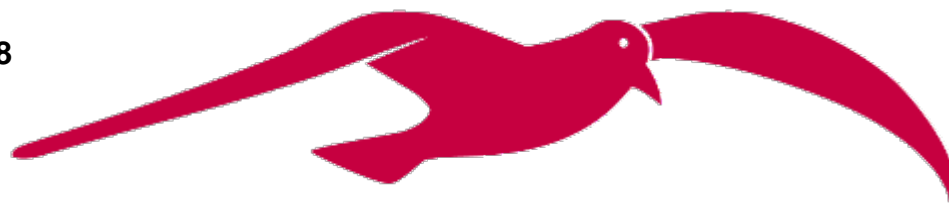


Edition No: 28



# SMSC

# “Flying High”

## Autumn 2022

## SMSC General

### Exam results

Congratulations to our Year 11 and Year 13 students who achieved some amazing GCSE and A Level results. Our results continue to show a year-on-year improvement.

Our Year 13 students are going on to fantastic destinations across the country. For the second year in a row, we have a student studying English at Cambridge and students going on to prestigious degree apprenticeships at Goldman Sachs. 100% of our students passed their A Levels 57% of students achieved A\*-B grade with 87% achieving grade C or above. Our vocational results continue to be outstanding with our average grade continuing to be a Distinction \*

64% of our Year 11 students achieved a grade 4+ in English and Maths with nearly half of our students achieving a level 5+ pass in both English and Maths!

Ms Keane  
Headteacher

### London Mayor's Gamechanger Grant



On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September, ten selected students from Year 7 and ten from Year 8 took part in a creative writing workshop for the 'London Mayor's Gamechanger Grant'.

As a school, we were awarded £400 to spend on causes we felt passionate about. Our fantastic students wrote letters to the Mayor, outlining how they would spend the money in light of things they would like to change within our school and local community.

Students had lots of brilliant ideas including staying safe on the streets, reducing our carbon footprint, cleaning up parks and our communal areas, staying safe online, more sporting equipment, more access to out of school activities and aiding with funding, healthier options in the canteen and even investing in light up keyrings for when they may have to walk home in the darker months!

Students were a total credit to the school, with the 'Big Ideas' team saying they would love to work with us in the near future.

Well done to:

Alfie, Danielius, Frankie, Nya, Maxie, Eric, Cilia, Beau, Olga & Rayyan in Year 7.

Lucus, Archie, Salma, Darius, Sakeri, Ria, Chisom, Stevie, Zack & Yolanda in Year 8.

Miss Hallas  
Student Aspirations Coordinator

## Black History Month



People from African and Caribbean backgrounds have been a fundamental part of British history for centuries. However, their value and contribution to society is often overlooked, ignored or distorted.

As a school we have made changes to our KS3 History curriculum but there is still more we can do. Black History Month gives everyone the opportunity to share, celebrate and understand the impact of black heritage and culture.

This week we held assemblies to launch Black History Month. Over the course of the month, we will be holding a number of events, lectures and opportunities for students to explore the contributions of both historical and current figures and role models from diverse backgrounds.

We look forward to showcasing this work at the end of the month. I would like to congratulate and thank Teeyah, Leeyah, Nifemi and Monjola and Becky for their contributions and speeches during our assembly.

## World Mental Health Day 2022

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October marked World Mental Health Day 2022. As we continue to develop our wellbeing provision at JRCS, we were excited to take part this year.

To start, we have had key stage assemblies led by myself as Senior Mental Health and Wellbeing Lead and our school's Mental Health Support Team. In this assembly we explored what mental health is and how to recognise our everyday feelings (stress about exams or worry about a friend) and overwhelming feelings (feeling like you can't do the things you usually enjoy).

Year Group	Aim
7	To understand what mental health and wellbeing means & to consider how I can use the 5 ways to wellbeing
8	To consider the potential barriers to positive wellbeing & to consider the protective factors for wellbeing
9	To consider the impact of puberty on our health and wellbeing & to understand the changing teenage brain and how that may impact wellbeing
10	To consider how the world of work may impact on our wellbeing & to explore how to build resilience in challenging conversations
11	To consider the impact of exams on our wellbeing & to understand better how to manage exam stress
12	To consider how the transition from school to sixth form may affect our MH and wellbeing & to reflect on how to use the 5 ways to wellbeing as a sixth former
13	To explore the challenges to mental health and wellbeing post-18 & consider how to be your own best friend

The assemblies were a great launch to a week that then included an extensive tutor time programme with the following aims for each year group:

Each form group will complete some activities relating to the above and will leave with strategies to support positive wellbeing.

Finally, on Monday it was also Hello Yellow for Young Minds too. As a result, staff wore yellow to show that they stand with our young people who face challenges to their mental health and wellbeing (see photo of myself and Ms Harland!). It has been a great week and we look forward to growing further with our mental health initiatives.



Ms Draisey  
Senior Mental Health and Wellbeing Lead



### Democracy Week at JRCS!

October marked the start of new Student Voice elections and having the restrictions of Covid over the past couple of years has meant we have been limited on what we can do with our application process, voting process and the scope of Student Voice as a whole.



Student Voice is an intrinsic and integral part of our Jo Richardson community, and we aim to put the influence and opinions of our students at the heart of everything we do, reflected in our new student voice motto; *'Nothing about us, **without** us'*.



The week beginning the 3<sup>rd</sup> October marked the start of democracy week at JRCS, tying in with our British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect. Miss Hallas and the BTEC Business Students ran events for both KS3 and KS4, culminating in the electing of our Student Voice Action Teams (which will be released next week!)



On Tuesday the 4<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October, we ran our campaign days, where candidates had the opportunity to promote themselves for their action teams, answer questions from their peers and lead their campaigns.

Students made posters, business cards, leaflets, and power points in a bid to engage their peers and prompt conversation.

