

# IN TOUCH



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Despite a shortened school week with the May Day bank holiday it's certainly been a busy one for the school.

We welcomed an inspection team from the Catholic Schools' Inspectorate (CSI) this week. They have been looking into the quality of education in RE, the Catholic Life and Mission of the school and the quality of collective worship in school. They will publish their report in the next couple of weeks and we'll share the findings of this when we have them. I'd like to say a big thank you to all the parents who contributed to the process by completing the online survey form, and to those of you who came into school to meet the inspectors in person.

This week also saw the start of this summer's GCSE exams, with students sitting papers in Drama, Psychology, Sociology, and Business Studies. We wish all of our year 11 students well over the weekend as they prepare for their English Literature exam on Monday.

I'm sure that you will also have seen the news on Thursday evening that a new Pope, Leo XIV, has been elected. We join Catholics around the world in praying for him and for the success of his ministry.

Enjoy the weekend sunshine!



***““And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.” - Jeremiah 3:15***

Faithful God,

You guide us on the path of life and your goodness is our constant companion.

Be with our new Shepherd, Pope Leo XIV, in his service of the Church.

Fill him with the power of your Spirit,

the peace of your presence and the compassion of Christ.

May he walk with you, in wisdom and humility,

and lead us, together with all God's people,

to embody your love for the world.

Amen



- Monday 12 & Tuesday 13 May - DofE Expedition Yr 10
- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May - Yr 12 Compass project, River day
- Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May - Feast of Mary Help Of Christians
- Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May - Break up for half term



