



GUNNERSBURY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

AD ALTIORA NEWSLETTER

SPRING TERM 2025
No. 1



A few words from our Headteacher:



It seems like only yesterday that we were getting ready to attend the Carol Concert and here we are now at the end of the Spring Term. As always it has been a packed term. Considering all that we pack into each and every day here at Gunnersbury, it is little wonder that the months are flying by! This Easter edition of Ad Altiora is filled to bursting with the fantastic trips, clubs and events from which our students have gained so much joy, opportunity and fulfilment. Fittingly, as we prepare for Easter, an immense volume of charitable and community works have again taken place here at Gunnersbury. The tenets of Catholic Social Teaching are not just understood, but profoundly lived by our school.

Anticipating the Easter eggs ahead, I hope that the Easter bunny is particular generous to our staff and pupils. Not least, in the knowledge that the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT) have this week presented Gunnersbury with two Outcome Awards in relation to our academic achievement. The first award recognises our position within the top 10% of school nationally for student achievement and the second for our placement in the top 10% of schools in the country for student attainment. Recognising the quality of education at Gunnersbury; the Chief Executive of SSAT, Sue Williamson, shared:

"Congratulations to Gunnersbury Catholic School This success is down to the superb learning and teaching, outstanding support and inspirational leadership of staff. You have made a huge difference to the lives of the young people in your school."

I wish you all a lovely Easter and look forward to celebrating the marvellous achievements of our students in the Summer Term.

Kevin S Burke
Headteacher

In this Edition:

- New and Old Staff
- Easter Story
- Say Hello to our New Solidarity/Wellbeing Ambassadors
- Catholic Life In Action
- Welcome to Our New Chaplain! + Interview
- International Happiness Day
- New York Trip
- Paris Trip
- Revision Tips + Interview with Ms Moosa
- Your Life You Choose Workshop Y7
- Sports at Gunnersbury
- Artistic Gunnersbury
- Holocaust Memorial
- Careers at Gunnersbury
- Clubs & Extra-Curricular
- Royal Courts of Justice Trip
- Route 2 Success Workshop
- Christmas Last Term at Gunnersbury

Letter from the editor:

I am excited to share the second edition of the GCS Newsletter, filled with stories that capture the energy and achievements of our school. As Director and Executive Editor, I am incredibly proud of our editorial team—students from Years 7 to 12—who have worked hard to bring this publication to life.

This edition covers key events from the past term, including our New York and Paris trips, the introduction of our new Chaplain, and the appointment of Solidarity and Wellbeing Ambassadors. We also reflect on Catholic Life in action, International Happiness Day, and the Holocaust Memorial. With Easter approaching, we take a moment to explore its deeper meaning within our school community.

Additionally, we provide revision tips, highlight career opportunities, celebrate artistic and sporting achievements, and offer insights into extra-curricular life at Gunnersbury. From court visits to student workshops, this newsletter showcases the many ways our school continues to grow and thrive.

I hope you enjoy reading it and feel inspired to contribute to future editions. Whether you have a story to share, an achievement to celebrate, or an idea to bring to life, we want to hear from you. This newsletter belongs to all of us, and together, we can make it an even greater reflection of our school community. Thank you for your support, and I look forward to another term of creativity, collaboration, and success.

Piotr Ksiazek

Director and Executive Editor



New & Old Faces At Gunnersbury

Welcome!

Welcome to Our New Teachers

**We are excited to introduce the newest additions
to our teaching staff:**

Miss Wykamp – English

Mr Lam – Maths

Mr Bessaih – French

Mr Lyons-Negus – History

**We look forward to seeing them thrive at
Gunnersbury!**

Farewell

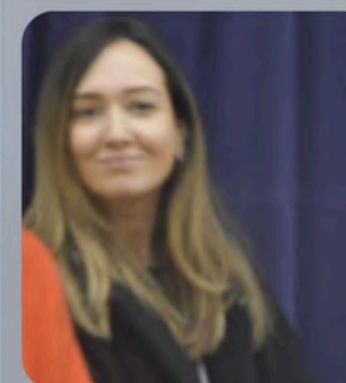
Farewell to Departing Staff

Last term, we bid farewell to several valued members of staff:



Mr Mahon – A dedicated Deputy Headteacher and Safeguarding lead who has made a lasting impact on the school.

Miss Borowska – A supportive and inspiring french teacher - always there for students.



Miss Guilder – A valued Head of History who will be greatly missed.

**We thank them for their hard work and contributions to
Gunnersbury and wish them all the best for the future.**

Easter Story



A long time ago, Jesus and his disciples prepared for the Passover meal. The High Priests wanted to arrest Jesus because they feared his growing popularity and power. Judas, one of Jesus's disciples, betrayed him for thirty silver coins. During the meal, Jesus broke bread, saying it was his body, and shared wine, saying it was his blood. He revealed that one of them would betray him, and Judas left to do so.

Afterward, Jesus prayed at Gethsemane, asking God for strength. Judas arrived with soldiers, kissed Jesus, and betrayed him. Jesus was arrested, tried, and falsely accused by the priests. Peter denied knowing Jesus three times, just as Jesus had predicted.



Jesus was brought before Roman Governor Pilate, who, not finding fault, sent him to King Herod. Pilate offered to release a prisoner, but the crowd chose Barabbas. Jesus was sentenced to crucifixion. Soldiers mocked him, beat him, and forced Simon to carry his cross. Jesus was crucified, and darkness covered the land from noon to 3 pm when he died. A centurion declared, "Surely, this man was the Son of God."

Later, two disciples met a stranger on the road to Emmaus, who revealed himself as Jesus after explaining the scriptures. Jesus ascended to heaven in front of his disciples, promising he would return. At Pentecost, the disciples received the Holy Spirit and spoke in different languages, sharing Jesus's message. Over 3,000 people became Christians that day, and the message of Jesus spread across the world.



