



GUNNERSBURY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

AD ALTIORA NEWSLETTER SUMMER TERM 2025



**'Bees love Gunnerysbury too!'**

Photo: Amelia Oska-Sharman, Arlette Rogato (See Laudato Si' Page)

## *A few words from our Headteacher:*



We are almost at the end of another academic year – it is incredible how quickly the months have flown by! Once again, we look back at twelve months that have encompassed: brilliant accomplishments by our students; our staff's provision of fantastic support and incredible opportunities for their pupils; a community striving for Ad Altiora in all that we do.

This final newsletter of the year is bursting with detail of just some of the superb happenings at Gunnersbury. Brilliantly, it provides a great insight into the actions that our students engage in for others within our school and beyond. A feature of our community that we should all be incredibly proud of.

Immense thanks and appreciation are extended from me to the editor of our newsletter, Piotr Ksiazek. Since taking up the challenge of relaunching our newsletter a year ago; Piotr's vision, enthusiasm and expertise have been simply phenomenal. Piotr has established and led his editorial team to outstanding success: a succession of highly engaging, greatly informative and truly appealing newsletters that have undoubtedly captured the heart and soul of life at Gunnersbury.

From us all –thank you Piotr and good luck in Year 13.To all within our Gunnersbury and our wider community, I wish you a lovely summer break and thank you for your immense support for our school over the past year.

**Kevin S Burke**  
Headteacher



## *In this Edition:*

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## *Letter from the editor:*

As we publish the third edition of the Gunnersbury Student-Run Newsletter, I find myself reflecting not just on another term of creativity and teamwork, but on the journey this publication has taken since its very beginning.

Three editions ago, we launched this newsletter with a clear vision: to give voice to our school community, to celebrate our students and staff, and to create something lasting and meaningful as a school community. Since then, what began as an ambitious idea has grown into a thriving place for expression, connection, and celebration of our school.

This edition once again showcases the heart of Gunnersbury—in all the extracurricular activities and achievements that happen in our school community. It's been brought to life by a dedicated team of writers, designers, editors, and contributors: spanning Year 7 to Year 12. Their energy and passion make this newsletter truly shine, and I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of them.

As for me, this term marks a special turning point. After leading the newsletter across three terms as Director and Executive Editor, I'll be stepping into more of a supervisory role from Year 13 onwards to focus more closely on my studies. While I won't be leading from the front, I'll continue to support and guide the next team, ensuring the newsletter continues to grow in strength, voice, and vision.

Running this publication has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my time at Gunnersbury. I've learned the value of teamwork, leadership, creativity—and above all, the power of student voice and opinion. Honestly, I've really enjoyed interacting with you readers, hearing all of the nice comments - and even the constructive criticisms. Thank you to everyone who believed in this project and contributed to its success. And to those who may be reading and thinking of getting involved: please do. The future of this newsletter is yours to shape.

Enjoy this final edition of the year, and have a restful, joyful summer.

Warm regards,

**Piotr Ksiazek**

Director and Executive Editor



# The Newsletter

# Team 2024-2025

Every Voice That Contributed or Helped



TERM 3 - Team Photo

- Zaine Elkhamlichi (7D)
- Aurelien Ryder (7W)
- Kerem Ozdogar (7W)
- Najeeb Salu Usman (7W)
- Dominic Feeney (8P)
- Theo Sefertzis (8W)
- Matthew Abebe (9N)
- Alex Sefertzis (10P)
- Ethan Ogungbuji (12G)
- Emelyne Prevost (12O)
- Amelia Oska-Sharman (12D)
- Muhammad Abdullah Al-Mansur (12T)
- John Thota (12G)
- Thomas McCormack (12T)
- Christopher Gaarn-Larsen (12D)
- Jacob O'Connor (12D)
- Thomas Vaughan (12O)
- Zach Dickinson (12D)
- Benedict Hullis (8W)
- Ted McCarthy (8N)
- Radcliffe Panares (9B)
- George Walden (10D)
- Jacob Gil (9N)
- Mikaela Gandeza (12T)
- Maciej Kazimierski (12G)
- Piotr Ksiazek (12G)
- Dominik Kaim (10B)
- Mr Selwyn Boothe BEM
- Mr Hickey
- Miss Sansom
- Miss Gardon
- Miss Kotian
- Mr Geoghegan
- Miss Onono
- Mr Parker



On behalf of the entire Gunnersbury Newsletter team, thank you for your support throughout the year! Reintroducing the student-run newsletter was a big step, and we're so grateful for the encouragement, feedback, and engagement from the whole school community. It's been an exciting journey sharing your stories, ideas, and achievements, and we're proud of what we've built together.

