable diet can help maintain an individual's health while also making sure the planet has enough resources to feed future generations.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> September, the Premier League came to visit Jo Richardson's Year 7s. 17 students took part in a Planet Super League Workshop where they focussed on sustainability through nutrition. The workshops included case studies on footballers such as Hector Bellerin and Jesse Lingard who have recently taken on healthier diets and seen a positive difference in their performance and daily life. The students were able to identify healthy foods and their benefits and then create a weekly diet plan as a Sports Nutritionist. The 17 students will be visiting West Ham United's London Stadium to see first-hand how footballers and professionals operate in a sustainable fashion.

Mr Thomas  
West Ham Foundation Community Hub Officer

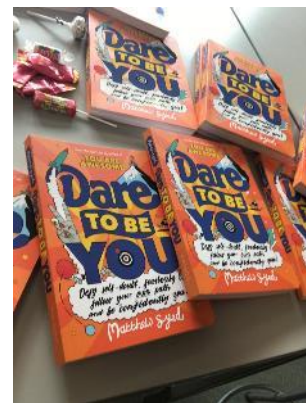


### JRCS Pride and Allies

Pride and Allies had a wonderful surprise in October! Ms Osland, the School Librarian, donated 20 books, "Dare to Be You" by Matthew Syed, to the group for students to keep. This book is also available in the library for any students wishing to take it out and have been distributed to wellbeing leads around the school for redistribution. "Dare to Be You" is a book to help young

people stop worrying about fitting in, with the blurb reading "There's no such thing as 'normal'." Written by Matthew Syed, a table tennis champion, and Kathy Weeks, a mindset transformer.

The book is designed to help young people believe in themselves. These books were given to the library by Bouygues and have been distributed to students who may need extra support with self-doubt or need confidence with being able to express their true selves. Ms Harland, lead teacher for Pride and Allies, said "Thank you so much to Ms Osland! I am reading this book too and I'm finding it an inspiration. Anything that can help our students feel confident and happy being themselves is great in my book!"



Pride and Allies meet on Wednesdays in MS2 - email Ms Harland for more details.

Visit the library for more inspirational and life changing book choices!

Ms Harland  
Pride and Allies Lead Teacher

### Divine Year 10



We are delighted to announce that Divine has been called up to join the England U-15 Football Training Group. Divine joined the other selected players at the England Team's main base at St George's Park during the half-term week. It is a significant achievement which all at JRCS wish him success with and is a reward for his performances with West Ham's Development age groups since he joined JRCS.

Mr Kersey  
Pastoral Support Assistant

### Trewern 2021

Students from Years 8 and 9 were lucky enough to go on the school's first residential trip since re-opening after the pandemic. They had an excellent week at Trewern Outdoor Education Centre in Wales and were extremely busy with their daily activities of mountain walking, gorge walking and canoeing.

The students came back tired but rightly pleased with their achievements and over-coming the challenges they faced.



Well Done!

Ms Lynch  
SDD Department

## Anti Bullying Week – One Kind Word

15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> November there was a range of activities happening in school to support Anti-Bullying Week and the 'Be Kind' theme.

Monday was Odd Socks Day with students and staff celebrating what makes us all unique by embracing and joining in with the theme of the day. At breaks and lunch our student wellbeing team, along with Ms Keane handed out Anti-Bullying and Be Kind stickers. Also this week we launched our 'Be Kind' bingo to students and staff. Each card had 12 kind acts of kindness on them for everyone to try and complete. Our Year 10 mentors also delivered an Anti-Bullying assembly to all of Year 7 and though a bit anxious they did an amazing job, well done!



Students and staff also wrote a pledge stating the act of kindness they are going to try and do to help someone else, not only for this week but for the future as well.



Mrs Richardson  
Senior Lead Mentor

## Year 11 Head Students

We are delighted to announce the successful candidates for our Head Student and Deputy Head Student positions in Year 11.

Huge congratulations to Head Students Amidat and Mohammed and Deputy Head Students Joseph and Safa. We had such a strong field of applicants amongst the Year 11 students, but these four stood out for their confidence, self-expression and professionalism. They have been part of a stringent selection process involving interviews and a public speaking challenge whereby all shortlisted candidates presented to younger year groups in assembly this week.



I am confident that all four will do an excellent job of representing the school, and look forward to working with you both in your roles.