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> and Friday 7<sup>th</sup>, we had our voting days. All students in KS3 and KS4 had the opportunity to come to Boothroyd Hall at break and lunch time, collect a ballot paper and anonymously vote for two per action team whom they felt most appropriate. The hall was ordered and efficient, with our trademark yellow ballot boxes to post students' votes in and students unable to vote more than once, leaving the hall with their 'I love Democracy!' stickers.

All events were hugely successful, with a real positive buzz around the school and sense of pride from candidates. In students experiencing the process and systems of campaigns and voting, they left with an understanding of how important democracy and exercising their right to vote is.

Our BTEC Business students have been an amazing support and helped run the events with professionalism and efficiency and we could not have done it without them!

I would like to express how proud I am at the commitment, organisation, dedication, and drive candidates have shown and the willingness of non-candidates in their voting and engagement with the process as a whole.

Well done to all involved!

Miss Hallas  
Student Aspiration Coordinator

## ACHIEVE days



I really enjoyed spending time with students on our ACHIEVE days, it was fantastic to be able to get back to offering the workshops, visits and trips that are such an important part of the work we do at JRCS in ensuring we raise aspirations and bring learning to life.



Ms Keane  
Headteacher

## MHST Art Competition

At the end of the academic year 2021-2022, our mental health support team (MHST) asked our students to help.

They asked them to create a piece of art to be used as part of the new renovation of the NHS Child and Family Centre (Axe St.). As part of the prize for this competition, the winners would have their artwork displayed in the centre.

Furthermore, there were vouchers on offer for the winners, which included the below:

- ★ 1<sup>st</sup> prize £200 voucher
- ★ 2<sup>nd</sup> £150 voucher
- ★ 3<sup>rd</sup> £50 voucher

At JRCS we had a whole box full of amazing entries for the competition and I am so proud of the dedication and creativity shown. Artwork was judged on how well the piece met one of the following themes:

- Barking and Dagenham
- The NHS Child and Family Centre
- Differences. Seen and unseen (ability, class, religion, sexuality, race, culture etc.)



From all of our wonderful entries, we managed to get both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> prizes awarded to us at JRCS! See our wonderful winners with 2 members of the MHST:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place goes to Mmachi
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place goes to Olivia

Once again, a huge well done to all of our amazing entries and a special congratulations to our two winners. I look forward to visiting your artwork soon!

Ms Draisey  
Senior Mental Health and Wellbeing Lead

## Elected Student Voice Action Teams!

After our democracy week last month, the votes have been counted and verified and we now have our brand new Student Action Teams for student voice!

The voting was incredibly close, and I now have a long waiting list of students who were so very close to being elected. I would like to reiterate how amazing all our candidates were and that if you were unsuccessful this year, please do try again next year!

A huge congratulations to the following students who were successfully appointed.

### Race and Social Justice

Olga	7
Hella	7
Hannah	8
Marcella	8
Anastasia	8
Gabriele	8
Nathan	9
Shanai	9
Pinky	9
Eldar	9
Hamza	10
Nifemi	10
Ashley	10

### Fundraising, Press & Publicity

Lexie	7
Al-Amin	7
Ria	8
Alexia	8
Elois	9
Valentina	9
Hannah	9
Iman	10
Ayen	10
Kofo	10

### Pride & Allies

Lissie-Mae	7
Amelia	7
Lucy	8
Shannan	8
Lilly	9
Sienna	9
Joseph	9

### Environment

Rayann	7
Cherry	7
Maxie Hailey	7
Victoria	7
Thomas	7
Shakib	8
Vincenzo	8
Sophie	9
Ishmam	9
Kye	9

### Sixth Form Ambassadors

Mia 13
Hope 13
Ugne 12
Hany 12

### Wellbeing

Mikayla	7
Lacie	7
Frankie	7
Sabrina	8
Sophia	8
Leonie	9
Luka	9
Melisa	9
Vasilena	9
Star	10
Mariana	10

### Social Action

Rahma	7
Toluwalope	7
Millie	8
Gloria	8
Franca	9
Sallyann	9
Yasin	9
Goodness	9
Keyra	10
Majid	10

Miss Hallas  
Student Aspirations Coordinator  
Teacher of Drama

## Remembrance



They shall grow not old,  
as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them,  
nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun  
and in the morning,  
We will remember them.

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November we held a two minute silence for Armistice Day. Students and staff across the school fell silent in lessons as an opportunity to mark the end of the First World War in 1918, and to remember those who have lost their lives at war.

Our Student Voice teams have also been selling a range of poppy merchandise in support of the Royal British Legion.

Ms Keane  
Headteacher

## Tree Planting





In November the environment group, students from SDD, Luke, Oliver, Daniels, John and volunteers from Bouygues planted over 120 trees oak trees around the school playing field.

The trees were donated as part of the Queen's Canopy project. The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a unique UK-wide tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, by inviting people to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee."

Throughout her reign, The Queen planted more than 1,500 trees all over the world and has spoken alongside Sir David Attenborough of the importance of trees in the Earth's future.

Many thanks to Bouygues, our PFI partners, for organising the project. As the trees grow, they will make a positive impact on the environment in the school.

Ms Keane  
Headteacher

### Collin Pond Awards



It was fantastic to celebrate the achievements of some of our high performing Year 11 students from last year at the Collin Pond awards celebration at Broadway Theatre last night.

Congratulations to Julia, Arturs, Victor, Victory and Ryan who were our Collin Pond scholars. I was immensely proud of the hard work and resilience you showed in order to obtain excellent grades in your GCSEs. You were worthy winners of the Collin Pond scholarship fund.

Each year schools in the borough are invited to nominate five students who have achieved academic excellence for the scholarship fund. Students receive a donation to help fund further studies. I hope these students act as an inspiration for our current Year 11.