Jesus's body was placed in a tomb. On Sunday, Mary Magdalene discovered the tomb empty, and angels told her Jesus had risen. She ran to tell the disciples, who were initially skeptical, but later believed when they saw the empty tomb. Mary encountered Jesus, and he told her to inform the disciples.



Benedict Hullis 8W

SAY HELLO TO OUR NEW Solidarity Wellbeing Ambassadors



The Solidarity Wellbeing Ambassadors are back!

Led by Ms Gardon, this group is dedicated to supporting the wellbeing of all students. Whether it's through events, resources, or just being there to listen, the ambassadors are here for you. Remember, your wellbeing matters, and we're always here to help!

Ambassadors:

Piotr Ksiazek	Amelia Oska-Sharman	Julia Siwicka	
Mishca Patel	Arlette Rogato	Dawid Pielech	Max Roslaniak
Andrzej Wizowski	Ethan Ogungbuji	Tamara Vojnovic	Kristina Keirouz
Kornelia Kusiak	Otto Carpenter	Samantha Mencidor	

WE WANT YOU TO BE

SAFE

Need to talk? We're here to help!

- Help Boxes** - Drop a note in one of the Help Boxes located around the school. A trusted member of staff will get back to you.
- Safeguarding Lead** - Our Safeguarding Lead is always available to support you. If you have any concerns or need guidance, speak to them.
- Mr Boothe** - A dedicated Learning Mentor who is always happy to listen and guide you through any challenges.
- Solidarity Wellbeing Team** - A team of Sixth Form students who understand student life and are here to offer friendly advice, a safe space, and a listening ear whenever you need it, who Ms Gardon leads.

If you'd prefer to reach out privately, you can email us anytime at iwanttotalk@gunnersbury.hounslow.sch.uk



GUNNERSBURY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Design: Piotr Ksiazek



Solidarity Wellbeing Ambassadors
Display Located:

Main Block Entrance
(Opposite the Music Block)



HELP BOXES MAP



Solidarity / Wellbeing Ambassador

Catholic Life

Ash Wednesday

Annually we as a school gather together to celebrate Ash Wednesday marking the beginning of the season of Lent as we as Catholics try to take time to reflect and have penance to prepare ourselves for Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday and ready ourselves for redemption through Christ.

The ashes serve as a reminder of our last celebration of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection. At this starting of lent we bring ourselves through a journey of renewal as we refresh our faith in God.



Some of our 6th form students went to the houses of parliament gathering together with many Catholics of backgrounds such as those from Palestine, Nigeria and North Korea. Talking about their experiences in faith, how hard it was to live with their faith through times of difficulty and what it is like to live in communities that don't respect their catholic faith. This gathering helped raise awareness to the students and teachers alike as well as being a great way to spread awareness to the public on Christian persecution that seems so unthinkable in our modern society but yet still has a very real existence.



Jubilee Year

Our students recently took part in the "Pilgrims of Hope" celebrations as part of the Jubilee Year.

They participated in special assemblies, reflecting on themes of faith, unity, and hope. These gatherings allowed students to share insights and engage with the spirit of the occasion, fostering a deeper sense of community.



In Action

Racial Justice

As a part of our Catholic Education we must learn of the true injustices that have happened in society to be able to later recognise and combat such events as we proceed into adult life.

Students learnt in this assembly the need for racial justice and the importance of combating discrimination in society.



flame^{CYM FED} 2025 Flame

Flame 2025 was an incredible event filled with amazing music, inspiring speeches, and a vibrant atmosphere.

Our students had the chance to attend, gaining valuable insights and connecting with passionate individuals.



RE Enrichment Week

During RE Enrichment Week, our students engaged in creating stained glass windows, analyzing scripture, and writing persuasive letters. This activity provided a meaningful opportunity for reflection and deepened their understanding of faith, helping them form a personal image of God and Jesus.

On February 28th, we were honored to welcome Fr. Renato Andrade, Goan Chaplain at St. Vincent de Paul (Osterley), to celebrate Mass with our Gunnersbury students, adding a special spiritual element to the week.



Welcome! to Our New Chaplain Miss Baly



? What inspired you to become a chaplain?
Can you tell us a little about your background and experience as a chaplain and other roles?

What inspired me to become a chaplain?

My journey to becoming a chaplain began while I was working as a qualified teacher at Bishop Douglass RC School in East Finchley. After school, I dedicated my time to volunteering at Holloway Prison, which, at the time, housed only women. I worked with a group of women there and really enjoyed the experience—engaging with them, sharing films, and even bonding over pink wafers and cups of tea. That experience led me to join the chaplaincy in prison ministry. I applied for a job as a prison chaplain and, after a successful interview, was assigned to Wormwood Scrubs, a local male prison, where I remained for 15 years—literally to the day. Since then, I have worked as a school chaplain in various schools, served as a hospice chaplain, and I am currently a volunteer chaplain at Heathrow Airport.

All these chaplaincy roles have similarities, though each has its own unique aspects. The role is not about forcing religion or faith onto anyone—it's about being present and offering support. Interestingly, the term "chaplain" can sometimes cause confusion. If you look at the Latin origins, it gives more insight into its true meaning. They accept it, as there simply aren't enough priests or deacons to take on these roles. Although it is a Christian term, the word chaplain exists in other faiths as well—Muslim, Sikh, and Hindu chaplains are all recognized without issue. My late mother actually supported my work in prisons. She used to say she felt I was safer inside the prison than outside. A bit ironic, but she was probably right!