Well done to everyone who applied, you also really did yourselves proud and have gained crucial interview and self-presentation skills by taking part in this process.

Ms Keane  
Headteacher

## Gold Seagull

Special Congratulations to Keyra in Year 9 who has won the first Gold Seagull of this academic year.

Also, congratulations to Ayen and Barimah both in Year 9 who achieved their Gold Seagulls in December.

Ms Keane  
Headteacher



## London Riverside Church - Christmas Hampers

Many thanks to our brilliant students and families for your generous donations towards our Christmas hamper collection. Each year group went above and beyond to provide essential items and Christmas treats for families in need, creating wonderful Christmas displays on Main Street with their hamper boxes on Wednesday. Here are some photos of all their hard work: well done everyone!





Ms Keane  
Headteacher

## SMSC Year 7

### Summer School 2021

We were absolutely delighted to see some of our new Year 7s join us in Summer School. Our theme of Celebrating Diversity was a success as students took part in fun, educational activities including dance, arts and craft, identity, teambuilding, film making, social skills and sports sessions!

We are so pleased to see that this fresh start at Jo Richardson has led to new leaps of faith in confidence and friendships forming between our students. Our new Year 7s also exercised their independence in making their own lunches and performing in the Summer Showcase. Here students showcased their crafts, sports skills and ended with a great dance performance!



We have no doubt our Year 7s will take on further opportunities and put their best foot forward for the rest of the year.

Ms Matin  
Head of Year 7



# SMSC English

## 'Much Ado About Nothing'



In July, Miss Smith's English class, 8J, took part in a performance of Shakespeare's 'Much Ado About Nothing'. They wrote their own wedding vows and sonnets to read out, as well as wore costumes to re-enact the wedding scene. It was a lovely end to the year!

Miss Smith  
English Department

## Black History Month

This year to celebrate Black History Month, I would like to share a poem written by one of our very talented students at JRCS. BHM is an opportunity to understand Black histories, racism, and slavery, as well as bring to the spotlight Black achievement. BHM is so important as it allows us all to have a continued engagement with history and reflect. This student has engaged and reflected through writing poetry! Happy reading:

*We came so far,  
A time your grandparents were still young,  
when a black man's freedom was a song not yet sung,  
A time when a man's colour spoke 'volumes'  
Anything but white he was silenced...  
We came so far.*

*We follow the steps, our forefathers once trod,  
As they walk on the path they crafted for us.  
Living in a reality, where generations forever dreamt of.  
Soon one's colour of their skin is not judged but their character,  
Activists, freedom fighters, inventors, politicians, who may be gone nameless, but whose impact  
we see today.  
Our thoughts and prayers are with those, who sacrificed, who shed blood, tears in pursuit of  
equality.  
It is not wise to dwell on the past but always to hold appreciation for the past sacrifices  
We came so far....  
We should not harbour grudges or mistrust during Black History Month but pay respects and  
honour.  
A future yet so bright and young.  
Where our children can venture through their history,  
The battles have yet to be won but the warcrafts have not yet sailed.  
We still have a long way to go.....*

*By Vinna - Year 10*

Ms Raihana  
Teacher of English

## BLM Poem - By Amy Year 10

Roses are red, violets are blue,  
We are all flowers beginning to bloom.  
Over the horizons spreading like life,  
We don't hate,  
We need to fight.

Black lives matter.