Ms Keane  
Headteacher

### Anti Bullying Week

In November we promoted antibullying week. Our student mentors led whole school assemblies and Year 10 drama students showcased performances they had developed on bullying in order to raise awareness. Monteagle and James Cambell Primary Schools visited to watch the showcase. Congratulations to all those involved.

Ms Keane  
Headteacher

### Panathalon



Can I congratulate our Panathalon team who, despite being two members short, were runners up in the Borough Pantathlon challenge. This is a great achievement and I know students really enjoyed the event.

Ms Keane  
Headteacher

## Jack Petchey Winners



Congratulations to our brilliant November 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! Congratulations to: Johnsway Year 7, Vinnie Year 10, Karl Year 11 and Sorna Year 13.

Miss Hallas  
Student Aspirations Coordinator

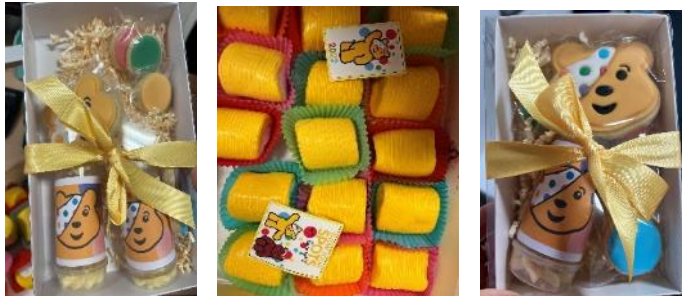
## Children in Need 2022



Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November marked Children in Need 2022 and it was themed a 'Spooktacular' event!

The Fundraising, Press & Publicity Student Action Team did a wonderful job at organising a polka dot scavenger hunt around school, in return for a raffle ticket and prize.

We had some lovely prize donations from local businesses and students enjoyed completing the hunt for Pudsey around school at break and lunch time.



We raised £71.51 for Children in Need. Well done to the following students for your commitment and creativity: Lexie, Al-Amin, Ria, Alexia, Elois, Valentine, Hannah, Iman, Ayen and Kofo.

Miss Hallas  
Student Aspirations Coordinator

## UK Parliament Week



As part of UK Parliament Week, a collection of KS4 and KS5 students were fortunate enough to receive a visit from Dame Margaret Hodge, MP for Barking since 1994. This provided students with an exciting insight into politics and how it has changed over time. Dame Margaret explained her current role as well as outlining previous experience in councils and, excitingly, the cabinet. To get our students thinking, she asked various challenging questions such as "should an MP have to live in the area they represent?" This allowed senior students to factor in their study of A-Level politics into real world examples that hopefully they will remember nearer their exams. One student said it was "a great opportunity to engage in our local political links" (Maisey Year 13 student).

Overall, it was a great opportunity allowing students to connect the dots on their learning and hopefully inspiring some KS4 students to make impactful change like Dame Margaret has by potentially studying politics at A-Level.

Megan Year 13

## Online Safety



JRCS has received the National Online Safety Certified School Accreditation for its whole school community approach to protecting children in the online world.

We have successfully completed a comprehensive online safety training programme demonstrating our commitment to keeping children and young people safe online which is in line with the Department of Education's statutory requirements.

Thank you to staff and parents/carers for accessing the accredited courses and educational resources to help make the internet a safer place for children.

Miss Boulton  
Online Safety Lead



### Gold Seagull

Massive congratulations to the first Gold Seagull winner this school year, Mmachi Year 8. I hope many more students will ACHIEVE their Gold Seagull in the New Year!

Ms Keane  
Headteacher

## Christmas Jumper Day



It was fantastic to see so many students joining in the festive fun on Wednesday with their Christmas jumpers and outfits (pictured). Thank you for supporting the Save the Children Christmas jumper campaign!

Ms Keane  
Headteacher

# SMSC Sixth Form

## Post 18 Week - Sixth Form

In July, the Year 12s took part in a week of planning for their futures at university or in apprenticeships. This included workshops on budgeting, making choices, travel and writing personal statements. There were also opportunities to meet former JRCS students, to cook chilli and cakes and to complete the UCAS application form. The week ended with a trip to the University of Essex to see their campus and to meet students there.

The students took part with great enthusiasm, and we were delighted with their positive approach. All the presenters agreed that it was a pleasure to work with them.

I am proud to have devised the Post 18 week and delivered it (with a few adjustments) 15 times.

The next step for the students is to continue with their research and applications. There will be support from all the Sixth Form team. Please contact the team if you have any questions or concerns. I retired from teaching in the summer and I wish all the new Year 13 students a happy and fulfilling future when they move on from JRCS themselves.

Mary Wren  
Lead Teacher of Politics and HE Coordinator



## Jo Richardson Community School A Level and BTEC/CTEC results 2022

We are delighted that our students have come to the end of their Sixth Form academic studies having managed to overcome the challenging two years they have faced as a result of the pandemic. Our students have shown dedication and resilience and have sat their first set of external exams since Year 6!

Many of our students have achieved A\* and A grades in the subjects they studied, including A\*s for Ella (psychology) and Chris (sociology), and A grades for Bridget (biology, maths and psychology) and Dimeji (politics and sociology). Four of our students achieved the highest possible grade in their BTEC business or CTEC health and social care course, achieving D\*D\*D\* and these students are Lucy, Lyaba, Natasha and Gabija.

There are many students who have been offered places at prestigious universities and we are overjoyed that Lara has secured a place at the University of Cambridge to study English. In addition to this, Zahra is looking forward to studying neuroscience at King's College London.

Our students have chosen to continue their educational journey by studying a range of subjects at universities across the United Kingdom. We have students studying a variety of subjects including history, psychology, engineering, law, anthropology, finance and midwifery. Students are travelling to Birmingham, Exeter, Kent, Manchester and York and many students are choosing to study at London universities.