Here's to an even better year ahead!



# GODSPELL

Beginnings

## What is Godspell?

Godspell is a fun and engaging musical based on the Gospel of Matthew: telling the story of Jesus's teachings through parables, comedy, and energetic songs. Set in a play full of characters who form a community as they learn moral lessons from Jesus. With hits such as "Day by Day," it blends joy, sincerity, and creativity to explore themes of love, compassion, and unity.



John the Baptist (Aidan Perrone)



Singing 'Prepare Ye'



At our school, we've brought this energy to life on stage. From colourful costumes to powerful solos and heartfelt acting, every scene has been shaped with care and passion. On this two page spread are some snapshots and behind-the-scenes glimpses of how our talented cast and crew have reimagined Godspell in our own unique way.





# At Gunnersbury

Photos: Piotr Ksiazek

Smile Day

Start the day with a smile. It sets the tone

DESIGN: PIOTR KSIAZEK

Smile Day

Smiling costs nothing. But means everything

DESIGN: PIOTR KSIAZEK

Keep calm and smile on

Smile Day

DESIGN: PIOTR KSIAZEK

Smile Day

DESIGN: PIOTR KSIAZEK

Smile Day

CHOOSE KINDNESS CHOOSE TO SMILE

DESIGN: PIOTR KSIAZEK

Smile Day

SMILE EVEN IF IT'S JUST FOR YOU

DESIGN: PIOTR KSIAZEK

Smile Day

Smiles speak louder than words

DESIGN: PIOTR KSIAZEK

Smile Day

Start every day with a SMILE

DESIGN: PIOTR KSIAZEK

Smile Day

Smile! It looks good on you

DESIGN: PIOTR KSIAZEK

Smile Day

DESIGN: PIOTR KSIAZEK

Smile Day

Smile, Breathe & Go For It

DESIGN: PIOTR KSIAZEK

Smile Day

SMILE MORE WORRY LESS

DESIGN: PIOTR KSIAZEK

Smile Day

DESIGN: PIOTR KSIAZEK

Smile Day

When in doubt smile it out!

DESIGN: PIOTR KSIAZEK

# Behind every smile is courage





# INTERNATIONAL DAY

On **Wednesday, 16th July**, we will proudly celebrate International Day – a special occasion dedicated to embracing the vibrant diversity within our school community. On this day, students are invited to wear either the traditional dress of their heritage or clothing in the colours of their national flag. Those taking part are encouraged to bring in a **£1** donation, which will go directly to support the incredible work of the charity **Children in Crossfire**.

This exciting initiative not only allows us to honour our different backgrounds but also brings us together for a common cause – to help those in need. Through International Day, we aim to promote multiculturalism, unity, and a spirit of solidarity with communities around the world.

## ABOUT Children in Crossfire

Children in Crossfire is a charity that helps children living in poverty, especially in **Tanzania and Ethiopia**, by giving them access to:

-  Early education
-  Good nutrition
-  Healthcare
-  Safe and loving environments

In preparation for this upcoming event, our students have created a beautiful and inspiring display celebrating cultures from all around the world. Through artwork, flags, and meaningful messages, the display reflects not only the rich heritage of our school community but also our shared commitment to compassion and justice. It is a reminder that although we come from different places, we stand together in making the world a better place.