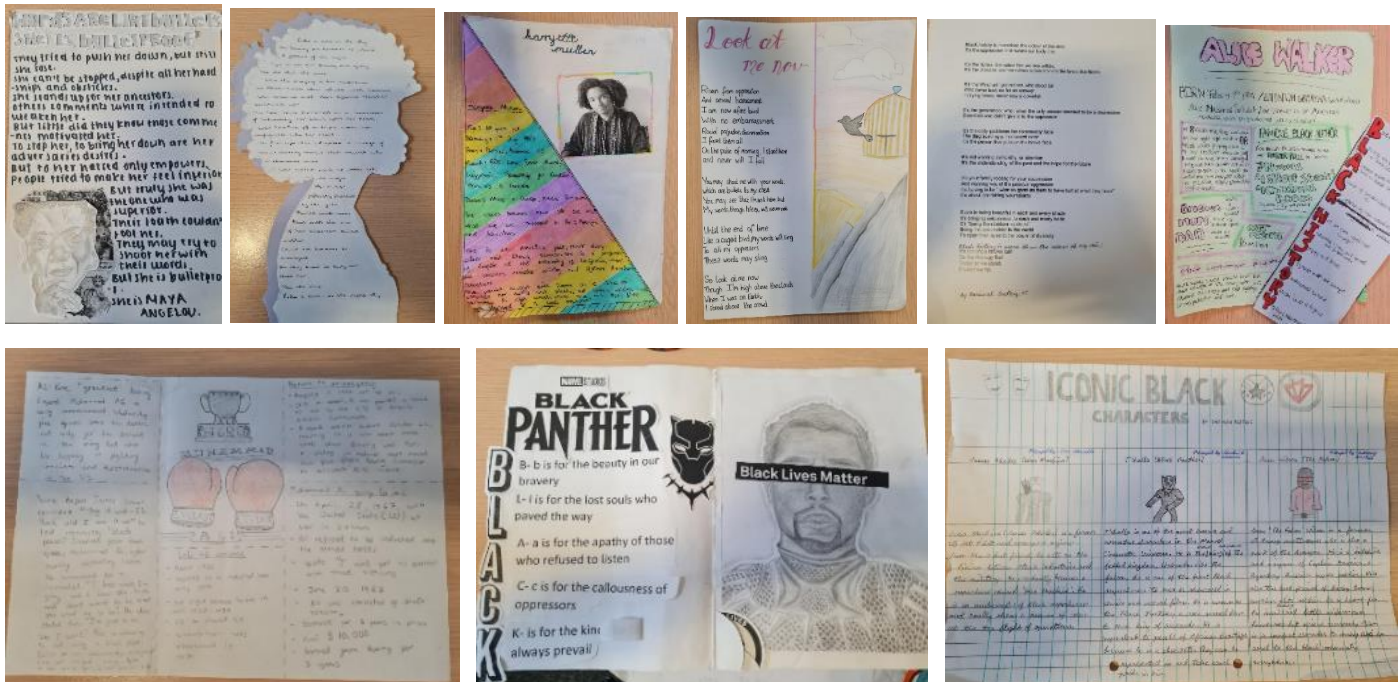
We need to listen to what people have to say,  
Here are some words from the heart not the brain,  
"I support all lives,  
We all deserve to thrive.  
We are all the same on the inside,  
We should not feel like we must hide."

My blood is red,  
Your blood is red,  
Speak from the heart and not the head.  
We are all the same,  
But when you speak evil words it causes great pain.

We all want to live our life best,  
At the end of the day we're all laid to rest.

## Black History Month

9J1 English made some brilliant creative responses to Black History Month. Students were given the opportunity to share the skills they learned for creative writing last half-term and respond in any form they wished. They researched different figures to inspire them in their writing. Winners of the class competition include Barimah, who submitted a powerful poem, and Divine, who submitted a beautiful piece of art and a poem.



Miss Smith  
English Department

# SMSC Sixth Form

## Seven Sisters Trip Report!



The trip took a lot of prior preparation, which gave us valuable life skills. The document itself with the plan for our journey went through many re-drafts. Finding the cheapest possible train tickets and making sure the timings were appropriate also took a lot of time. Finding insurance seemed almost impossible, but we managed to do all these things in the end. We did other things for preparation such as first aid training and going to the gym, learning to map read etc. In order to prepare for a seven-hour

walk, we even walked from our school to Westfield, which took us about three hours. It gave us an idea of the kind of pain we would be in on the actual walk! (yet was still fairly incomparable).

On the day of the walk, we met up at Asda to do some shopping. We decided to take a bit of water in our backpacks, but we felt it would be more manageable to bring large bottles of water inside a small suitcase that we would take turns pulling around. After we took the train, we got to the beach, which, in hindsight, we spent too much time on. The walk was a lovely experience and a physical challenge. The weather was quite hot, but thankfully, it was manageable. It was a series of going up and down cliffs, the person carrying the luggage at the time found it the most difficult. However, what enabled us to continue cliff after cliff was each other and the persistent support we provided one another through either funny chants or words of motivation.