We are very proud of our students who have successfully achieved a place on a degree apprenticeship. After a long process of applications, interviews and test centres Timothy achieved A\*A\*A in his A Levels and is starting a degree apprenticeship in Digital Technology Solutions at Goldman Sachs and Oliver is embarking on a degree apprenticeship in Technology, Data and Innovation at Deutsche Bank.

### Results

#### A level

A\*-A- 20%

A\*-B- 57%

A\*-C- 87%

A\*-E- 100%

#### Vocational

D\*D\*D\*-DDD- 65%

D\*D\*D\*-MMM- 100%

D\*D\*D\*-PPP-100%

Mrs Evan

Director of Sixth Form

## Year 13 Networked Scholarship @ HSF LLP



HERBERT  
SMITH  
FREEHILLS

Every year we are fortunate to be invited to be part of the Herbert Smith Freehills Networked Scholarship scheme.

Seven Year 12 students were selected to attend two workshops at this prestigious law firm's London offices. They had the opportunity to apply for the scholarship and, if successful, embark on a 5-year support programme whilst they complete their A Levels, move onto university, and ultimately get help to network to get their first step onto the employment ladder.



Students from 6 different London based schools compete for 5 scholarship places during May/June of Year 12. The scholarship launch takes place in the September of the students' Year 13.



I was privileged enough to be invited to this year's launch for the 2022 Cohort due to the amazing achievements of Toni H & Megan M – who both impressed the HSF interview panel and assessment centre assessors.



JRCS has a history of students achieving one of the scholarships, but this is the first year that we have achieved 2 scholars for the same cohort.

We are immensely proud of their achievement as this means they will have a three-week internship during Summer 2023, probably have a business trip to Paris with the firm, and also get the opportunity to present a pitch to one of HSF's top clients, quite possibly Goldman Sachs.



The evening also saw an official launch to the 2020 & 2021 cohorts meaning that Jenny & Sam also got to experience the official welcome, which was unable to occur, due to Covid, at the correct time.

Pictures show Toni, Megan, Sam & Jenny giving a speech at the launch evening. congratulations to all of them on a great achievement.

Miss Campbell  
Deputy Director of Sixth Form

### **Year 13 Get Wet, Take Aim and Run Riot!**



What happens when you let a bunch of 17 and 18 year olds out of the classroom – carnage!

Year 13 spent the day getting ready for their final year of A Level and Vocational courses by challenging themselves and pushing through invisible boundaries, be it mentally or physically!



Throughout the day students took to the water using a variety of flotation methods – the safe and stable open canoes (yet Daniel & Philip managed to capsize), the leg muscle energy sapping paddleboards – where nearly everyone found the water at some point

and the you-built-it so you sit on it “design your own raft”.

Paddle boarding increased the bonding between the students as alliances were made to tip others into the lake (in some cases students didn't need the help of others and managed by themselves to fall in). Even Miss Campbell was not safe from ambush!

Thankfully the weather was sunny enough to make the water not seem too horrendous and helped dry the clothes between sessions.

When not on the water the two dry side activities required concentration and precision. In the archery hut students learnt to draw the bow and hit the target, after a little adjustment after firing over and then into the ground near their feet. The competitive spirit increased as the confidence did, and individual/ group challenges and duels played out as arrows flew towards the bullseye.

The most competitive part of the day was in the lazer combat zone. Red Team v Blue Team played out several scenarios and in all 6 sessions there was a lot of finger wagging about how the ambushes were not fair. Taking a vantage point from the tower and keeping out of sight certainly created the win for one group as John & Jeremy tried to sneak around the edge and outflank them!!

Year 13 were great company and got to know others in Year 13 better. Some of them found they had talents they did not know and strength to conquer things that at first seemed daunting.

Well done to all students that took part – now take that determination into your studies!!



Miss Campbell  
Deputy Director of Sixth Form

### JRCS Sixth Form



It was fantastic to welcome so many of our Year 11 parents/carers to our 6th Form Open Evening; we hope you found the evening informative. We will be following up with students during tutor

time about applications and the next steps to ensure all students secure positive destinations after Year 11.

Ms Keane  
Headteacher

### A Level Philosophy and Ethics lectures

On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November the Year 13 Religious Studies class attended three lectures in Central London on the philosophers Bentham and Kant, Humanism, Atheism and Secularisation from two amazing speakers who work in Cambridge University. This gave the students a real taste of what university style lectures are like as well as talking about content they need for their A Level exams. The final lecture of the day was with the famous philosopher Richard Swinburne who spoke on the existence of God being more probable than not. He is 87 years old and our students were extremely respectful and asked him some questions afterwards and had their photo taken with him. We were very proud of them.

Mr Kendall and Mrs Wing  
Religious Studies Department.



### Year 13

On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November five Year 13 students had the opportunity to attend a series of mini lectures at the Economics In Action conference in St James' Park.

The students were exposed to a range of interesting topics including: The History of Economic Thought, The Economics of Uber, and Human Rationality.



The talks were very thought provoking and gave the students a flavour for the experience they are likely to have at university.

Students that attended: Edvardas, Donte, Matthew, Arafat, Megan.

Mr Lungley  
Lead Teacher of Economics



### Christmas Jumper Day

It was fantastic to see so many students joining in the festive fun on Wednesday 7th December with their Christmas jumpers and outfits. Thank you for supporting the Save the Children Christmas jumper campaign!

Ms Keane  
Headteacher



### Gold Seagull

Massive congratulations to the first Gold Seagull winner this school year, Mmachi Year 8. I hope many more students will ACHIEVE their Gold Seagull in the New Year!

Ms Keane  
Headteacher

## SMSC Duke of Edinburgh



### Sixth Formers find Gold at the end of the DofE rainbow!

Mr Kilminster and I had the great privilege last week of supervising the gold Duke of Edinburgh Award group on their qualifying expedition in the Brecon Beacons in South Wales.



The group, Reece (ex-student), Fatimah, Skyla and Sameer (all Year 13) had spent the whole of last year diligently planning a route around the Brecon Beacons area and learning essential skills such as navigation, camp craft, first aid and weather forecasting.