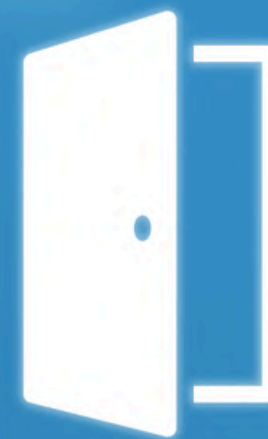
What made you want to become a school chaplain at Gunnersbury?



I believe Gunnersbury was looking for someone to fill a part-time chaplaincy role, and given my experience, I was considered for the position. Chaplaincy is a middle ground; I'm not teaching, but I still use my knowledge. For example, yesterday was Ash Wednesday, and although it wasn't on the schedule, I incorporated relevant discussions into my interactions with students. The school community has been very welcoming. One challenge for me has been adjusting to the lack of bells. Without them, I haven't fully memorized the schedule yet. I know a lesson has ended when I hear the noise of students moving! The other day, some Year 9 students stayed in my office longer than they should have, stretching their break a bit—it's something I need to be more on top of.

I also want to get involved in the school garden. I understand Sixth Formers manage it, and I have some ideas on how we can improve it with the involvement of different departments. I belong to a mailing list for Gardening Express, and they often have affordable plants and bulbs. Right now, they have an offer on heathers, which could be a nice addition to the garden. I'd also love to see the archway covered in wood with the word "HOPE" carved out, possibly as a project for the DT department.

? How can students and staff come to you for support?



I have always had an open-door policy. Anyone can pop in to see me, and if I'm busy, we can arrange a suitable time. Just remember, this isn't a way to skip lessons, but there are plenty of chances throughout the day to have a chat. Most importantly, I'm here to listen without judging. Sometimes, it helps to talk to someone who isn't a teacher or in charge of discipline. Some chaplains also teach, but I think that can be confusing—one moment, they're giving detentions, and the next, they're offering support. That's why I focus on just being here for you.

I'll always respect your privacy, but if there's ever a situation where someone is in danger or at risk, I might need to report it. If that happens, I'll make sure you know what's going on and involve you as much as possible. At the end of the day, my job is to support you—whether it's a big problem or just a small worry, you don't have to go through it alone.



HAPPINESS

DAY

AT GUNNERSBURY

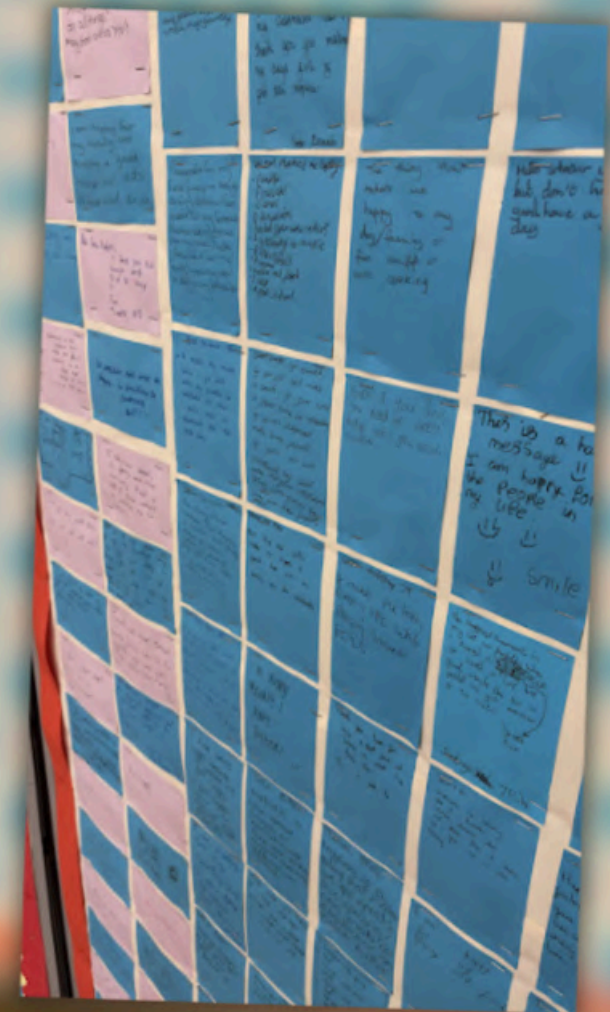
The Power of Positivity - Let's Keep It Going!

Our **Happiness Day** was a beautiful reminder of how small acts of kindness can create a stronger, happier community. Every student took part in sharing positive comments, proving that words have the power to uplift, inspire, and bring us closer together. But positivity isn't just for one day-it's a mindset that can change our daily lives. When we focus on kindness, gratitude, and encouragement, we create an environment where everyone feels valued, supported, and motivated to grow. Instead of dwelling on negativity, we can choose to see the good in ourselves, in others, and in every situation. Let's keep this spirit alive! A simple smile, a kind word, or a thoughtful gesture can brighten someone's day. Together, we can make our school a place filled with respect, encouragement, and happiness.

Positivity is contagious-let's spread it every day!



It's not a disability
It's a different Ability



NYC TRIP

Day 1: A Grand Start in New York



Excitement filled the air as students gathered at **Heathrow Terminal 3**, ready to embark on an unforgettable journey to **New York City**. After a smooth flight with Virgin Atlantic, they landed at **JFK Airport** and headed to their hotel, Fairfield Inn and Suites, in Midtown Manhattan.



Without wasting any time, they explored the bright lights and bustling atmosphere of **Times Square**. The evening ended with a fun-filled dinner at **Bubba Gump Shrimp Co.**, where students enjoyed classic American seafood while soaking in the lively energy of the city.