We encountered our second challenge when we came across a lake which separated where we stood and where we wanted to go and, in our instructions, it mentioned a bridge that we could not see from where we were so after asking some locals, we found it was a two mile walk away from the cliffs (to and back). What we found particularly challenging was that there was no pathway, so we had to swat our way through the almost knee length grass. We had very much underestimated the time (and energy) it would take to get across but it was a challenge indeed! Finally, we reached the bridge and we crossed and walked all the way around and reached a car park at Seven Sisters where we had our lunch and a resting time. We continued to walk and completed the challenge, walking up and down multiple cliffs.



There were more random holes in the ground than we expected, and the highlight of our trip was when we decided to run down one of the hills, and one of us tripped and fell, and when another one went to help, they also tripped and fell! It was also satisfying to see the very cliff that we used as the front cover for our planning document.

The initial plan was to walk from Seaford Station to Eastbourne Station via the Seven Sisters Cliffs and take the train home. We thought we had given ourselves plenty of time to finish the challenge, however, it was coming closer to the time of departure for our train, and we were having trouble finding the station (and getting to town in that case!). We realised we wouldn't make it to town in time. We considered taking a bus, but that didn't work out. We tried calling an Uber, but there were none available. We called a local taxi service, and after a long struggle with low connection, calls getting dropped, disagreements, wrong addresses, the driver was finally able to locate us. We missed our train, but the train man at the station allowed us to get on the next one, after explaining our situation.



Towards the end of this trip, during all this commotion, there were tears, shouting and arguments – It was a very stressful experience. However, we believe it only strengthened our friendship, and we all understood that it was nothing personal. We all learnt a lot and grew as individuals, as well as enhancing our team working skills. We became very close with each other and helped each other throughout the day with endless conversations whilst hiking and some games whilst enjoying the beautiful scenery and embracing the warm atmosphere. All in all, it was an outstanding experience, and we all learnt a lot. Despite being in agony the next day, we all wish to go back and repeat this experience or do something similar. We are extremely grateful to the Mark Evison Foundation for this opportunity!

Visit our fundraising page: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/trip-to-seven-sisters>

Bridget, Ashvini, Anika, Honey and Shaikha Year 13

### Mark Evison Project Report

The Mark Evison Foundation kindly sponsored our group to undertake a project to explore the functionality and artistry of a car engine.

Our group were united by an interest in cars, this made us feel like we ought to take on the challenge first hand to truly experience how the engine in cars work. We would tear apart the engine to the individual bolts and nuts and then put it back together, and then we would take it apart to spray paint just the engine block. We would then go on to make it into a flower pot and donate it to our school to put in the Sixth Form Garden.



We planned to get in contact with many garages and scrapyards to find and buy cheap engines that we could disassemble. This proved to be easier said than done. In the end we managed to secure help and guidance by a close associate who owned Khalsa Motors Garage. They were very generous and handled the acquisition and all the logistical necessities. Our plan was to initially spend a day on the disassembly and rebuilding part and the 2<sup>nd</sup> day was when we would prep and paint the engine block. However, during the project certain screws and bolts had to be broken, we also noticed that a camshaft was broken in half. When we finished the 1<sup>st</sup> day, we had only separated the engine block from the cylinder head. The head houses all the rods and linkages which open and close the valves to allow fuel and air into the concealed combustion chamber (where the fuel and air react). For the 2<sup>nd</sup> day our plan changed and we decided to remove the crankshaft and hammer the pistons out. This will leave us with just the engine block. We were able to prepare the metal and spray paint it that noon. Over the course of two days a lot

had happened including changes we made to the plan. This experience taught us a lot including team working skills; delegation and of course the main reason being to teach ourselves about how the internal combustion engine works.



During our project, our group was able to develop a range of lifelong skills like resilience through the process of spending many hours cleaning every corner of the engine to ensure as much grime and grease had been removed to ensure the spray paint apply effectively. We also developed a strong teamwork ethic with the ability to work cohesively as a unit by ensuring we all equally contributed to removing various parts of the engine and ensuring everyone had a chance. Good time management, flexibility and adaptability meant as a team we were able to complete our project in the predicted two days allowing flexible time management.

Through this whole amazing and eye-opening experience understanding in key depth how an engine fully operates to the various mechanical tools needed to take apart the engine have built strength and courage within us as a team to gain better insight into the world of engineering and innovation. As a team we have enjoyed every moment growing as individuals and exploring new passions allowing us to learn from each other along with developing our own personal skills in the process.