# Laudato Si' Team



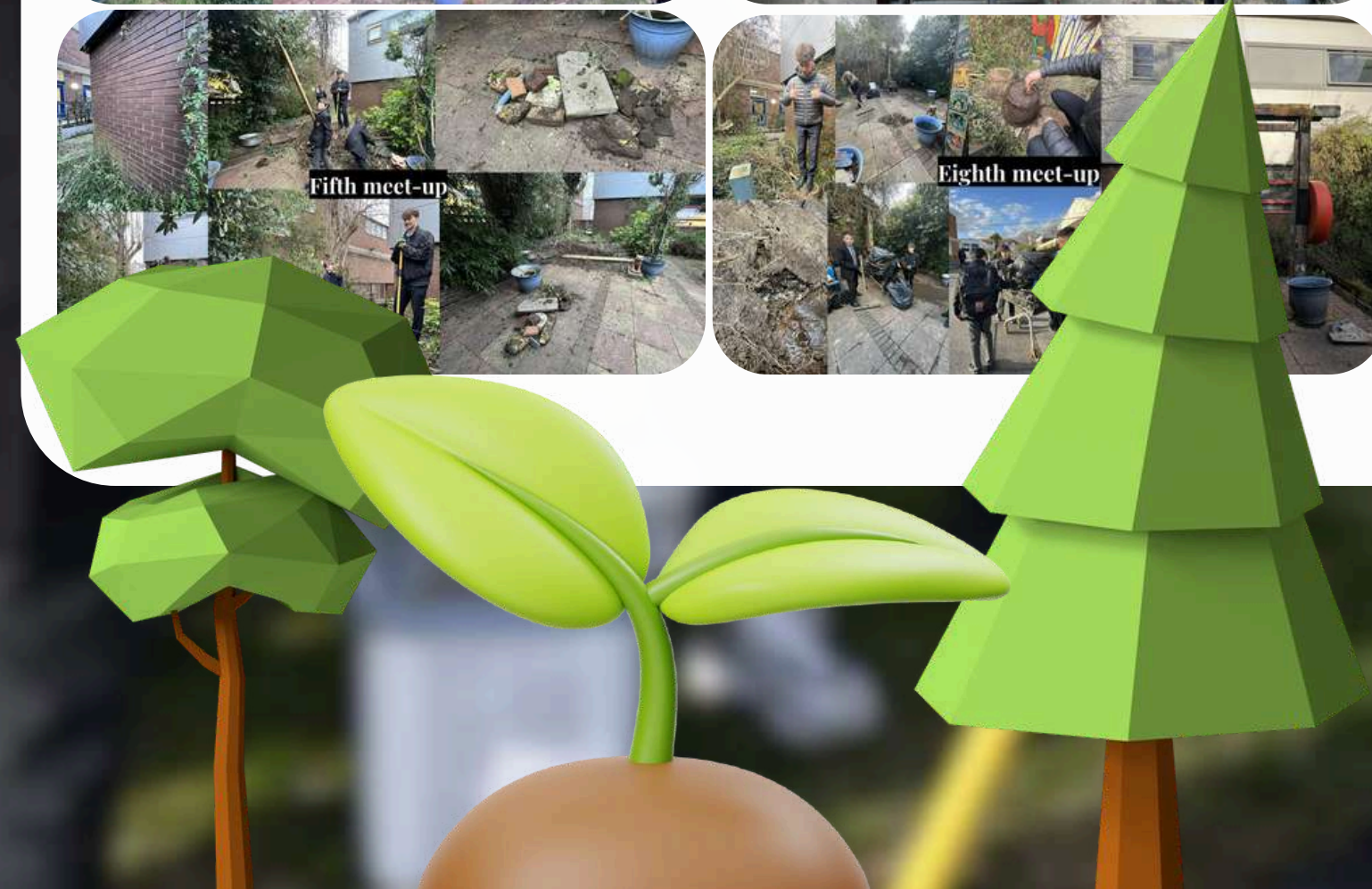
Photos: Piotr Ksiazek, Amelia Oska-Sharman

## Furthering the Environment

For those who have been at Gunnersbury for a while now, they will remember the ancient Sports Hall that was knocked down four years ago. However, in that area, for a while, there was just an empty area of land that needed some colour. As well as this, we know that the environment is in danger, and we wanted to do our bit to try and increase the biodiversity of our planet. On Friday 4th April, a selection of Sixth-Form prefects and KS3 and KS4 students worked hard to try and plant some flowers in that area, digging up patches and planting seeds there.

## Science Garden


For years at Gunnersbury, the "Japanese Garden" near the Science block has been out of use and closed off. However, this year, two members of the Student Leadership Team, Victoria Dumont and Ania Druc (Y13) decided to try to bring some life back to it. Students around the school helped to clean the area, doing multiple meet-ups, where they worked as a team to put effort into making the garden something of use, even during the cold days of winter. #GreenGunnersbury





# Gunnersbury's

# Liturgical Leaders


## Pilgrims of Hope Mosaic

Our liturgical leaders cooperated closely to create the Pilgrims of Hope mosaic, each contributing their unique part to form a unified whole.

Together, they have been building this living mosaic — a symbol of pilgrims journeying in faith and hope, continuing to shape it through collaboration and shared leadership.

Our Liturgical Leaders also contributed to many displays around the school, making prayers, colouring in and discussing, strengthening their faith and teamworking skills.

Even some of our **Solidarity Wellbeing Ambassadors** joined in!

### Chaplaincy Team Promise


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

As a Liturgical Leader of Gunnersbury Catholic School

I promise to set a good example to others and help to bring peace and faith to the school.

I promise to pray to God and follow His rules.

I promise to help those in need.



# Farewell to Our Year 13s



We are incredibly proud of everything our Year 13s have accomplished. We wish each of them every success as they move on to university, apprenticeships, and beyond. Good luck in all that lies ahead—you'll always be part of the Gunnersbury community.