Day 2: Exploring Central Park, Fifth Avenue & Skyline Views

Students began the day at **Central Park**, choosing between ice skating or taking a scenic walk. They then explored **5th Avenue**, visited **St. Patrick's Cathedral**, and shopped at **Macy's**.

In the evening, they enjoyed a lively dinner at **Ellen's Stardust Diner**, before heading to the **Empire State Building** for stunning city views from the observation deck.



Day 3: History & Remembrance

Students set off on a ferry ride to **Ellis Island**, learning about its historical significance before seeing the iconic **Statue of Liberty** up close. They then explored the financial district, stopping by **Wall Street** and taking photos.

The afternoon took a more reflective turn with a visit to **Ground Zero**, where students paid their respects at the **9/11 Memorial**. Before heading back to **Times Square**, they admired the **Flatiron Building** and enjoyed a group dinner at **Hard Rock Cafe**.

Later, they visited the **Brooklyn Bridge**, and finished with shopping at Westfield and SoHo.



Day 4: The Last Day

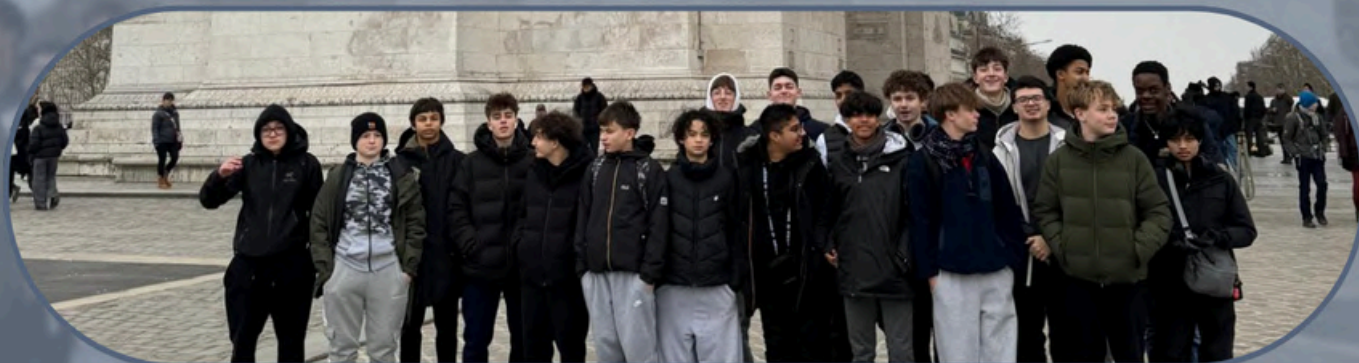
On the final day, **Year 10** ended the trip with a walk along **The High Line** and a visit to **Hudson's Yard**. As the trip came to an end, the group made their way to **JFK Airport**, ready for the return flight home—tired but filled with incredible memories of an unforgettable adventure.



PARIS TRIP

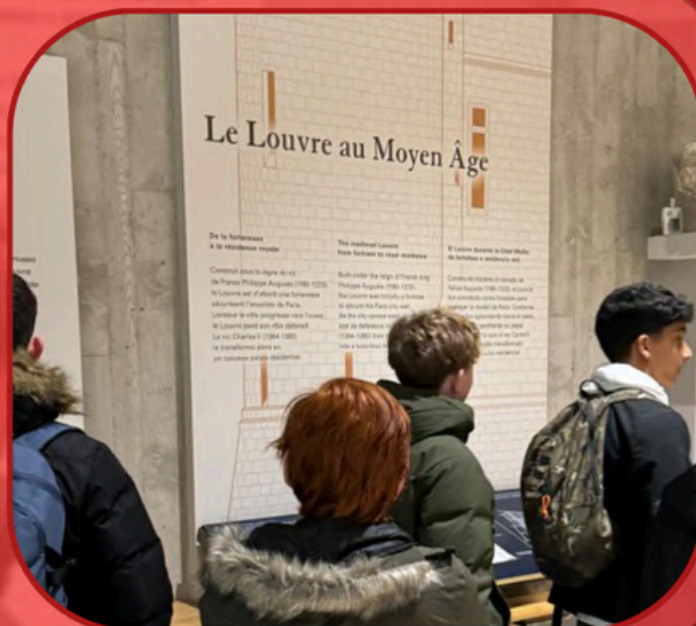
Day 1: Paris, Here We Come!

Our Year 10 students safely arrived in Paris, buzzing with excitement as we stepped off the coach. The city of lights greeted us with chilly air, but the excitement was enough to keep everyone warm. After a quick check-in, we decided to make the most of the day and head straight to the Arc de Triomphe. The view from the top was incredible—nothing beats standing high above the streets and looking down the Champs-Élysées! The perfect introduction to Paris' grandeur, everyone was snapping photos and soaking in the amazing surroundings.



Day 2: Eiffel Tower and Art Galore!

Our students woke up to a beautiful morning, ready for more adventures. Their first stop was the **Eiffel Tower**. The view was, simply put, breathtaking. From up high, students could see the whole of Paris laid out before them. Students paused, in awe, for photos and a moment of quiet appreciation of the city's beauty. Next, students ventured over to the **Musée du Louvre**. Our students were in awe of the museum's stunning collection, including the legendary **Mona Lisa** and countless other masterpieces. Walking through the vast halls, they were filled with questions and admiration, eager to learn more about the rich history of art. After hours of exploring, it was clear that this museum would be one of the highlights of the trip.



Day 3: A Morning in the Gardens

The next morning was peaceful and serene. Students strolled through the stunning **Jardin du Luxembourg**, with its perfectly manicured gardens and beautiful fountains. The calm atmosphere was a refreshing break before our busy day ahead. Some of the students even sat by the fountains to relax and chat about their favorite parts of Paris so far. It was the perfect way to start the day.