Ayaan, Daniel, Jonjoe and Rama Year 13

### Jeans for Genes Day

Well done to our Sixth Form team who organised and ran a successful Jeans for Genes Day on Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Sixth Form staff baked a range of delicious cakes to sell in school, while our Sixth Form students sold raffle tickets and each contributed £1 to wear jeans to school for the day. A special mention to Ms Ma'ani for her spectacular four-tiered home-baked extravaganza, this year's raffle prize (pictured below). The donations are still coming in, and we will confirm the total amount raised in next week's Seagull. These funds will make a big difference to the lives of children and families living with genetic disorders.



## JRCS Friday Mentors

I would like to say a huge thank you to the wonderful Sixth Formers who have taken the time to mentor our students in JRCS's peer on peer mentoring scheme. They have been exceptional by guiding our younger students with their studies and have made excellent tutors. Thank you for giving up your free time; the students and myself really appreciate it.



Mrs Way  
EAL Co-ordinator

## Year 13's Trip to Stubbers

On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September, Year 13 all went out to Stubbers for a day of team challenges, team building and problem solving. It would be remiss of me to say that it was an eagerly awaited trip by all as there was definitely some reluctance to heading out of school for the day but the mood quickly changed as students got involved in the plethora of activities available at Stubbers. Stubbers is a local outdoor adventure centre that runs activities for school groups, but families are welcome to use the facilities on the weekend or holidays if time slots are booked in advance. Our sessions included stand up paddle boarding, which was trickier than it looked, and was often more like kneeling paddle boarding; the students said it was quite challenging trying to balance on the boards so there were a few falls into the water.

Additionally, there was rock climbing, raft building, army assault course style team challenges, thinking skills team challenges, rifle shooting, archery and outdoor laser tag. The activities were all really good fun and ultimately the students really appreciated being out of the school environment, pulling together (or splashing each other depending on what group they were in) and spending some quality time with friends. For me it was great to get back out on a school trip, the first for the Year 13s since the pandemic, and learn away from the classroom. If you read this and look at the pictures and decide that you would like to go, the Year 13 students advise to stretch beforehand!



Miss Duncan  
Deputy Director of Sixth Form – Year 13

## Herbert Smith Freehills Scholarship

On 4<sup>th</sup> November I was invited to an event hosted by Herbert Smith Freehills as part of their 'Networked Scholarship Scheme'.



HERBERT  
SMITH  
FREEHILLS

This was my first opportunity to visit their office since being selected last year and it was great to finally meet the other four scholars and meet my mentor who I have been working with for quite a while now. Following a delicious lunch and discussions with our mentors a quick networking session began and was the first opportunity to build meaningful relationships with professionals in our desired careers. In the session four trainee solicitors gave up their time to answer our questions which centred around their backgrounds and pathways to becoming a solicitor. Although the session was only 40 minutes which meant we had limited time with each trainee, the insight they gave me was invaluable receiving advice for applying for training contracts when the time comes. The overall experience of being in an office environment and taking in the culture at the firm was incredible. I am looking forward to my next visit which will be nearer to Christmas for their Christmas Social, another networking event.

Good Luck to all Year 12s who apply for this year's programme.

Reece Ward Year 13

**GT** GARDINER  
& THEOBALD



This Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December, I attended a skills workshop, I wanted to learn more about being a part of project management. I was surprised to find out this opportunity would make me interested in the construction industry. There were four visitors from Gardiner and Theobald, an independent construction and property consultancy.

During this workshop, the visitors taught us different skills which would help in future interviews and careers. We were shown the best methods of presenting ourselves to interviewers and how to be the best candidate they see.

One of the activities was a presentation in groups. This was a good activity as it was helpful to receive feedback from professionals who have been in the industry for a while. I am glad I came to this workshop as it broadened my understanding of the range of jobs there are at firms, and what different jobs are available.

Maisie Year 12

## SMSC Year 9

### Congratulations

JRCS would like to congratulate Eva in Year 9 for her achievements last weekend at the National Archery Championships. She won two Gold medals in separate competitions for her age group. She is an inspiration to all those around her and we wish her all the best in her upcoming training for future competitions.

The Year 9 Team



# SMSC PE

## Netball News



On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October the Year 7s had their first netball match against Goresbrook School. Due to excellent commitment this term we were able to take 16 Year 7s. This is the first time we have entered two teams into a competition and this is a fantastic achievement. All girls showed lovely sportsmanship and played really well considering this was their first netball match. The girls were triumphant due to excellent shooting from Rosie and Tegan.