We spent a wonderful afternoon celebrating our fantastic Year 13 students as they near the end of their Gunnersbury journey. The event was filled with smiles, laughter, shared memories, and heartfelt goodbyes as staff and students came together to reflect on all that has been achieved over the past two years.



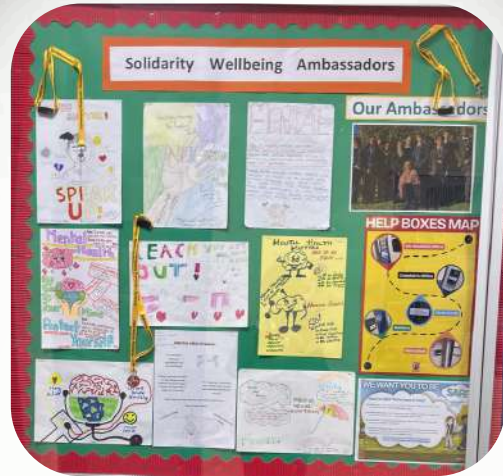
From academic success and leadership to contributions across school life, this year group has truly left its mark. It was a chance to say thank you, well done, and farewell—as well as to look ahead with pride and optimism.



# MENTAL HEALTH

## "How we can help each other"

# POSTER COMPETITION



The Competition was organised by our fantastic **'Solidarity Wellbeing Ambassadors'**: a group of students who are mental health ambassadors within Gunnersbury Catholic School.

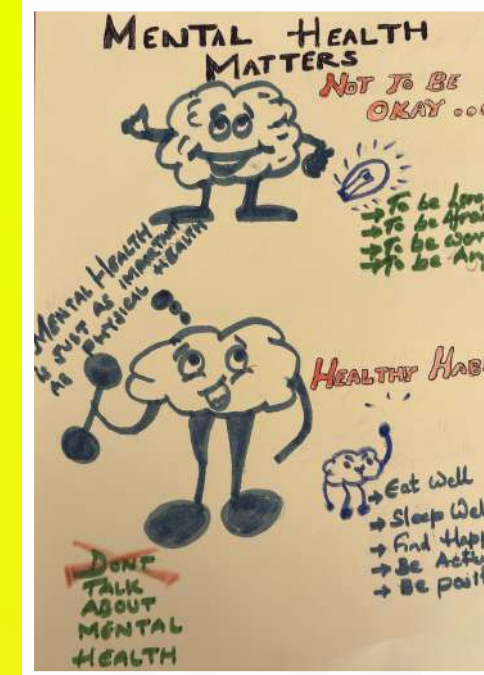
We received 9 fantastic entries, each offering a unique and thoughtful perspective on the importance of looking after our mental wellbeing.

The creativity and care shown in the posters were truly impressive – from powerful messages to eye-catching visuals, every design had something meaningful to say. It was clear that a lot of time and heart went into each one.

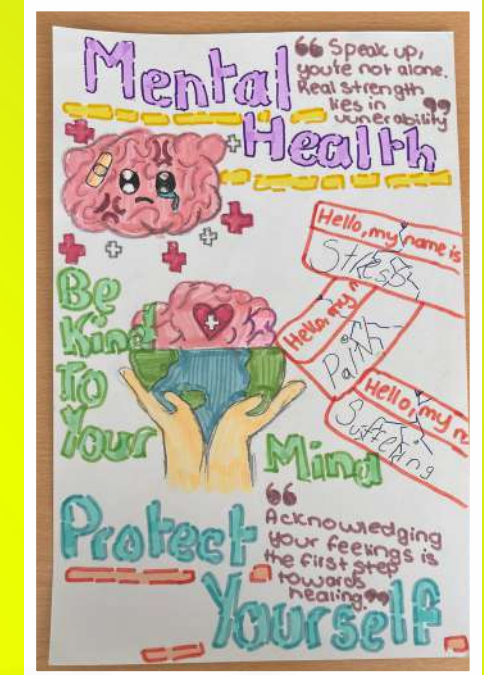
All participants will be recognised for their achievement, and their posters will be displayed around the school to help raise awareness and start conversations about mental health. Well done to everyone who got involved – your work has made a real impact and will continue to inspire others.