Day 4: A Taste of Paris



After all the walking, students were ready for some delicious food! They made their way to **Le Bossu**, a charming restaurant located on **Île St Louis**. The three-course meal was divine, with flavors that only Paris could offer. There was a lot of laughter around the table as students shared their favorite moments from the trip so far, making the meal feel even more special. The atmosphere on the island was so picturesque—it felt like they were in the heart of Parisian life.

Day 5: The Seine, Notre-Dame, and More

In the afternoon, students took a stroll along the **River Seine**, passing beautiful bridges and catching glimpses of the iconic **Notre-Dame Cathedral**. The architecture was incredible, with every detail of the gothic design leaving everyone impressed. After a lovely walk, they made their way to **La Place de la Concorde** and the **Jardin des Tuileries**, just beside the **Louvre**. The obelisk in the square was especially stunning against the backdrop of the garden, and it made for some amazing photos.



Day 6: Champs-Élysées & Final Reflections



As their time in Paris neared its end, students wrapped up the trip with a visit to the iconic **Champs-Élysées**. The avenue was filled with energy, luxury shops, and crowds of Parisians and tourists alike. It was a fitting final stop to reflect on their time in this incredible city. Students were full of stories to share, and it was clear that they had taken so much from this experience. From the Eiffel Tower to the Arc de Triomphe, the Louvre to the Seine, this trip had been a true adventure.

Revision

A step by step guide

1 Plan Ahead - Make a Revision Timetable!

A revision timetable is your map to success. Without it, you risk cramming at the last minute or missing out on key topics.

Here are some tips:

Start Early: Begin revising at least 4-6 weeks before your exams.

Break It Down: Divide your subjects into manageable chunks.

Prioritise: Focus on areas where you're weakest or that carry the most marks.

Stick to It: Consistency is key. Aim to revise a little bit every day.

1

2 Active Learning - Get Involved!

Passive learning (like reading over notes) can be ineffective. Active learning helps you retain information better.

Here are some tips:

Practice Papers: Do past exam papers under timed conditions.

Flashcards: Create flashcards for key terms or formulas and test yourself regularly.

Teach Someone Else: Explaining concepts to others helps reinforce your understanding.

Mind Maps & Diagrams: Visualising information can make complex topics easier to digest.

2

3 Breaks Are Essential - Don't Burn Out!

Overloading your brain with information without a break is counterproductive. Your brain needs rest to process and retain what you've learned.

Here are some tips:

Use the Pomodoro Technique: Revise for 25 minutes, then take a 5-minute break. After 4 sessions, take a longer break (15-30 minutes).

Get Active: A short walk or stretch will refresh your mind and body.

Stay Hydrated: Drinking water can boost concentration.

3

4 Create a Productive Environment!

Distractions can derail even the most focused student. Having a dedicated, tidy study space can help you stay on track.

Here are some tips:

Choose the Right Space: Find a quiet area free from distractions (no phones, games, or TV!).

Keep It Organised: Have all your revision materials at hand and keep your space clutter-free.

Good Lighting: Ensure your study area is well-lit to prevent eye strain.

4



Follow us on X
@GunnersburySch

5

Get Enough Sleep - Your Brain Needs It!

Pulling all-nighters might seem like a good idea, but they actually hinder your memory and concentration. Sleep is when your brain consolidates what you've learned.

Here are some tips:

Aim for 8 Hours: Try to get a full night's sleep, especially in the days leading up to exams.
Stick to a Routine: Go to bed and wake up at the same time every day to regulate your body clock.

6

Stay Positive - Believe in Yourself!

A positive mindset can make all the difference. Believe in your ability to succeed, and you'll be motivated to put in the effort.

Here are some tips:

Visualise Success: Imagine yourself walking out of the exam room with a smile.

Stay Calm: Practice breathing exercises if you feel anxious.

Reward Yourself: Celebrate small wins along the way to keep your morale high.

To Summarise:

Plan Ahead, Don't stress yourself, Believe in yourself, and always try your best!

You got this! 👍

Miss Moosa on Effective Revision

Miss Moosa, Head of Psychology at Gunnersbury, shares advice on effective revision:

🔴 Best Revision Strategies

"The most effective way to revise is to break information into manageable chunks and learn them in a meaningful way before linking them together. Different subjects require different approaches, so adapt your revision techniques accordingly."

⚠️ Avoid Cognitive Overload

"Cognitive overload occurs when your brain is processing too much information at once, reducing concentration and performance. To prevent this, space out your revision, focus on key topics, take regular breaks, and minimize distractions such as your phone."

📅 Structuring a Timetable

"A well-structured revision timetable is essential. Use your school timetable as a foundation, ensuring you balance all subjects. Include time for mental health breaks and activities that are important to you, such as sports, music, or religious observance. Avoid burnout by maintaining a sustainable routine."

🌟 Final Tip

"Stay organised, pace yourself, and most importantly, believe in your abilities!"



YOUR LIFE

What is YLYC?

Your Life You Choose (YLYC) is an award-winning, one-day multi-agency presentation designed to deter young people from crime, raise awareness of the consequences of their choices, and empower them to make better decisions that keep them safe. Led by magistrates in the North West London Justice Area, the project brings together various organisations and experts to share vital information and guidance with students.



The workshop sessions focused on helping Year 7 students understand the consequences of poor choices and highlight the fact that they have the power to shape their futures.



YOU CHOOSE Workshop



These engaging sessions and real-life scenarios highlighted important lessons on responsibility, decision-making, and personal safety.

The workshop was both informative and inspiring, leaving our Year 7 students feeling more confident in handling the challenges they may encounter in daily life.