Well done to everyone involved.

Miss Pridie  
PE Department

## Under 16 A Netball v All Saints



The under 16 A team had their first competitive match of the season against All Saints. During the first quarter the girls took some time to settle into the flow of the game, however due to some fantastic play from the defence, the ball was over turned numerous times to allow the attack to successfully score. The first half ended 7 – 6 to All Saints.

During the second half the attack stepped up and some excellent balls were fed into the GS, played by Lola. Successful shots were also made by Soraya whose speed and agility made it tricky for the GD to mark. Unfortunately, the match ended 19-15 to All Saints however the girls should be proud of the effort they put in.

Miss Emeny  
PE Department

## Girls Football Festival

On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November West Ham Ladies offered our girls free tickets to watch their Woman Super League match against Reading Women. The result finished 2-2 and was an amazing experience for our girls to watch.





Then on the following Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November, Jo Richardson hosted five primary schools from in and around east London and Essex in a Year 5 and 6 girls football festival. 20 of our students from Year 7 to Year 11 were present at the festival carrying out many roles such as hosting, officiating, coaching, mentoring, and supporting the primary girls which the young girls really appreciated and leave Jo Richardson with new older friends.

The 2-day event was then topped off with guest appearances from four professional footballers Grace Fisk, Lois Joel, Tameka Yallop and Katerina Svtkova and finally all given West Ham scarves to stay warm through the winter term!

Well done girls!

Mr Thomas  
West Ham Foundation Community Hub Officer

### Year 7 Netball

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November the Year 7 netball team travelled to Eastbury for their first league fixture of the year. All girls played exceptionally well. It was a very close game with great attacking play from Rachel, Rosie and Tegan. Unfortunately, the game ended 2-1 to Eastbury. Player of the Match goes to Gloria (7H) for her fantastic efforts as a goal defence. The Year 7s' next game is on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December against Barking Abbey.

Miss Pridie  
PE Department

## SMSC Science

### Science Club

Recently, Science Club kickstarted our firework month with flame tests. Students tested different chemicals to find out what to use in their colourful firework product to design their firework packaging.



Well done to Zara from Year 8 who produced the best firework packaging and to our volunteers Delya, Noor, Chloe and Radville from Year 10 who led the week's session with confidence

Miss Tasnim and Miss Akhtar  
Science Department

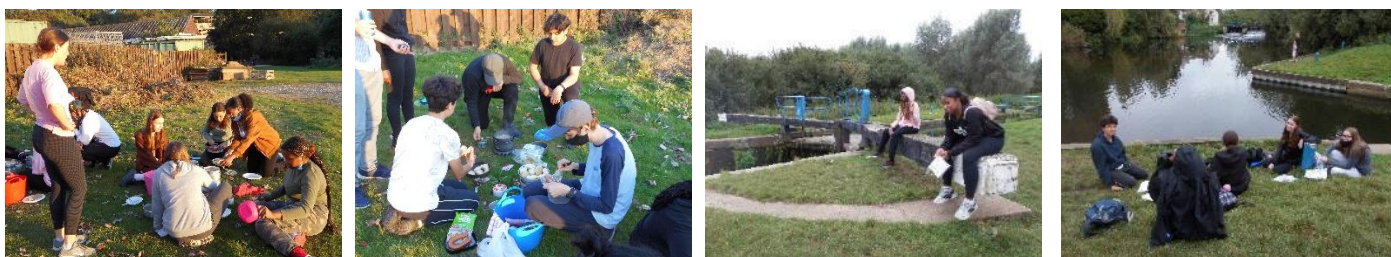
# SMSC D of E

## DofE Autumn News

### Year 10 Explore in Danbury

The last weekend in September saw twenty-one Year 10 Bronze DofE students and five staff heading to Danbury for the start of their expedition training programme. Having attended some basic skills training earlier in the week, the students had no problems putting up their tents, and assembling their camping stoves to cook dinner. I was impressed with the care that the students took learning how to safely light and cook on the stoves, and dinner of pasta and sauce got the thumbs up. After dinner and once it was dark, we explored the camp site and found the campfire circle. Once the fire got going, there was campfire songs and yells and even a bit of dancing, followed by marshmallow toasting.