Aiden Dsouza



Kabir Malik



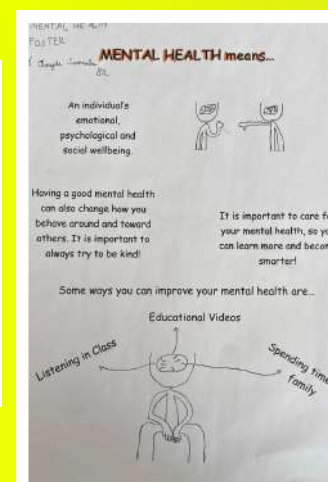
Kalveen Romanay



Tadei Smytsniuk



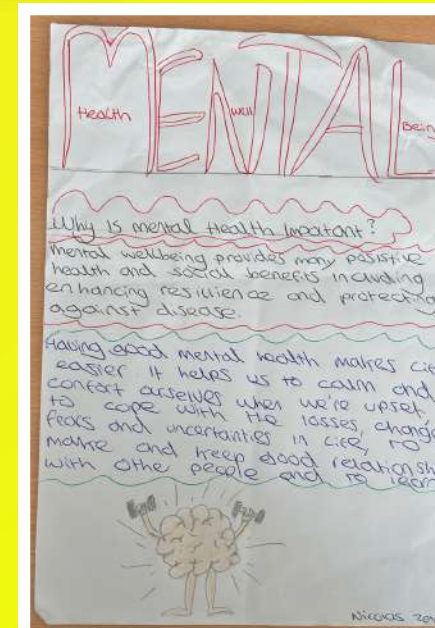
Ethan Chan



Joseph Saoncella



Hayden Yuen



Nicholas Zenonas



Thomas Sullens



# Catholic Life In Action

## Habemus Papam

On the 8th of May 2025, a new Pope was elected! After Pope Francis' unfortunate death, Robert Prevost was chosen by 132 other voting cardinals. Pope Leo XIV chose the name Leo to signal a commitment to social justice, particularly in the context of the digital revolution and artificial intelligence, drawing inspiration from Pope Leo XIII's encyclical *Rerum Novarum* and its focus on social issues during the first industrial revolution, according to Vatican News. He also highlighted the importance of dialogue with the modern world and the Church's social teaching, emphasizing evangelical principles and God's mercy, according to Crux. Since his election, he has concentrated on workers rights, for example he raised awareness about what could cause workers to lose their jobs, especially artificial intelligence. He also strengthened bonds with unsafe and persecuted journalists, emphasising the importance of press liberty.

At Gunnersbury, students from key stage 3 and 4 made a wonderful display commemorating Pope Leo XIV being Pope.



## Yeargroup Masses



Every Friday, our school community gathers in the school chapel to celebrate Form Masses, giving each form group a dedicated time for reflection, prayer, and spiritual growth. These Masses are a regular and important part of our school life, helping to build a strong sense of community and shared values.

A recent example was a particularly beautiful and reflective Mass held at St. John's, led by our Year 8 students. The student readers spoke with clarity and sincerity, bringing the readings to life and helping create a deeply meaningful atmosphere.

## Y7 Stewardship Assemblies

Year 7s participated and led an assembly on stewardship and the importance of looking after our world as God would want for us. We should reflect on this time and hope that we as a school can improve our levels of stewardship and bring about a better world.



## CAFOD Foodbank

Gunnersbury students impressively showed the value of generosity by donating a variety of imperishable goods to CAFOD. This donation exhibited our efforts to engage with Catholic Social Teaching not least the understanding of community through linkage with the charity. We are very proud of the phenomenal response to our Food Bank appeal. Thank you for your very generous donations!



## Sacred Heart of Jesus Month

At Gunnersbury, students created a beautiful and vibrant Sacred Heart of Jesus display, showcasing their artistic skills and faith. This display exhibited the importance of Jesus' Sacred Heart, a symbol of love, compassion, and devotion in Catholicism. Through expressive drawings, this also allowed students to not only showcase their artistic talents but also study the significance of the Sacred Heart. Students were also encouraged to reflect on values such as kindness, selflessness, and empathy that Jesus embodied.



## Sign Language Sessions

Father Keith came to our school to teach Year 7 students sign language and give them a thorough introduction to the basics of British Sign Language (BSL). Through concise explanations and examples, he made sure that the pupils understood important concepts during the lesson, such as fingerspelling and fundamental signing skills. They were encouraged to engage in activities that facilitated student participation and reinforced learning. Through this session, students had gained a solid understanding of basic sign language principles and their practical application. Father Keith deserves a huge thank you for this fantastic session!



# Careers at Gunnersbury

## Y10 & Y12 CEIAG Week

At Gunnersbury, Year 10 and Year 12 students will have a very exciting experience as they will have the opportunity to participate in work placements which will give the students a very perceptive and keen understanding about their chosen careers. Students also have talks during period 7 about career options and what skills they would gain during this week that universities tend to look for in applications.