Photos: Piotr Ksiazek

SPORTS AT GUNNERSBURY



Kacper N shines at County Championships

One of our students, **Kacper N** recently excelled at the **County Swimming Championships**, winning 2 gold medals and 2 bronze medals over two days of intense competition. His impressive times also set new personal bests. As a result, Kacper has earned a spot at the Regional Swimming Championships in May. His dedication and determination are inspiring, and we wish him the best of luck in the next level of competition. Well done, Kacper!

Sixth Form Netball Team

Our **Sixth Form Girls Netball** team played a great game against **St Catherine's**, showing strong teamwork, skill, and determination throughout. Despite their best efforts, they narrowly lost **8-6** in a highly competitive match. The team worked hard, displaying excellent communication and sportsmanship, making it a thrilling game from start to finish.



Year 7 Charity Dodge Ball Competition

The **Year 7 charity dodgeball competition** was a fantastic event, bringing together students for a fun and competitive day, all while supporting a great cause. The event successfully raised **£80** for charity, thanks to the generous contributions and team spirit of everyone involved. After a series of exciting matches, the winners were **Newman**, who played exceptionally well and displayed outstanding teamwork throughout the competition.

Oran Douglas: A Step Closer to Saracens U16

We're thrilled to announce that **Oran Douglas (11B)** has advanced to the next stage of the Saracens U16 trials! Out of **120** players, Oran was one of just **30** selected. This achievement highlights his dedication and talent. We wish him the best of luck in the next stage and know he'll continue to represent Gunnersbury with pride. **Good luck, Oran – we're cheering you on!**



Our New Year 7 Basketball Team

The **Year 7 Basketball team** played their first game of the season against Chiswick School, marking an exciting start to their basketball journey. Despite it being their debut match, the team showed great enthusiasm, determination, and teamwork on the court.



Jack Petchey West London Table Tennis Tournament

Our **Year 8 boys** had a great experience at the **Jack Petchey West London Table Tennis Tournament**, reaching the knockout stages. They showed great teamwork and skill throughout. Well done, boys, and keep aiming higher! Ad Altiora!

Year 8 Football

Congratulations to our **Year 8 football team**, who triumphed 9-2 against St. Marks in their recent match! Their victory sets them up for the Middlesex Cup Semi-Final – good luck, boys! 🍀



Year 10 Rugby

Also, well done to our **Year 10 Rugby 7s team** for finishing as runners-up in the Orleans Park 7s competition, with some fantastic results along the way. Ad Altiora! 🍀🍀🍀



Daniel Adu Adjei's 30 pairs!

Give it up for a round of former student Daniel Adu Adjei's **30 picturesque pairs!** Adjei is currently at A.F.C Bournemouth for sending **30 pairs of these fantastic Sketchers football boots, which will be given out towards our current students.** What a great and lovely gesture!



ARTISTIC GUNNERSBURY



Some of our student's artworks, the theme - "Turning Rubbish into Art"

Photos: Piotr Ksiazek



Anna Druc (Y13)



Francine Godwyll-Marke (Y13)



Photos: Piotr Ksiazek

HOLOCAUST

WHAT WAS THE HOLOCAUST?



The Holocaust was a horrific event during World War II, where millions of people, primarily Jewish men, women, and children, were systematically persecuted and killed by Nazi Germany, led by Adolf Hitler. The Nazis believed in a dangerous ideology that claimed certain groups, especially Jews, were inferior. From 1941 to 1945, they carried out a plan called the "Final Solution," which aimed to eliminate all Jews and other groups they considered "undesirable," including Romani people, disabled individuals, LGBTQ+ people, and political dissidents.

HOW WE REMEMBER

At Gunnersbury School, we remember the Holocaust in different ways to make sure students learn about it and understand how important it is. Every year, the school holds events for Holocaust Memorial Day, where students watch videos, listen to survivor stories, and take part in discussions. This helps everyone understand the horrors of the Holocaust and why it's so important to treat others with kindness and respect.



MEMORIAL

This year, Gunnersbury marked Holocaust Memorial Day with a series of assemblies held within year groups. These assemblies provided students with an opportunity to reflect on the tragic events of the Holocaust, honour the millions of lives lost, and consider the lessons it teaches us about the dangers of hatred, discrimination, and intolerance.



CAREERS

at Gunnersbury

Recently, Gunnersbury Catholic School participated in Careers Week alongside offering a Careers Fair for all our students.

CAREERS FAIR

On Thursday 6th of March, all students visited the school sports hall for the careers fair, where they could see a range of possible future educational and career pathways. Representatives from a number of universities and colleges also attended, where they discussed various courses, requirements for admittance into them, and possible career paths.



Photos Piotr Ksiazek

THE BIG ASSEMBLY

During The Big Assembly, we learned about the importance of apprenticeships and why they might be a great option to consider for our own future careers. It was incredibly interesting to hear from a panel of successful apprentices who shared their personal experiences and insights on how apprenticeships have helped them develop valuable skills and progress in their careers. We highly encourage you to watch it and discover the many benefits of apprenticeships for yourself!

Follow us on X
@GunnersburySch



WISE-UP WORKSHOP

Some Year 12 students recently took part in the Wise Up Workshop, a financial education session funded by the Jack Petchev Foundation. The workshop focused on key money management skills, including budgeting, saving, and making informed financial decisions, helping students prepare for real-world financial responsibilities.



Careers Week

Recently, Gunnersbury Catholic School participated in Careers Week, where students had the opportunity to explore a range of subjects through the careers page on Google Classroom. One of the main tools students used was Career Pilot, which provided valuable insights into various career paths. They looked into subjects such as Physical Education (PE) and Law, learning about the different careers that each field offers. For example, in PE, we explored roles in sports coaching, fitness, and sports management, while in Law, we delved into careers like being a solicitor or barrister.