Speaking of weather, last week saw rather a lot of it – most of it very wet! Still the group were undaunted and were up and ready to go each morning in good time to complete their route for the day. They showed brilliant organisational skills and fed themselves with a tasty menu of their own devising each night.



The highlight of the week had to be the ascent of Pen Y Fan, at 886m the highest mountain in South Wales. It was probably the wettest day so far, and getting to the summit, especially pushing/pulling Reece in his wheelchair, proved a huge challenge. However, this was gold DofE, and it's not supposed to be easy!

The group feared getting to the top and there being no view with the torrential rain that they experienced on the way up. However, their resilience and hard work was



rewarded as the clouds lifted just as they reached the summit and they were greeted with some amazing views, and some amazing rainbows – proving that there is at least DofE gold at the end of the rainbow!



Clare Thomas of Trewern Outdoor Centre assessed the group and was extremely pleased with all aspects of their work on expedition. She was especially impressed by their attention to detail as far as safety was concerned especially when walking on roads. You won't be surprised to learn that they all passed their gold expedition with flying colours. They took great care of each other and worked brilliantly well as a team.



I was very proud to learn that the whole team had been awarded 'student of the week' this week, very well deserved for all of them.



Reece is now embarking on his next adventure at Exeter University, whilst Fatimah, Skyla and Sameer continue their studies in Year 13.



I wish them all every success and look forward to them completing the volunteering, physical, skill and residential parts of their award, so that they can attend their gold award presentation at one of the royal palaces in the presence of a member of the royal family.



Finally, I would like to thank Clare Thomas, Justin Bradley and Dave Barber of Trewern for their support during the week and their advice and guidance, and Mr Kilminster for being my indispensable 'wing man' throughout the week.

Ms Montague  
Duke of Edinburgh Award Manager

## Jeans for Genes Day 2022



Every year JRCS Sixth Form staff and students work together to raise money for the Jeans for Genes campaign.



The charity looks to use the funding they receive in several ways, whether this is by putting money into research, getting young people the support needed when it is needed or supporting the families of those living with a genetic condition.



This year an energetic group of Year 12 and 13 volunteers worked with Mrs Brown to spread the word about the fund-raising event held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September.



Staff from the Sixth Form team and tutors put on their aprons and baked their best efforts. Something that puts their reputations on the line as the judges are not Prue Leith and her companions but our own students and colleagues.

Offerings were sold at a magnificent rate and by the end of break there was not a crumb left. The only survivor was the show stopping cake that was raffled (baked by Mr Watts). This was won by a Year 12 student – who seemed rather content with her winnings!

At the time of writing this article the final total is not known but the team have raised over £310 for a fabulous cause.

Thank you to all those who baked, bought, and ate!

Miss Campbell  
Deputy Director of Sixth Form  
Head of Year 13

# SMSC Year 7

## The Island Day



On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September our Year 7s came in for their first full day at JRCS and it was a day filled with fun activities. Our Year 7s were set the task of surviving on a desert island with only their wits and each other to help.

They were put into challenging situations throughout the day from 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, filtering 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 the 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

## London Mini Marathon



Congratulations to Thomas in Year 7 for taking part in the London Mini Marathon last weekend.

Thomas was selected to represent the borough at the event which consists of young athletes from all over the country completing the final stages of the London Marathon course.

Thomas completed the course in just over 19 minutes, and he should be very proud of his achievements.

Mr Howard  
Head of PE

### **Congratulations**

Congratulations to Ryder in Year 7, for her excellent French homework.

Ms Keane  
Headteacher



### **Year 7 NSPCC & Lidl World Mental Health Competition**



To mark World Mental Health Day (10<sup>th</sup> October 2022) Lidl teamed up with NSPCC to launch a competition.

The task for Year 7 was to create some artwork that demonstrated something that made them happy, this could be an object, place, memory, idea and much more. Our wonderful Year 7s rose to the challenge and created some beautiful pieces (pictured below).

All their artwork has now been sent off to Lidl who will be sifting through the country's entries and selecting a few to go on a billboard near you.

Fingers crossed we can have a winner!

Well done to Rea, Luqman, Ryan and Isra who created these lovely pieces.

Good luck!

Ms Draisey  
Senior Mental Health & Wellbeing Lead

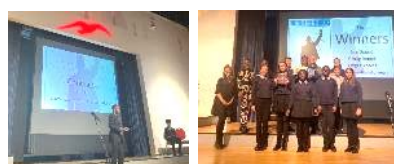
## **SMSC Year 8**

### **Poetry in Performance competition**



On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November Jo Richardson hosted the annual Poetry in Performance competition and three other schools participated.

The theme was identity and the poems ranged from 'Still I Rise' by Maya Angelou and 'Russian Doll' by Rachel Rooney.



The responses from parents and carers were amazing. One audience member stated, *"I was really inspired from Still I Rise because it talks about all the hardships a person can go through but yet they will never give up"*



Once again, we are so proud of everyone who participated and congratulations to the Year 8 group for winning the trophy and bringing the competition back home next year!

Hannah & Elois – Year 9  
Fundraising, Press & Publicity Student Action Team

# SMSC PE

## Under 14s Netball Team Trials

On Tuesday we had over 30 Year 9 and 8s trial for this year's under 14s netball teams.



The league starts towards the end of September, and it will be great to see so many students represent JRCS.

A reminder that all PE and dance clubs are back on and are available to all students. Please see the PE information boards for further details.

Miss Pridie  
PE Teacher

## Under 16s Netball Team

Congratulations to the under 16s netball team for their first tournament of this year's netball season.

The girls made a fantastic start to the competition by beating Barking Abbey 3-2.

The girls managed to draw against Sydney Russell but were narrowly beaten against a very strong Robert Clack team.



Woman of the tournament goes to Fisayoi Year 10 for fantastic defensive display through the tournament.