## Y12 Database Trip

Last term, Year 12 students had a truly amazing opportunity to visit a database alongside Hirehigher through the Rising Star programme led by the founder, Adelle Desouza. This trip offered lessons in networking and career development which not only helped students build connections with people which is beneficial for their future but also guide students towards other possible opportunities in the field.



## Imperial College Trip

Gunnersbury students have been invited to Imperial College. At Imperial College students engaged upon the proto-maker challenge where they create with a variety of tools such as 3D printers, scanners, laser cutters, woodworking equipment and much more. This unique immersive environment provides young people with a space to experiment, design and innovate. They also have 2 after school mentoring sessions, enjoy!



## Year 12 UCAS Preparation

In April, our 12s had the privilege of meeting with the Cambridge University outreach team. They were encouraged and informed of the application process to not only Cambridge but also various other universities. This was a worthwhile talk that students stated was extremely helpful in understanding the process. Many feel they left the assembly hall with an easier and clearer plan for their applications. We are very grateful to Cambridge for providing us with this opportunity! During the first week of June, Year 12 students had an insightful talk from the representative of University of Exeter about the UCAS process and how to structure personal statements. Students were able to further expand their knowledge of what universities typically look for in applications and have also received practical tips on how to showcase their strengths, passions, and skills. A massive thank you to University of Exeter for this amazing talk!



## Alumni Visit

A big thank you and warm welcome back to some of our alumni who returned to share their university experiences and offer valuable advice to our Year 12 students. Your insights were incredibly helpful and much appreciated!



## Y12 Parliament Masterclass

Last term, Year 12 students had a very enriching experience in a Parliament Masterclass. This class was led by Seema Malhotra, the Labour and Cooperative MP for Feltham and Heston, Minister for Migration and Citizenship and Minister for Race Equality. Malhotra gave insightful information about the workings of the Parliament and democracy. The students also received a personal tour including the House of Commons providing the students a deeper understanding of the UK's parliamentary actions from the inside and learning how the system works.



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# Normandy Trip



Over 4 Days in June a number of Year 8 students have had the opportunity to travel to France where they participated in many exciting activities:

## WEDNESDAY

Our students set off on their international adventure to Normandy via ferry, arriving in France full of excitement and anticipation. They soon settled into their accommodations, ready for a jam-packed trip filled with culture, history, and entertainment.



## THURSDAY

On Thursday, our students had the opportunity to interact with french students and discover their school curriculum at **Collège Gambier**, a French secondary school. They then visited the stunning **Basilica of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux** with its beautiful mosaics and impressive architecture. They rounded off the day with an eye-opening visit to the **Mérimée Chocolaterie**, where they learnt about the history and production of chocolate.



## FRIDAY



Friday morning, our Year 8s set off to the Arromanches beach - where they attended a 360 cinema that immersed them in the story of WWII. It was followed by a visit to the Bayeux Tapestry, an artwork which narrates the story of the Norman conquest of England, and a delicious dinner in **Lisieux**.

## SATURDAY

On the last day of the trip, our boys had time to relax and do some souvenir shopping before heading back by ferry for England.



Some more Photos



Iris - National Flower of France





# Sport at Gunnersbury

Our teachers Mr John and Mr Watkins recently participated in the London marathon. The London marathon is an event held every year where people challenge themselves to aim for physical excellence through testing themselves and striving for higher things as it correlates to our school motto; 'Ad Altiora', which reminds us to always aim for the highest.



Congratulations to our Year 9 and 10 students who participated in an athletics event. They participated in the borough athletics competition and worked and aimed for the highest in their achievement as our school aims for.



Congratulations to the Year 7 football team for beating The heathland school 5-0 in the semi final of the borough football competition. We are exceptionally proud of their great achievement and their good sportsmanship throughout their match and always following our motto to aim for the highest.

Thank you to @DanceDaysLondon for their Street Dance tutorials. Our Year 8 boys really got into it, enjoyed it and made great progress. This rounded off other dances that were learned such as the electric slide (candy) and the Haka.



The Street Dance tutorials provided by @DanceDaysLondon have proven to be an invaluable addition to our Year 8 boys' physical education curriculum. The enthusiasm displayed by the students during these sessions was remarkable; they not only engaged with the material but also embraced the challenge of learning a new dance style. The tutorials were designed to be both fun and educational, allowing the boys to express themselves creatively while developing their rhythm and coordination.