Year 12 - "The Life of a Doctor"

Some of our Year 12 aspiring medical students attended a Q&A session on "The Life of a Doctor," gaining valuable insights into the challenges and rewards of a medical career. They had the opportunity to ask questions, receive first-hand advice, and learn about the journey from medical school to professional practice. An inspiring and informative experience for all!



CLUBS & EXTRA-CURRICULAR

Magistrates Club

A huge congratulations to the Magistrates Club who participated in the **Young Citizens Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition!** Your hard work, dedication, and outstanding performances led to a fantastic victory in the NW London Heat at Willesden Magistrates' Court on **Saturday, 15th March 2025**. This incredible achievement is a testament to your teamwork, legal skills, and commitment. Well done to everyone involved – we are so proud of you!



Chess Club ♟️

Our students had an exciting and challenging day competing in the **British Team Chess Challenge**, hosted by **Harrow School**. The competition brought together some of the best young chess players, providing a fantastic opportunity for strategic thinking and teamwork.

A huge congratulations to **Alex.R, Rico.W, Jackson.K, and Abdullah.M** for their outstanding performance and display of chess expertise. Their dedication, focus, and skill were truly commendable. Well done, team – keep aiming for the highest!



“The Beautiful Truth” Competition

Congratulations to our talented students who have had their work published in **The Beautiful Truth competition!** This incredible achievement showcases their creativity, hard work, and dedication to writing. We are immensely proud of their success and the recognition they have received for their outstanding contributions. Well done, boys – keep striving for excellence! 📖 ✨



Music Festival

A truly fantastic day of music at this year's Music Festival, a year like no other in terms of musical talent. Some exceptional performances were on display, showcasing the hard work and dedication of every student. With the biggest turnout in the festival's 13-year history - **42 talented students** - it was an unforgettable celebration of creativity and passion. The talent displayed was remarkable, and we're incredibly proud of the students who gave it their all. Each performance was a true reflection of their growth and commitment. Well done to our category winners. Thank you to Ms Rachelle Goldberg from Hounslow Music Service, whom without her support, none of this would be possible.



Junior Musicians of the Year: Jaiden Chester Aluan 8N & Jeffrey Screen 8D

Intermediate Musician of the Year: Eddie Witheridge 10B

Senior Musician of the Year: Kamil Esdicul 11P

Young Musician of the Year: Jacob O'Connor 12D

Bella the Hawk

Originally brought in to deter seagulls, **Bella the hawk** has quickly become a favourite among students at Gunnersbury. Her impressive presence and graceful flight have sparked curiosity, with many eager to learn about her training and role.

While Bella stays focused on her job, she's gained a loyal fan base, turning her visits into both a practical solution and an exciting event. We look forward to seeing more of this incredible bird in action!





Maths Challenge



Some of our **Year 9** prize winners proudly showcased their achievements, with a special mention to **Alex.B** and **Micah.P** for their outstanding performance. Both students received prestigious gold certificates in recognition of their exceptional mathematical skills. Their success has also earned them an invitation to participate in the Grey Kangaroo, an advanced round of the **UK Mathematics Trust's Mathematical Challenge**.



Special congratulations to **Hagan.W**, **Ramezani.B**, and **Micah.P** for qualifying for the **Grey Kangaroo**, and to **Cian.M**, who qualified for the **Pink Kangaroo**, a follow-on competition from the recent Intermediate Maths Challenge.

Also pictured are some of our **Year 10** prize winners, who have also excelled in the competition. **Well done to all our winners – keep aiming high!**

Dr Bike Session

A big thank you to Hounslow for organizing a fantastic **Dr Bike session**! Special thanks to **Laveen Handy**, who serviced over **25 bikes** free of charge, ensuring they were safe and roadworthy.

The event was a great success, promoting cycling as a healthy and **eco-friendly** way to commute. We appreciate everyone's support in making it happen! 🚲🔧🔥



Follow us on X
@GunnersburySch



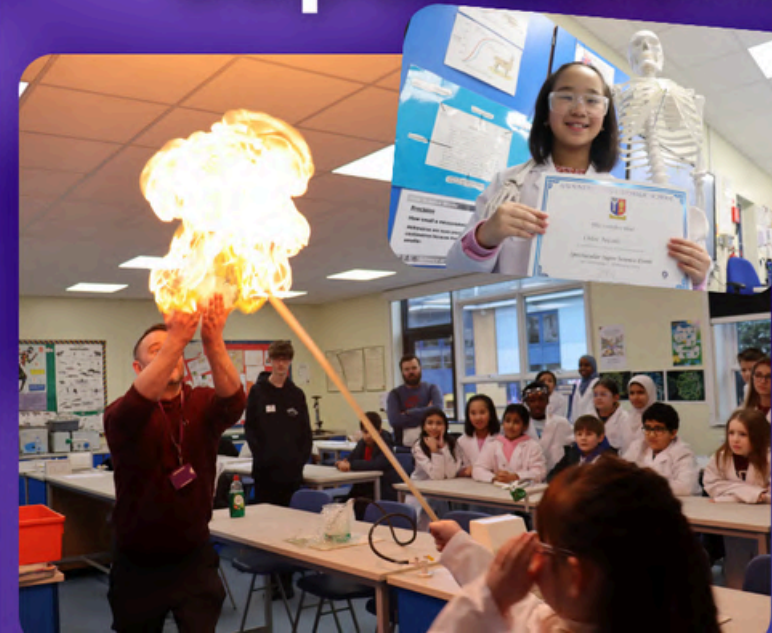
Bowling Reward Trips



Thanks to the generous grant from the **Jack Petchey Foundation**, **Year 7** and **Year 9** students were given the exciting opportunity to spend an enjoyable evening outside the classroom. The students had a fantastic time bonding with their peers while trying out ten-pin bowling at **Airport Bowl**. This fun, social event allowed everyone to relax and engage in friendly competition, providing a great opportunity to build connections and unwind together. It was a wonderful experience that left everyone with smiles on their faces, and a memorable time was had by all. We're grateful for the support that made this event possible and look forward to more such experiences for our students in the future!