Saturday dawned with the campsite shrouded in mist. The students were up at 7:00am cooking a breakfast of beans and sausages. Once the vans were packed, the students divided into three groups to set off on their seven-mile walk. They were also joined by Daniels and his mum Jelina. Mr Kilminster's group was Alex, Nikhil, Murtaza, Sam, Chloe, Alina and Precious, they were complimented by him on their excellent teamwork and enthusiasm, apparently, they even had a team song! Miss Matin's group were Abie, Priscilla, Barakat, Ife Vinna, Maya and Asharni. They walked so fast that Bill missed them for their first water stop, well done girls on keeping up such a good pace. Last but by no means least was Miss Hunt's group, Daniels, Summer, Aimee, Katelyn, Tiesha, Zubin and Theo, who came back clutching a load of onions that apparently fell into the road off the back of a passing farm lorry. I want to commend this group for their brilliant resilience as early on they got a little lost in the woods and so probably walked eight miles instead of seven.



Thanks to everyone involved in the weekend, to the students for their respect for the staff, good behaviour, and for being such great ambassadors for JRCS and especially allowing everyone to get a good night's sleep on Friday night, and to the staff for their brilliant support of both the students and I.

Good luck to the students as they continue with their expedition training each Tuesday after school, preparing for further expeditions in April and May.



Ms Montague  
DofE Manager

## Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Award

Congratulations to all the following students who have been successful in applying for the Duke of Edinburgh Award: Robyn, Kofoworola, Hamza, Alexandru, Diana, Adriana, Rom, Honeymae, Shalewa, Ashley-Ray, Shalom, Emmanuella, Sophie, Michael, Isbaaq Majid, Ibrahim, Harpreet, Hollie, Lacey-Mae, Lily, Marline, Enoha. The first meeting for this group will be next Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 3pm – 4pm in SD4. There will be a second meeting 3pm – 4pm on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November.

I look forward to meeting the new Year 9 group next Tuesday!

Ms Montague  
DofE Manager

# SMSC Design & Technology

## Year 10 re-designing Becontree

In September, a Year 10 Design and Technology class generated great ideas for the redesign of a Gale Street Junction. They collaborated with Nintim Architects who ran an ideas workshop as part of their Becontree Forever project 'Squaring the Corners'.

As a class we walked to the junction and the architects, Mhairi and Jack, lead us in a site analysis. We thought about how the place looks, if it feels safe, if the junction has anything interesting and if we would want to meet our friends or spend time there. The class had some great insights that informed wonderful design ideas; for bridges, different boundaries, seats and shelters that would feel both safe and inviting.

Our ideas may well inform how the junction changes so watch out for your ideas being built in November Year 10 DT!



This was part of the Becontree Forever Festival, led by LB Barking and Dagenham to mark 100 years of the Becontree Estate. It's worth looking out for more opportunities on their web page [becontreeforever.uk](http://becontreeforever.uk).

Ms Kamalathanan  
DT Department

# SMSC Drama

## Poetry in Performance

The Drama Department would like to say a huge well done to everybody who auditioned for our 'Poetry in Performance' competition, a poetry and performance interschool event. Everyone who attended on 5<sup>th</sup> October was absolutely fantastic and you made our decision a very hard one!

Congratulations to the following students who will be competing at Beauchamps High School on 18<sup>th</sup> November:

Year 8: Goodness, Sienna and Rayya.

Year 7: Sophia, Ayda, Remiel, Ria, Blessing, Gracie and Akanksha.

We are so impressed by your talent and can't wait to watch you represent Jo Richardson!



Keep your eyes peeled for more information on this and an upcoming KS3 Drama Club.

Miss Hallas & The Drama Department

## Interschool Poetry Competition



The Drama Department could not be more proud of the below students for their fantastic performance at the Interschool Poetry Competition at Beauchamp School.

Goodness, Ria, Sienna, Ayda, Remiel, Sophia, Blessing and Rayya.

Goodness blew everyone away with his solo piece that was awarded first place for his performance of Dance While The Hive Hatches. The judges said that he spoke eloquently and with real passion.

Sophia, Blessing and Rayya Year 7/8 came joint first with their group performance of We Have Everything We Need. We all thought that this piece demonstrated creativity and commitment. Gracie (Year 7) worked solidly in rehearsals leading up to the competition but had to pull out due to sickness. We wish Gracie a swift recovery! The other students lead us to victory with their incredible performances, adding to our point score making us the overall winners.