# STEM

## At Gunnersbury



### Junior Maths Challenge



On **Thursday 1st May 2025**, students from Year 7 and 8 took part in the Junior Maths Challenge. They answered 25 problem-solving maths questions, competing with other students across the country. We had a total of 7 Gold winners, including Nikita Omelchuk, Raphael Antenne Lulu, Jakub Smietana, Adam Bogdanov, Lucy's Fisseha Negasi, Adam Modzelewski, and Austin Gibson. Congratulations to all of you!

### Grey and Pink Kangaroo Challenge



On **Thursday 20th March 2025**, Hagan Way (Y9) and Cian Mullaley (Y11) took part in the Pink and Grey Kangaroo challenges respectively. This is an invitation-only challenge they took part in after the Intermediate Maths Challenge, where they answered 25 problem-solving maths questions, competing with the best of the best students from all around the nation. They both received an amazing Silver Award! Well done to them both.

### British Olympiad Senior Physics Challenge



On **Friday 7th March 2025**, 18 students from Year 12 took part in the British Olympiad Senior Physics Challenge. This was a 1 hour long paper where students answered both short and long-answer questions based on core Physics principles, competing with other students all across the country. The students performed very well, with 5 achieving bronze, 11 achieving silver, and 1 student **Jamie Villacis Lara** even achieving gold! Congratulations to you all.

### Naboj International Competition

On **Friday 14th March 2025**, 5 students from Year 12 set out to Dulwich College to take part in the Naboj International Maths competition, competing with students from across the world, such as Austria, Slovenia, Hungary, and Morocco. They worked in teams to solve six difficult problems, and came out 31st out of the 44 schools in the UK, and 513th out of the 743 schools that took part. Well done!



### Junior Kangaroo Challenge



Congratulations to our students who took part in the Junior Kangaroo Maths Challenge! Special recognition goes to **Rayaan Bhatti** for achieving a **Silver Award**, and to **Nikita Omelchuk, Aleksander Tos, and Charles Abbott**, who each earned a **Bronze Award**. Well done to all on this impressive achievement!

### Maths Feast at Gumley Convent School



During March, Some of our Year 10 students took part in the Maths Feast competition at Gumley Convent School. They competed against other schools, working as a team to answer various challenging maths problems. Well done to the following students who took part: Anthony Ciurko, Sean Dionisappu, Tristan Gerardo, Dominik Kaim, Francis Kayondo, Cyprien Mercier, Alexander Sefertzis, and Alexander Penchev.

# Spring Concert

On 27<sup>th</sup> March, Gunnersbury Catholic School hosted an amazing Spring Concert, showcasing our talented students. The Adoremus Choir opened with "Come As You Are," setting a joyful atmosphere, followed by the beautiful "The Swan" featuring Leo Barski and Filip Bystrzynski.



Highlights included David Correa Gomez on guitar with "Jail House Rock" and Dillon Farrell's performance of "Die With A Smile." We celebrated our Gunnersbury Music Festival 2025 winners, including Jaiden Chester Aluan and Jeffrey Screen. The evening wrapped up with the lively Jazz Band, leaving everyone inspired. Thank you to all who participated and attended this memorable event!



# CLUBS &

# EXTRA-CURRICULAR

## Duke of Edinburgh

In preparation for the Duke of Edinburgh (DOE) students in Gunnersbury Catholic School had practices on school grounds of the art of pitching tents. After miles of hiking their skills in pitching tents are sure to help them make it the full way, well done boys, and good luck!



## Chess Club

Chess club takes place every Monday after school. The students participating all compete against each other under the supervision of Mr Hickey before the lesson. Every week, the teacher, Ana Royce, covers a different subject with the students. Every second Friday, the students attending take part in an online competition on Lichess, between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. on June 6, for example, the students took part in an inter school competition and won 10th out of the 17 schools that took part. Congrats to them all! The team would specifically want to congratulate Alex Royce 9R, Rico Wan 7B and Evan Ewell 11N for their commitment in other competitions.



## A Reward Trip to Williams Racing

In May, Years 7, 8 and 9 went to Williams' racing to learn about Formula 1. First they learnt about the crumple zone and how a safe driver performs better than an unsafe driver. They were tasked to design a crumple zone which we hoped to get under 2 seconds. In the end group 6 won. After lunch they then either went to the museum (worth over £200 million) and the racing simulation. Big thanks to Mr Boothe who organised it!