Netball training is available for all years on Tuesday lunchtimes/ after school and Thursday after school.

Any questions please contact a member of PE.

Miss Pridie  
Second in PE

## Year 8 and 9 Netball

The Year 8s and Year 9s were back in action with netball this week with their first league game of the season. Both teams were at home up against a really strong Robert Clack team.

The Year 9 team managed to play superbly well as a team and beat Robert Clack 5-1. Player of the Match goes to Joan for some superb shooting.

The Year 8 team were unfortunately not as lucky and lost to Robert Clack 3-1. However, in the final 2 quarters played some fantastic netball. Player of Match goes to Brianna for her debut performance for JRCS.

Both teams are back in action next week away to Eastbury. Good luck girls!

Netball training is available to all KS3 students on a Tuesday lunchtime and after school.

Miss Pridie  
Second in PE



## University of Essex outreach programme

On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November a group of selected Year 11 GCSE PE students and Year 12 A Level students were given an elite opportunity to take part in a University of Essex outreach programme.



All students took part in two workshops designed to enhance their knowledge of exercise physiology and biomechanics. Within these workshops students were given the opportunity to use state of the art technology which is used in professional sporting equipment.

Both the Year 11 and Year 12 conducted themselves amazingly throughout the sessions and were a credit to the school.

Well done to all!

Miss Pridie  
PE Teacher

## Year 7 and 8 Girls Football

On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November the Year 7 and 8 girls represented JRCS at this year's first borough football tournament.

Despite the rain and wind both teams battled extremely hard. The Year 7 got off to a tough start and were beaten by All Saints 3- 1. However, after that the girls grew in confidence and managed to win the rest of the matches against Barking Abbey, Greatfields and Dagenham Park. with lots of goals from Charlotte, Emily and Esther.

The Year 8 team also put on a fantastic display of football throughout the whole tournament and also only lost one game to Dagenham Park. We had lots of goals from Marcella (6), Emma (7) and Bethany (1).

The next competition is in 2 weeks' time at Goals Dagenham. KS3 football is available to all students after school on Thursdays.

Well done girls.

Miss Pridie  
PE Teacher

## Barking and Dagenham Indoor Athletics

On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> and Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November a group of Year 7 and Year 8 students represented the school at the Barking and Dagenham Indoor Athletics competition at Sydney Russell school.

All students trained extremely hard at lunchtimes and after school and went into the competition with lots of confidence.

A special mention to the Year 7 squad as this was their first time competing in a big event.

The JRCS students should be very proud of their achievements on the day. There will be further athletics competitions this term, so please keep training hard.

## Results

Year 7 boys- 6<sup>th</sup> Place  
Year 7 Girls- 4<sup>th</sup> Place  
Year 8 Boys – 6<sup>th</sup> Place  
Year 8 Girls –6<sup>th</sup> Place

Well done to all squads!

Miss Pridie  
PE Teacher



## Year 7 Football



On the 15<sup>th</sup> November, our Year 7 Jo Richardson boys (pictured on the front page) took on Eastbury School in a friendly match. Due to the high intake of students involved in the Year 7 Football Club, we arranged a double header, two JRCS teams against two Eastbury teams.

For many of the boys it was their first game in secondary school and representing JRCS so both games started off nervy, however once the deadlock was broken, goals came flooding in for our boys. The Reds won a whopping 9-2 and the Blues won a gigantic 9-0.

Very proud of the boys and happy they got two wins in one night!

Well done boys!  
Mr Sengulay-Thomas  
PE Teacher

## Under 13s Girls Football



Massive congratulations to the under 13s girls football team who came 3<sup>rd</sup> in this month's football tournament.

The squad played extremely well against some tough competition. Girl of the tournament goes to top goal scorer Charlotte in Year 7.

The girls' next game is on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at Goals Dagenham.

Training is every Thursday after school and all KS3 & KS4 students are welcome.

## Year 8 and 9 Netball

On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November the Year 8s and 9s had their fourth netball match against All Saints.

All girls showed lovely sportsmanship and played really well considering this was their first netball match since October.

The girls were triumphant due to excellent shooting from Danae and Tegan. Well done to everyone involved. Anyone who would like to join the netball team is welcome every Tuesday 3:00pm-4:00pm.

## Borough Cross Country Championships

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November a group of KS3 and KS4 students represented the school at the Barking and Dagenham Cross Country Championships at Pages Woods, Upminster.

The students were selected from the cross country trials we completed during lesson time this half term and the students were able to compete against the best runners from all the other schools in the borough.



The JRCS students should be very proud of their achievements on the day, with special mention going to the Year 7 boys and girls team who came 3<sup>rd</sup> overall.

Congratulations to all students involved.

Miss Pridie  
PE Teacher

### **Year 7 Boys Football**

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> November, the Year 7 Boys Football team had their first league game against neighbours Goresbrook. Just like their game against Eastbury, the game started off slow until we scored our first goal and then the goals flooded in for our Seagulls winning 10 - 2.

The boys are in good spirits and are very excited for their next league game against Greatfields School

Well done Boys!

Mr Sengulay-Thomas  
PE Department



### **Year 7 Football**

On 25<sup>th</sup> November, the boys played their second league game of the year. After their incredible 9-2 win against local derby Goresbrook, the boys then took on Greatfields full of confidence and in good spirits.

The game finished 13-2 to our Seagulls with hattricks from Andrei and Mario, and many more of the boys getting in on the goal sheet. Another superb performance from our Year 7.

Well done team!

Mr Sengulay-Thomas  
PE Department



### **Year 8 Football**

In December, the Year 8 football team (pictured) won their first game of the season. The team played very well with standout performances from Abdul, Harry and Mohammed, and the goals coming from Noah and Dorian to secure the hard-fought 2-0 victory.

The boys have showed great resilience after a tough run of results last year and are very excited for their game against Goresbrook next week. Well done boys!

