



# ST MARY'S, GERRARDS CROSS

## Harvest Walk

Girls from Year 7 right up to Year 13 braved the less than ideal weather and set off on their 10km trek around Gerrards Cross and the Chalfonts. In doing so the girls helped to raise money for two mental health charities: 'Buckinghamshire Mind' and 'Heads Together'. We were delighted to welcome many parents along on the walk, too. If you would like to make a donation directly to these projects then you are able to donate [here](#). Well done, girls, and staff, on completing the whole 10km for such a good cause.



## Open Events

We had a brilliant, buzzing Whole School Open Day on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October - it was great to meet so many prospective parents and their children. Heartfelt thanks to all the girls who took parents on tours, chatted to people in classrooms, and generally got so involved in displaying their work and their school.

If you know anyone who wanted to attend but wasn't able to, they can give our Registrar, Mrs Szczerbiak, a call on 01753 883370 to arrange a personal tour.





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## Year 5 Science



In Science the Year 5 pupils continued their investigation into how scientific ideas have changed over time by looking at the geocentric and heliocentric models of planetary movement. The girls have also been learning about the phases of the Moon. They will be completing a Moon diary over the next 28 days. We used the analogy of standing on a roundabout and watching a car driving around it to understand why there is one side of the moon we never see from Earth. However, the “dark side of the moon” is a *misnomer*. It is not always dark. It is more accurate to describe it as the far side of the moon. In another exercise, three girls moved around each other to model the relative movements of the Earth and Moon around the Sun. At the same time they

sung the following lyrics to the tune of “The Farmer’s in his Den”:

The Earth spins around (repeat)  
Once a day, every day  
The Earth spins around  
The Moon goes round the Earth (repeat)  
Once a month, every month  
The Moon goes round the Earth  
The Earth goes round the Sun (repeat)

Once a year, every year  
The Earth goes round the Sun  
The Sun stays the same (repeat)  
Every month, every year  
The Sun stays the same

## ZooLab visits Prep

Girls from Nursery to Year 6 had a brilliant, hands on experience when they were visited by ZooLab who run unique animal handling workshops. Nursery girls learned about mini-beasts whilst the KS2 girls’ workshop focussed on classifications, predators and prey.





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## Year 6 trip to Pinewood Studios

Year 6 had the wonderful opportunity to tour Pinewood Studios to get an understanding of film production and the diverse job possibilities within this industry. They started the tour in post-production where they stepped into the sound editing suite and were shown the importance of this stage within the production of a film. The girls were fascinated with the technology and intrigued to know how they could get into this line of work. They then toured the filming studios and were very excited by a surprise appearance from Black Widow! The girls had the chance to see the underwater studio and find out all about the people, skills and processes involved in creating underwater scenes. Finally, they found out a little about the history of the studios, saw the many Oscars and Baftas the studio has been awarded and finished the trip with a visit to the bridge in Pinewood gardens where Mary Poppins was filmed. Year 6 were a great credit to St Mary's and were highly praised on their impeccable behaviour and superb questioning. Well done on a fantastic trip and a special thank you to Mrs Lawrance for organising this opportunity for the girls.



## Speaking up in Prep

Girls from across Prep have impressed everyone hugely by speaking up about issues important to them. Some Year 6 girls did a presentation on one of the British Values – Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs, a very important topic and thoughtfully presented. Over at "Speakers' Corner" Annabel in Year 4 spoke eloquently about swimming, and Lara, who is only in Year 1, took to the stand to explain about her eczema and the various treatments she has. Well done, girls – it is no mean feat to stand up in front of the whole of Prep and speak, you are amazing!





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## Mindfulness in Prep

The Pre-Prep girls have been practising mindfulness. Throughout the term the girls will learn a range of techniques including; breathing, listening, massage and finding their happy place. The girls have also tried their hand at yoga and Pilates! The girls are very calm when practising and hopefully they are skills they will continue to use!



## Senior House Debate Final

Latham and Kirk went head to head in the final of the Upper Senior House Debate. Both sides gave compelling arguments for and against the motion: "autonomous vehicles will make driving safer". We were extremely impressed by the skills in oracy displayed by Kat and Charlotte (Latham) and Lana and Millie (Kirk) and are delighted to announce that LATHAM won with 62% of the vote. Well done girls, you were all superb!





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## First place for our KS3 Dancers!

On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October two dance troops made their way to Reddam House School in Berkshire to take part in the 2019 ISA National Dance Competition. The KS3 dancers performed a contemporary dance titled 'Dreams and Nightmares'. The girls performed wonderfully against many other talented dancers, and were rewarded with first place! Feedback was that they had a very creative and demanding piece which was very polished and excellently performed. A fantastic achievement, well done, girls! The KS5 Elite Squad performed a contemporary trio titled 'Bruises'.



They performed extremely well and although they just missed out on first place they were the only team to receive the Highly Commended award from ArtsEd in recognition of their high level performance. They were complimented on their flawless technique and their commitment to performance. An extremely successful day for both teams. Well done! I look forward to working with the Elite Squad to create our next piece. Auditions to join the squad are 4th October 4-5pm in the Senior Hall. If you cannot attend this there will be an alternative audition on Thursday 10th at 1.30pm in the Senior Hall. All students welcome! *Mrs Good*





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## Year 10 Enterprise Team



Several girls in Year 10 have formed an Enterprise team! They are called Puritea, and they plan on selling natural lip scrubs and bubble tea. Currently they are working on producing a business plan, because they need a start-up loan. The plan is to have products to sell soon after half term, so watch this space!

## Mental Health Awareness Evening

It was a pleasure to welcome so many parents to this special, and important evening, last night. Kat Frei, Peer Support in Schools Service Coordinator from Bucks Mind spoke to parents and gave practical information to help support the girls' mental health and wellbeing. Mrs Kingston also provided an insight into the school's approach to pastoral support with top tips for parents in dealing with friendship concerns. The Food & Nutrition students also shared some delicious samples and recipes of their 'savoury snacks for positive brain energy'. A very valuable evening, we're sure you'll agree.





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## Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions

Last weekend saw our Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh students complete their assessed expedition weekend. They walked and camped in the Vale of the White Horse, Wiltshire, and powered on, despite the unkind weather! Duke of Edinburgh staff commented on just how exemplary our girls' behaviour and attitude was. We are very proud of each and every one of them; it is a testament to one's resilience to be able to complete an assessed expedition, especially in difficult conditions.



## Local Economics

New Head of Business Studies & Economics, Mrs Barber, took the Year 13 Economists into Gerrards Cross village to study the local businesses and then apply them to the 'Theory of the Firm' section of their syllabus, specifically to understand how and why small businesses will make different decisions to large firms. Field trips don't always need to be far afield to help studies!