The judges included a poet, actor and writer for Hollyoaks who concluded that we were the overall winners with the most points in both the solo and group categories. Which means we will be hosting the competition next year!

Congratulations to you all on a wonderful evening celebrating the amazing talent at Jo Richardson!

Miss Branch  
Head of Drama

# SMSC Year 10

## Work Experience – Year 10

During the half term break, a wonderful group of Year 10 students took on the challenge of work experience. They gave up their free time to stack shelves, file paperwork, meet new people and most importantly, develop skills for life.

I am very proud of all of these individuals and wanted to share some reflections with you all. Here is one from Zubin who ended up in a law office following his passion of working in this field.

Well done to all of my Year 10 work experience students.

Ms Draisey

From the depths of East Ham Underground station, I emerged. Always leaving enough time to still be early and secure a ravishing breakfast, I powered through to the bakery of Lidl. Once I had first stepped foot into the stairwell of the solicitor's, nervousness and curiosity rumbled in my stomach, along, of course, with the pain aux raisins from earlier endeavours. Once I had been greeted by the office assistant, I realised there was nothing to be concerned about. Then the phone rang, my job. As instructed, I warmly answered the phone, asked for the caller's name and transferred them. Transfer them to 205. Easy I thought. "OK madam, I'm going to transfer you now to reception". 205. Finally, my job is done, pleased with myself I continue my book, already 50 pages in. The phone rings again, wow how busy I was. "Hello, solicitor's office, how can I help?" "Hello?" a confused voice, scarily like the last one, answered. Oh dear. "Madam, I'm going to try that again." Again, my phone starts ringing. By now the solicitor is in the building, this wouldn't look good in front of him. I finally admitted I needed some help and left the caller on the line. Rushing in, solicitor and assistant try to rectify the situation. Not by answering a call but by untangling the wires to the phone, meticulously taking their time.

"So, you transferred the number to 205?"

"Yes." Worried for their reply.

"My mistake, this phone is 205, you need to transfer to 200." He laughed at his mistake. I did not until I returned home and the realisation that I had been transferring calls to myself truly settled in.

Again, the phone rang, this time I was equipped. Except it was the same caller who never had gotten through my barrier. I muffled my way through an excuse.

"Yes, I do apologise we were just having some technical difficulties, but I can pass you through now." 200. Finally, the phone rang in another room, answered by the assistant and probably excused for the poor customer service due to me being on work experience. On I continued with my book.

From being shown a room with files littered over the floor to clean up, to reorganising stationery, I spent the week working hard and observing the workings of a solicitor's office. I also gained the experience of being a commuter and using trains independently. Throughout my time I was only shown goodwill and enjoyed the freedom of running myself due to their busy schedule.

Zubin, Year 10

## Year 10 Work Experience

Further to Zubin's excellent account of his work experience, we have another this week. This week, we are looking at Naima's work experience. As she was unable to commit to the full week of half term, Naima went out of her way to find something she could do for one day. This turned out to be a day at her local GP and in a letter form the practice, she was reported as hardworking,

independent and with great customer service skills. This will set her well for a future career working with the public. See below for Naima's review of the day.

Ms Draisey  
Head of Year 10

I learnt how important/hard it is working in a GP even if you aren't a doctor there because you deal with files and patients. This includes medical records and lots of phone calls from patients which took up most of the day. At the start, the manager showed us how to use their medical system and if a patient, mother and child per se, came in we (me and Zainab, another Year 10 student who was placed there) would go and take their temperatures and put it in the system. This meant that we interacted with the patients before they entered the surgery. We were then given medical records and had to make sure their records matched those on the system. After our break we had to do some printing and used the system again. This time we looked at the other side of what we were previously doing as in finding their records and writing them down so they can be packaged afterwards. I then had to inactivate people's records attached with the GP because they might have moved away or sadly passed away. I did encounter patients who have passed away which was sad to hear about.

Overall, I enjoyed the experience, it was fun and the staff were really welcoming and kind.

Naima, Year 10.



**AT JO RICHARDSON WE**

**A**spire to be our best  
**C**ommit to our learning  
**H**old high standards in everything we do  
**I**nvolve ourselves in our communities  
**E**ngage with all opportunities  
**V**alue, care for and respect each other  
**E**stablish resilience



**SUCCESS FOR ALL**