Mr Watts  
PE Department



### **Year 7 and 8 Girls Football**

On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December the Year 7 and Year 8 girls represented JRCS at a borough football tournament.

The Year 7 got off to a tough start and held Barking Abbey to a 0-0 draw however, after that the girls grew in confidence and managed to win the rest of the matches against All Saints, Great Fields and Dagenham Park.

The Year 8 team also put on a fantastic display of football throughout the whole tournament and also only lost one game to Dagenham Park. We had lots of goals from Marcella and some fantastic defending from Ruby and Blessing.

Girl of the tournament goes to Carmelina in Year 7 for some unbelievable left footed goals.

Well done girls.  
Miss Pridie  
PE Teacher



# SMSC Music

## Music Department Update

Over the past academic year, the Music Department has been busy getting things back in place, with instrumental lessons continuing to be rolled out to students from Years 7-13 and extra-curricular clubs returning to the school week, at JRCS. Well done to all our musicians who participated in the activities on offer in the department.



## GCSE Exam Success

We are delighted to see that 80% of our Year 11 music GCSE cohort successfully passed their music qualification this summer at grades 9-4. Students rose to the challenges faced during a time of much change, and went on to perform, compose and analyse music to a high standard.

We are extremely pleased for our students and thanks to the fantastic Music Team for putting in every effort in supporting JRCS students.

## Music Year 9 ACHIEVE Days

Students across Year 9 had the opportunity last term to work with leading UK musicians to develop their musicianship, confidence and group work skills.

Students and JRCS staff participated in Beatbox, with Kimmy from the Beatbox Collective; Western African Djembe Drumming, with Akosua Boyake BEM, and her team from Akoma Asa Arts; Brazilian Samba with Afúa from Beat Goes On; Becoming a Band with Reuben, Jerry, Sean, Jeremy, and JRCS's Mr Jenner, Miss Harris and Mr Barquilla; and Musical Theatre Vocal Work with Nav and his team from MD Brunch.

The feedback from the day was really positive and it was fantastic to see students and staff enjoying themselves through music! Thank you to all staff who supported us throughout the day!

## Winter Music Sharing Concerts

In December of 2021, students participated in two nights of music-making. KS3 and KS5 students impressed us with their high-quality performances, followed closely by an evening of performances from GCSE Music students in Years 10 & 11.

Standout performances included a vocal duo performing Rise Up – Venessa (Y13) and Kwame (former student in Y13), Josnah's vocal solo (Y9) and another vocal performance from Daniels (Y11).

Thank you to everyone who participated and attended. The standard of performance across the two evenings far exceeded anything we had hoped for, and you all left your audience awaiting more in the summer!

## Summer Music Night

JRCS students from Years 7-12 wowed the audience of family, friends and staff with the final public performances of the year at our outdoor Summer Music Night. It was wonderful to hear the culmination of a year of hard work and to see students supported by their music teachers. Thank you to everyone who performed, all who attended to support the students and the department, and we look forward to continuing to provide high quality entertainment for the school community.

Stand out performances amongst many came from Elio (Y11) performing the violin solo with the school orchestra, conducted by Mr Jenner, the KS3 Jazz Band, led by Miss Hurst, Drum Kit performances from our fantastic KS3 students and Abigail's beautiful rendition of Hallelujah, originally performed by Leonard Cohen.

## Projects



We are delighted to have JRCS students from Years 7-11 participating in projects run by the Royal Academy of Music. Elio (Y11) participated last academic year in several projects, working on composition with composition tutor from the Royal Academy.



Over the summer holiday, Sophia (Y8) and Naima (Y11) participated in the Inner Ear programme, and next week we will have students attending a masterclass by Alexis Ffrench, Sony Music pianist, alumnus of the Royal Academy and Artistic Director of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music.

We are so pleased to see increasing numbers of JRCS students demonstrating the confidence and aspiration to attend these events. Keep up the excellent work everyone!

Miss Hurst  
Head of Music



## SMSC Drama

### Another Poetry win for Jo Richardson

Our students have brought home the Poetry in Performance trophy for the second year in a row! Big congratulations to our winning group from year 8: Blessing, Orobosa, Max and Ayda.

As well as winning the group round, we took home the overall win! Huge congratulations to our other solo and group performers: Sophia N, Lexi S, Ria, Daniella, Remiel and Alexia.

Thank you to our amazing comperès, Zubin, Goodness, Bobby and Teeyah. We are so proud of every student's professionalism, commitment and creativity.

The Drama Department

## SMSC Dance



### James Cousins GCSE Dance Workshop 27.9.22

GCSE students and some chosen Year 9 students had the opportunity to take part in a workshop with James Cousins Dance Company. Students were able to gain a greater insight into the GCSE professional work 'Within Her Eyes' as well as learn some technical contact work and repertoire from the work.

### ZooNation Dance Performance at Sadler's Wells 5.10.22

JRCS dance students were lucky enough to watch ZooNation Dance Company perform at Sadler's Wells last week.

The students left the show inspired and dancing on the tube home. ZooNation creates extraordinary work inspired by the music and culture of hip hop.



Year 9 students are currently studying the professional ZooNation work 'Message in a Bottle' and last year JRCS performed a show based on their work 'The Mad Hatter's Tea Party'.

Miss England  
Head of Dance

## SMSC Year 9

### **Anne Frank Trust**

The Religious Studies department have had the privilege of working with the Anne Frank Trust again in November.

The entire Year 9 cohort took part in a workshop learning about the life of Anne Frank and reflecting on how she felt and what we can learn from this and use in today's society.

They have explored areas of prejudice and discrimination in today's world and reflected on how they feel about that.

Mrs Wing  
Teacher of Religious Studies.

