

Summer Term News Round-Up Part 2

Winnie's Wonderful World



Winnie has really grown up and has shown her coming of age by attending the Year 13 Prom and the Year 11 end of year celebration. She loved having photos taken with the students.

Another highlight was a visit to Tower Bridge Care Home where she was very popular with the residents. Winnie took part in new staff induction and also was part of the team welcoming new students to our school.

Winnie has also started doing some duties including gate duty whereby she says goodbye to students at the end of the day. Her presence has also been welcome on a number of break duties as a friendly presence around the school.

And, more officially, she was a Bus Stop Marshall on Sports Day helping students find their way to the school field. Winnie will miss the students very much over the summer and we will all miss her.



Rap's the way to do it



Rap therapy is a series of innovative workshops that use rap as a therapeutic tool to train young people to be creative and to positively express themselves. During activities week a number of year 9 students participated in a rap therapy workshop.

We had to learn the rhyme scheme e.g., AAAA ,ABAB, ABBA. Also, we had to learn to get over our fear of not being confident. They gave us words to find different words that rhymes with it. We added some language techniques we learned from English to make the rap more fun. We had to write our own rap and perform it to each other and a prize was given to the winner.

The organisers hid pictures of bunnies around the room which we had to find. When we discovered them, we had to go to the front and say a word that rhymes with the word on the board in 10 seconds. In general rap therapy helped us to overcome our stage fright and be more confident in what we do. Helen Amankwah & Chaniah Nembhard 9 Green

The Chaplain's Review of the Year

Although not quite back to the pre-pandemic "normal" it has been lovely to re-start some faith activities this year. The highlight was probably having our Commemoration Service at Southwark Cathedral in March – this was the first time we had been in the same space together as a school since our service at the cathedral in March 2020. It felt very special to be reunited in a sacred space like the Cathedral, where we were able to reflect on what we had been through, and all that we have to come as a community. We were also able to have a Communion Service in school for Ash Wednesday shortly after this – it was wonderful to be able to mark the start of Lent in school by coming together in this way.

In the Autumn Term a small number of 6th formers participated in the Peace Education Programme from the Prem Rawat Foundation. Together we learned about topics such as peace, contentment, inner-strength, and choice – all of which helped us to focus on living life in all its fullness. As the students commented, "I feel like the course has made me be more appreciative of life and has encouraged me to be more positive." "I always left the sessions feeling a bit lighter and more relaxed because of how calming the environment is during the programme and overall." And, "I loved the discussions and hearing everyone's opinions. It helped me to appreciate myself more. I loved it." We are hoping to run the course again next year.

In the Spring, a number of students participated in the Youth Alpha course, which looked at the basics of the Christian Faith. The course was presented in a fun way with video content and discussions. It was thought provoking and helped to deepen our understanding of faith in a different context to church. As ever, the students brought amazing thoughts and questions which certainly stretched my own thinking! All of these activities and more have reminded us of God's loving presence with us in school. Whatever is to come, we can step into the summer holidays and beyond knowing that we are held, and "underneath us are the everlasting arms." May everyone find the rest that they need this summer. ☺

The Humanist side of life

On 17 June 2022, the Religious Studies department welcomed Didrik Sønderslind a Norwegian secular humanist who works as a journalist and author. He also works as an advisor for the Norwegian Humanist Association. Zafirah and Manuella 9 Yellow took him on a school tour and then he joined a Year 9 music, Gamelan lesson. From this he delivered a revision session to two Year 10 RS classes and supported them with preparing for the Paper 2 mock exam. Over lunch he met with a group of Year 7 aspiring authors who were working on a project for the BBC and shared his top tips as an author. The highlight of his visit was his contribution to our first ever in-depth conversation between an atheist and a priest. This conversation is available to view on our school website in the Religious Studies section.

Here is a short reflection from our Year 12 hosts: *"We were given the privilege to host a conversation between our Reverend Imogen and Humanist Didrik Sønderslind. We asked them questions about different topics written by our school community and based on our society and heard their opinions. We also opened the panel to the people in the audience, and their questions were absolutely fantastic! At first, we thought there would be a lot of contrasts between the two, but we ended up seeing that they do share a lot of the same values, the only major difference was their individual beliefs in God /a creator. It was interesting to learn about Didrick's own experience as a man that grew up with religion but eventually learnt and discovered new beliefs, the conversation allowed us to reflect on our own beliefs and ideas about the world and creator. Above all, it was a great opportunity, and we're very glad we were able to chair such an informative and insightful conversation. We hope that we will have the pleasure of doing something like this again!"* reflection by Mahrou Meem 12N and Folakemi Kareem 12B

Religion and Culture Club

This academic year the Religion and Culture Club worked on two projects merging Religious Studies with literature and graphic arts. In the first project, students explored interfaith dialogue and wrote a roleplay. They debated the ultimate question of God's existence and particularly emphasized on the importance of respectful and constructive dialogue. In the second project, students researched and created artworks on inspirational women who were motivated by their faith in their field of work (see below).

Well done to all students for their attendance and useful contributions: **Anuoluwa Joy Ogundipe 7Y, Prisca Airemwen 7Y, Adebimpe Adigun Jindadu 7Y, Princess-Felisha Lowe-McOpore 7Y, Jorjo Johns 7Y, Lola Poulson 7G, Ya-Sapor Bangura 7B, Sally Kallon 8B, Alexandra Aranibar 8B, Cassie Crandon 8B and Zarah Iwenya 8B**



Y7 Outward Bound, Ullswater—21 to 25 April 2022