## Magistrates Club

A huge congratulations to the Magistrates Club for their impressive performance in the **Young Citizens Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition!** Through weeks of preparation, hard work, and dedication, the team delivered outstanding performances that led to a well-deserved victory in the **NW London Heat at Willesden Magistrates' Court on Saturday, 15th March 2025.** Following their regional success, the team went on to compete in the finals at **Croydon Crown Court**, where they secured an incredible second place. Finishing as runners-up in such a competitive national event is a remarkable accomplishment and a reflection of their legal knowledge, teamwork, and confidence under pressure. We are incredibly proud of everyone involved – your commitment and professionalism were truly inspiring. Thank you to Mr Jukic for his contribution to this Club. Well done!



## Jubilee Year of Hope Mosaic

Our students have begun the assembling of the Pilgrims of Hope mosaics. Through this creative activity they will be able to more fully reflect on their Catholic faith in their communal efforts. This group activity will allow for better connections between students and development through dedication to Christ.



## Year 7 - Rowing

Thank you to Keane Rowing Club (whose mission is to involve as many people as possible in sport on the river: whether that be sculling, rowing, kayaking or canoeing. They are a truly open club and pride ourselves on our completely inclusive programme within all these disciplines) and Dr Pashmi for organising Year 7's trip rowing on Brent river!



# CLUBS &

## Science Club



Science Club happens every Wednesday after school with two of our science teachers. Here our students can participate in a range of science experiments to enhance their knowledge and experiences of what science is truly all about. It aims to not only enhance students knowledge of the subject but also develop passions that may not be discovered with the basic curriculum of learning

## Creative Writing Students Shine in National Competition

Launched in March, the Grimm Tales Young Writers national competition challenged students across the country to craft a captivating short story of no more than 100 words, judged by renowned poets and authors.

Several students from our school took part, putting their imagination and writing skills to the test. In June, Amelia, a Year 12 student, received the exciting news that her story "The Final Curtain" had been selected for publication in the upcoming anthology Grimm Tales – Cursed Realities.

Although the final winners have yet to be announced, having her work chosen for publication is a fantastic achievement — only a select number of entries were selected. Amelia's story will be available in bookshops across the UK from August. A big well done to all students who participated and showcased their creativity through this national challenge!



# EXTRA-CURRICULAR

## Sebastian Scigalski & Dylan Basilio - Jack Petchey

Last term, **Sebastian Scigalski** and **Dylan Basilio**, two talented students, made the most of a creative afternoon by jamming together using amplifiers purchased through the **@JPFoundation Young Achiever's Grant Fund**.

We'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate both students for making the most of this opportunity and for showing great musical initiative. A huge thank you to **@JPFoundation** for their support — it's thanks to initiatives like the **Young Achiever's Fund** that students are able to explore and develop their passions beyond the classroom.



## 'Festival of Hope'

We were honoured to take part in the inspiring Festival of Hope today at Westminster Cathedral — a truly uplifting celebration of faith, community, and young people. Students from Gunnersbury Catholic School joined other Catholic schools from across the diocese to reflect, pray, and express their hopes for the future through music, readings, and collective worship.

It was a moving and joyful occasion that reminded us of the strength of our shared values and the important role young people play in shaping a future rooted in compassion, unity, and hope.

## Wellbeing Activities

The Jack Petchey Foundation has made a significant impact on the students at Gunnersbury School by providing them with opportunities for interactive wellbeing through the Leaders Grant. This initiative has allowed students to purchase various items that enhance their school experience, fostering a supportive and engaging environment. By investing in the wellbeing of young people, the Jack Petchey Foundation is not only enriching their educational journey but also promoting a culture of appreciation and community within the school. They have supplied our students with the resources that they might not otherwise have through chess sets and football nets



## Battle of the Bands

We're incredibly proud of our talented student band, who delivered a flawless performance at this year's Battle of the Bands 2025!

Their energy, stage presence, and musical skill impressed both the crowd and judges alike, earning them a special commendation and an outstanding 2nd place overall.

This amazing achievement is a reflection of their dedication, teamwork, and passion for music. Well done to everyone involved — you've done Gunnersbury proud!



# Credits:



**Join Us Now!**

*E-mail*

[newsletter@gunnersburyinfo.com](mailto:newsletter@gunnersburyinfo.com)

## Supervisors

Mr Selwyn Boothe BEM  
Mr Hickey

## Director | Executive Editor | Photographer

Piotr Ksiazek (12G)

## Printing

Miss Sansom

## Our Team

Jacob O'Connor (12D)  
Amelia Oska-Sharman (12D)  
Ethan Ogungbuji (12G)  
Thomas Vaughan (12O)  
Aurelien Ryder (7W)  
Dominic Feeney (8P)  
Benedict Hullis (8W)  
Radcliffe Panares (9B)  
Matthew Abebe (9N)  
Dominik Kaim (10B)

*Thank you to our team!*

# Contact



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