### **World Skills National Careers Event**

On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November a small group of Year 9 students visited nearby Barking and Dagenham College to attend a World Skills National Careers Event. Throughout the morning they were able to gain a greater insight into potential career paths that are open to them ranging from those in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths) subjects to catering and apprenticeships at international companies such as Amazon and Fujitsu. The students were very well behaved and showed a great enthusiasm for finding out more about different industries.



Mr Cully and Ms Matin

## SMSC Year 10

### **Year 10 Bronze DofE Training weekend**



On 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> October I had the pleasure of accompanying nine students from Year 10 on their bronze DofE training weekend at Danbury Outdoor Centre.

The students involved were Ronni, Shalewa, Ashley, Ishaq, Majid, Harpreet, Ameenah, Marline and Enoha. Every student worked really hard to apply the camp craft training that they had done in school.



Their tents were pitched on arrival with very little fuss and soon they were cooking up garlic bread and pasta on their stoves. Unfortunately, we had a very persistent downpour of rain before dinner was cooked and had to retreat indoors.

The planned night walk and campfire turned into an evening of map work and a quiz with some hot chocolate. Despite the rain the group got a good night's sleep and were all ready in good time to start their walk and learn some navigation skills.

Fortunately, Saturday's weather was a great deal more kind than the night before and everyone enjoyed the lovely views across the Chelmer valley and the Essex countryside. Students accuse me of saying this every year, but I really do mean it this time; this was one of the best bronze groups that I have ever taken away.

Everyone was polite and helpful, followed instructions and showed great enthusiasm, what DofE leader could ask for more? I am also very grateful for the help and support of the staff and volunteers who accompanied the group, without whom the trip would not have been possible: Mr Kilminster, Ms Lea and Bill Lockton.

It only remains for me to wish all the Year 10 bronze group the very best of luck in completing their bronze awards. They have certainly made an excellent start on the expedition section.

Ms Montague  
DofE Manager

### **Anne Frank Society**

The Religious Studies department have had the privilege of working with the Anne Frank Trust this week.

Seventeen of our GCSE Year 10 students have been taking part in a two day workshop learning about the life of Anne Frank and reflecting on how she felt and what we can learn from this and use in today's society. They have explored all areas of prejudice and discrimination in today's world and have worked on presentations that they will show their peers.

Mrs Wing  
Teacher of Religious Studies



# **Year 11**

### **GCSE results 2022**

Congratulations to all our Year 11 students on their GCSE results. We are incredibly proud of their achievements; 64% of our students achieved a grade 4-9 in English and Maths and almost half achieved a grade 5-9 in English and Maths.

Particular congratulations to the following students who achieved some amazing results; Ryan with 7 grade 9s, and 2 grade 8s, and Ella with 7 grade 9s, 1 grade 8 and 1 grade 7.



Our students have worked really hard and consistently shown resilience during their GCSE courses, despite the challenges faced over the last couple of years. This is a fantastic achievement, and we look forward to welcoming many of them back into our Sixth Form.



Mrs Morris  
Assistant Headteacher

## KS5 & Year 11 Drama Students



On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September our KS5 Drama students and seven hardworking Year 11 students took part in a highly practical and interactive workshop.

The students worked tirelessly for an hour and a half to explore three different practitioner styles and influences. The practitioners utilised for this experience were Berkoff, Artaud and Brecht.

The students then went on to create a production of 'Metamorphosis' which had been adapted from Kafka's original short story and has been heavily influenced by Berkoff's 'Metamorphosis' in terms of its style and

simplicity of design.

Once they had workshoped and created their immersive production, they then performed to our Year 11 GCSE students.

The students worked alongside professionals from the industry to create soundscapes, tableaux and creating scenery using multipurpose props.

All students involved executed their performance with full commitment and flair, doing our department and the school proud. They were great ambassadors for the school and 'Kat Mary Productions' stated they were extremely impressed with the talent our students displayed and that they would come back to JRCS anytime.

Well done to all students involved you did us very proud!

The Drama Department

## Year 11 at the London Stock Exchange

On Tuesday myself and Mr Brew took a group of 6 Year 11 students to St. Paul's to visit the London Stock Exchange Group.

During the visit students had the opportunity to speak with industry leaders including those working in diversity, wellbeing, investment banking and stocks management. The trip began with a panel (pictured) of those employers, including the former financial advisor to our Prime Minister Rishi Sunak (on the right).

At 4:30pm we also got to see the close of business which was a spectacle of lights and sound in the centre of the impressive building just outside St. Paul's cathedral.





The wonderful students we had with us then engaged in a 'speed networking' event, building great connections for their future endeavours, this included Abigail in Year 11 who managed to get an email address for a contact within the first hour of being in the building and Georgiett who was told she was going to 'change the world'.



It was such a pleasure to take this group into London for the afternoon and they made me feel incredibly proud. Here are just a few photos from our trip but it was a great experience overall.



A huge well done to the students who attended (pictured below: Georgiett, Abigail, Hannah, Arnas, Marney, Hisham).

Plus, thank you to Mr Cully who made this trip possible and Mr Brew for coming along and supporting some excellent networking skills.

Ms Draisey  
Head of Year 11

### **Aspiration Cohort**

Our Year 11 students have been busy working towards their first round of full mock exams and a smaller group, our Aspiration Cohort, have been doing even more.

Each week this group of students has been meeting to hear more about how to push themselves towards reaching the highest grades in their GCSEs. This has included sessions with maths and science.



In November, Ms Keane came along to meet the group and delivered a session on a biology topic the group had raised as challenging, this is also paired with a voice-over PowerPoint for them to refer back to.



It is not every day you get a lesson with the Headteacher! Next week, these students will hear from the Colin Pond winners (Year 12 students) who are coming in to share their pearls of wisdom on being successful at GCSE level.

As a group they have worked incredibly hard, and I am so proud of everyone who has attended every single week. Well done Year 11 and thank you to all staff who have given up their Wednesday lunch breaks to come and see the group.

Ms Draisey  
Head of Year 11