Super Science Saturday



We had **22 local Year 5 and 6 students** join us for **Super Science Saturday**, where they enjoyed hands-on experiments, flames, rockets, and lots of fun. At our Science Spectacular event last weekend, we also celebrated our Super Science competition winner, **Chloe Nicole**, who received a Samsung Galaxy tablet as her prize. It was a fantastic day of science and excitement!

A TRIP TO THE ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE

Exploring the History & Architecture

Our tour began with a stunning introduction to the history of the Royal Courts of Justice. Built in the late 19th century and designed by the renowned architect George Edmund Street, the building is a marvel of Gothic architecture. The imposing façade, with its intricate stonework and towering spires, creates an immediate sense of awe. As we walked through the grand entrance, we were surrounded by high ceilings, beautiful stained glass windows, and intricate stone carvings that depict various elements of British legal history.

Inside the Courts

One of the highlights of the trip was the opportunity to visit several courtrooms, where justice is dispensed daily. Standing in the hallowed halls where so many important legal decisions have been made, students felt that they could feel the weight of history.

A Walk Through Legal History

Students were also fortunate enough to explore the nearby areas, including the **Inns of Court**, which have been at the heart of London's legal community for centuries. From the historic atmosphere to the modern-day legal practices, our visit provided an exceptional look into the traditions and evolution of the British legal system.

Throughout the tour, students had the chance to interact with legal experts who helped them understand the complexities of the judicial process. The knowledge shared by the experts was invaluable and made the experience all the more enriching for the students.



Route 2 Success Workshop



The Route 2 Success (R2S) workshop got off to a fantastic start for our older students last week, providing them with valuable insights and inspiration. The session began with the role models introducing themselves and sharing the core principles of the R2S initiative.

They spoke about their personal journeys, discussing the challenges they have faced, the lessons they have learned, and the successes they have achieved along the way. Their stories were both motivating and thought-provoking, sparking meaningful discussions.

The workshop concluded with an engaging Q&A session, where students had the opportunity to ask questions, seek advice, and gain a deeper understanding of different paths to success. It was an enriching experience, setting the stage for future sessions filled with inspiration and learning.



Community Party

On **19th December 2024**, Gunnersbury hosted two festive community events. In the afternoon, residents from a local care home enjoyed a Christmas lunch and carols performed by the school choir.

Later, Year 12 prefects helped organise an evening celebration for individuals with disabilities, featuring dinner, games, and a lively party. Students and teachers stayed to socialise, ensuring a warm and inclusive atmosphere. The highlight of the night was a surprise visit from Santa.



Reflecting on the experience, students described the event as "meaningful," knowing they had helped make Christmas special for others. Mr Geoghegan, one of the teachers behind the whole experience, said he was very proud of the event as it "epitomised the community spirit of Gunnersbury school."

Community Party

On **19th December 2024**, Gunnersbury hosted two festive community events. In the afternoon, residents from a local care home enjoyed a Christmas lunch and carols performed by the school choir.

Later, Year 12 prefects helped organise an evening celebration for individuals with disabilities, featuring dinner, games, and a lively party. Students and teachers stayed to socialise, ensuring a warm and inclusive atmosphere. The highlight of the night was a surprise visit from Santa.



Reflecting on the experience, students described the event as "meaningful," knowing they had helped make Christmas special for others. Mr Geoghegan, one of the teachers behind the whole experience, said he was very proud of the event as it "epitomised the community spirit of Gunnersbury school."



Christmas Jumper Day

On **Friday, 13th December 2024**, Gunnersbury Catholic School was filled with festive spirit as students and staff took part in Christmas Jumper Day. In exchange for a £1 donation, students wore their most colourful and quirky jumpers, raising funds for Save the Children. Many students described the event as a "fantastic way to spread Christmas spirit," especially with teachers joining in the fun.



Christmas Jumper Day

On **Friday, 13th December 2024**, Gunnersbury Catholic School was filled with festive spirit as students and staff took part in Christmas Jumper Day. In exchange for a £1 donation, students wore their most colourful and quirky jumpers, raising funds for Save the Children. Many students described the event as a "fantastic way to spread Christmas spirit," especially with teachers joining in the fun.



Credits:



Join Us Now!

E-mail

newsletter@gunnersburyinfo.com

Supervisors

Mr Selwyn Boothe BEM
Mr Hickey

Director | Executive Editor | Photographer

Piotr Ksiazek (12G)

Printing

Miss Sansom

Senior Team (Sixth-Form):

Jacob O'Connor (12D)
Amelia Oska-Sharman (12D)
Ethan Ogungbuj (12G)
Thomas Vaughan (12O)
Emelyne Prevost (12O)
Thomas McCormack (12T)

Junior Team:

Zaine Elkhamlichi (7D)
Aurelien Ryder (7W)
Kerem Ozdogar (7W)
Dominic Feeney (8P)
Ted McCarthy (8N)
Benedict Hullis (8W)
Radcliffe Panares (9B)
Matthew Abebe (9N)

Thank you to our team!

Contact



Gunnersbury Catholic School

The Ride, Brentford, London TW8 9LB

☎ 0208 568 7281

✉ office@gunnersbury.hounslow.sch.uk

🌐 www.gunnersbury.com



Follow us on X
[@GunnersburySch](https://twitter.com/GunnersburySch)