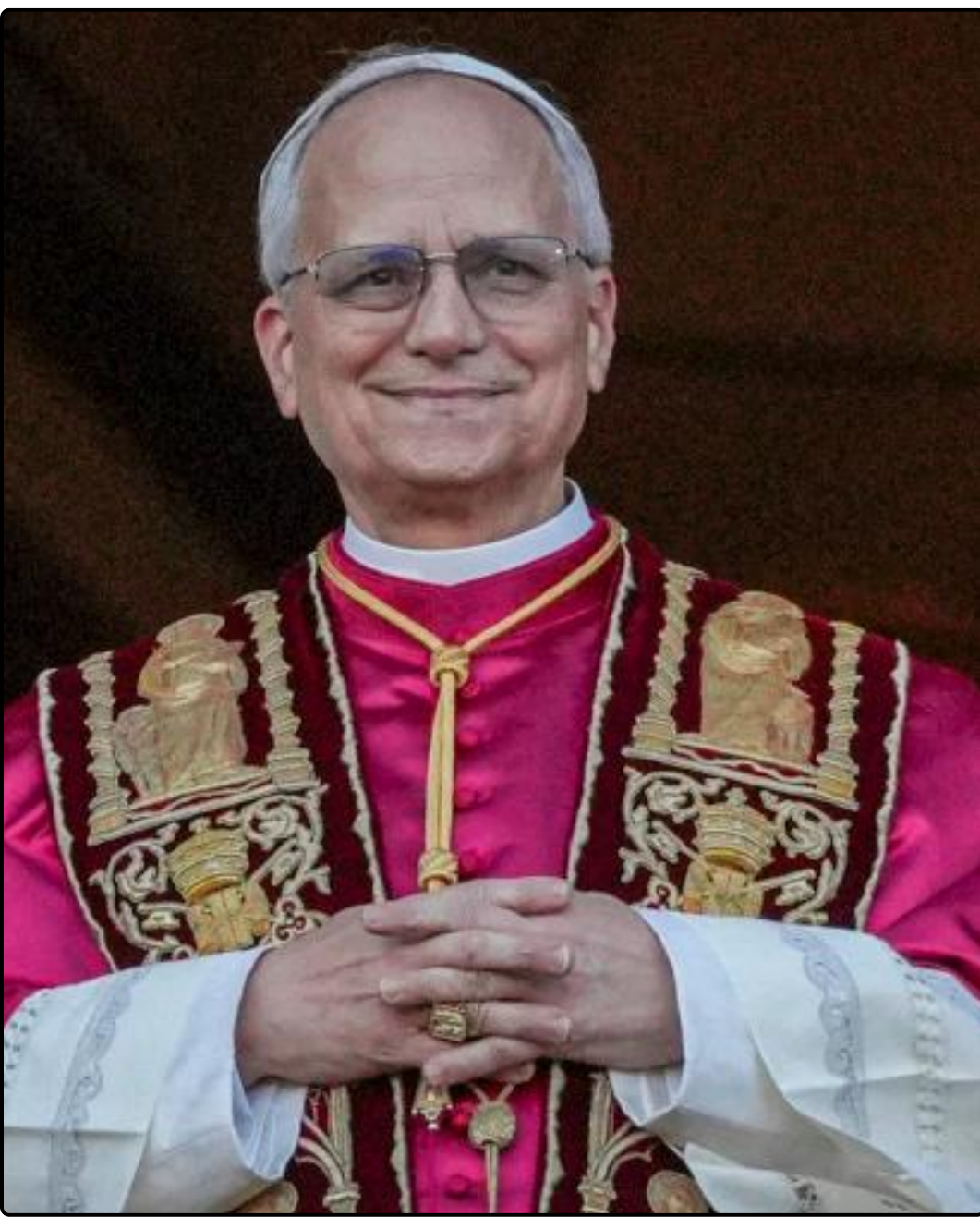
**KEY  
DATES**



Last week, our school joined Catholics around the world in celebrating a truly historic moment – the election of our new Pope, Leo XIV.



To mark the occasion, we were delighted to welcome back a very special guest: Gr Greg, who returned for the morning to lead us in a joyful and unifying atama clap. His energy and spirit brought the whole school community together in celebration.



As we watched history unfold, we took time to reflect and pray for Pope Leo XIV as he begins his mission as leader of the Catholic Church. It was a moment of joy, pride, and deep faith – one that we will remember for years to come.





# CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS OF FAITH MATTERS

Over the Easter break, our Sixth Form magazine, Faith Matters, proudly celebrated its fifth anniversary.

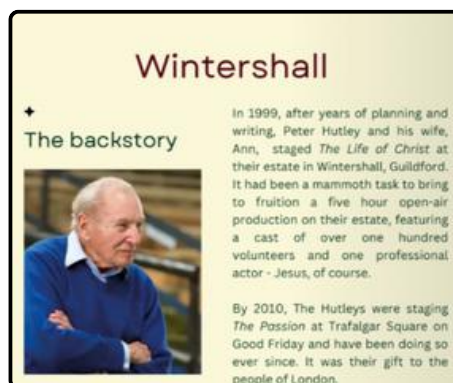
Edited by Fr Andrew, Faith Matters showcases the talents of our Sixth Form students, who write on topics such as faith, culture, and personal experiences, alongside contributions from guest writers. What began five years ago with just 50 copies has now grown to an impressive 1,500 copies each edition.



The special anniversary edition featured articles on women's rights in Afghanistan, an exclusive interview with Beatriz Martins Esteves, reflections on the Wintershall Passion, and a feature on Radio Maria, the international Catholic radio station to which our students regularly contribute.

Over the years, Faith Matters has included interviews with a wide range of inspiring figures, including Peter Owen-Jones, Liz Mitchell of Boney M, Joanna Lumley, Julie Etchingham, Jeremy Bergen, and HRH The Duchess of Kent.

The magazine now has a loyal fan following and has travelled across the world. You can follow its incredible journey via a special world map displayed in the school canteen - and we are excited to share a video showcasing all the countries Faith Matters has reached.



If you would like to read all past editions of Faith Matters online, and watch the video, you can access them [here](#).

We are extremely proud of this unique Sixth Form project and all the students who have contributed to its success over the past five years.







On Wednesday, our students were privileged to hear from Treasure Oyelade, Director and Head of Operations at Motivez, as part of our ongoing Bosco Discovery Talks series. Treasure spoke passionately about his journey - from studying engineering at Warwick and working in investment banking, to launching initiatives like 10,000 Black Interns, which has already placed over 5,000 young people in internships.

His talk, aimed at awakening curiosity and ambition, particularly inspired students to consider careers in STEM and to take ownership of their future pathways.

Ms Philips who attended said: "Treasure had the room captivated. His story was not only impressive but deeply motivating - he showed our students that background doesn't define potential."

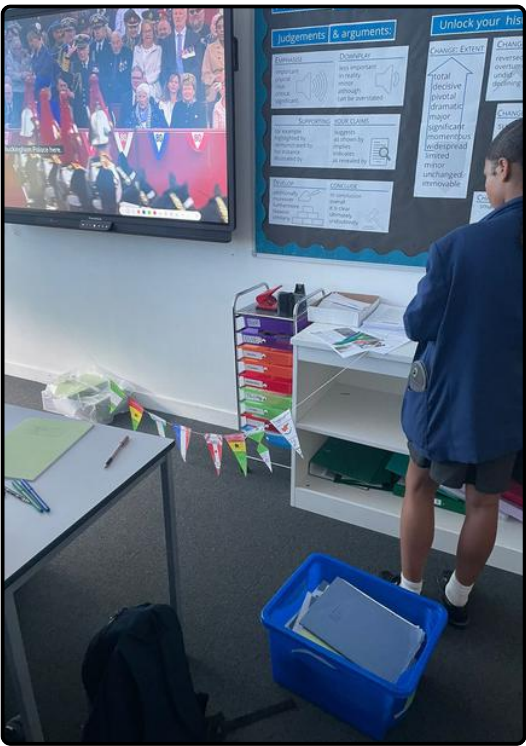
Thank you to Treasure for his time and insight - and to all the students who attended with such enthusiasm.





80TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY – VICTORY IN EUROPE

This week, our school commemorated the 80th anniversary of VE Day – Victory in Europe ( end of WW2 in Europe) – with a series of thoughtful and engaging activities. During break-time lineups, students explored the vital contributions of Commonwealth and Allied countries in the Second World War. We reflected on the often-overlooked roles of Indian soldiers, women spies, Polish pilots, and Caribbean servicemen and women, highlighting the importance of remembering their sacrifices.



Year 7 students contributed to the celebrations by creating vibrant VE Day-themed bunting in their lessons with the flags of commonwealth countries. Meanwhile, Year 9 students delved into the logistics behind the operations that led to victory in Europe. In assemblies, students reflected on the profound impact of war and the significance of peace.

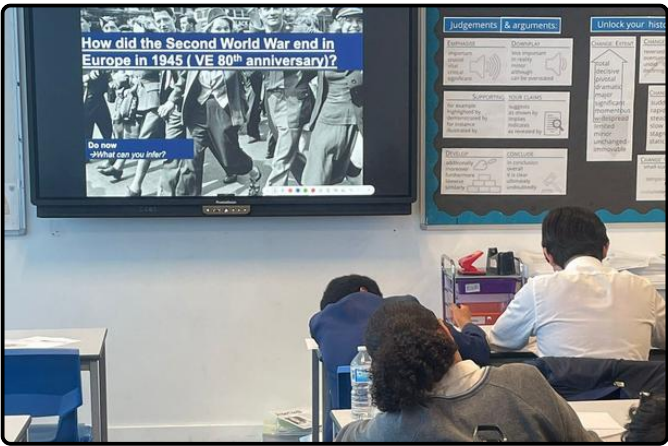
**The race to Berlin**  
→ Read through the events that led to the end of the Second World War in Europe.  
→ Cut out and sort the events into chronological order around the map of Germany. Add arrows and annotations to show the progress of the different armies and the locations of different events.  
→ Highlight in different colours successes for the Allies and failures for the Germans.

① German army invaded the Soviet Union (June 1941)  
② Germany reached St Petersburg and Moscow but couldn't go any further (Sep 1941)  
③ Russia Germany was not prepared for Russia's harsh weather and froze to death (Nov 1941)  
④ Hitler sent the Germans into the Stalingrad and fought the Soviets (Dec 1941)  
⑤ (Nov 1942) Soviets launched their counter attack at Stalingrad, surrounding 300k Germans and cut their supply  
⑥ Jan 1943 Germany only had 90k soldiers left in Stalingrad and surrendered pushing Germany back.  
⑦ (June 6 1944) On D-day 4000 landing craft 600 warships carried 176,000 soldiers from the commonwealth  
⑧ (Summer 1944) Germany in full retreat in eastern Europe, allies planned their invasion  
⑨ (May 1945) more than 1 million soldiers fought in France forcing Germany to fight 2 fronts  
10) (8 May 1945) Germany surrendered to the allies and the war was over in Europe. This is known as VE Day (Victory in Europe)

Stretch: What do you think was the main reason for the Allied victory?

The highlight of the week came on Thursday morning, when selected students attended a special VE Day tea party. They enjoyed wartime-era music, shared cake, participated in a themed quiz, and listened to excerpts from Winston Churchill's famous victory speech. We were also joined by Miss Hart, who shared touching memories from her mother about the original VE Day celebrations – including stories of street parties and photographs from the time.

It was a meaningful week of remembrance, learning, and celebration – reminding us all of the courage and unity that defined that moment in history.





On Saturday, the 3rd May, Luna and Matilde represented SJBC in the annual edition of 'Camões Tem Talent'. 10 talented learners of Portuguese from all over the UK were selected to participate and showcase their art.

Luna and Matilde used all they have learned in Photography lessons and along with a written dialogue in Portuguese, supporting the photos, they explain all what it means to have a Portuguese background and how to deal with it when you miss your origins. According to them, 'Little Portugal' has all the answers we all need.

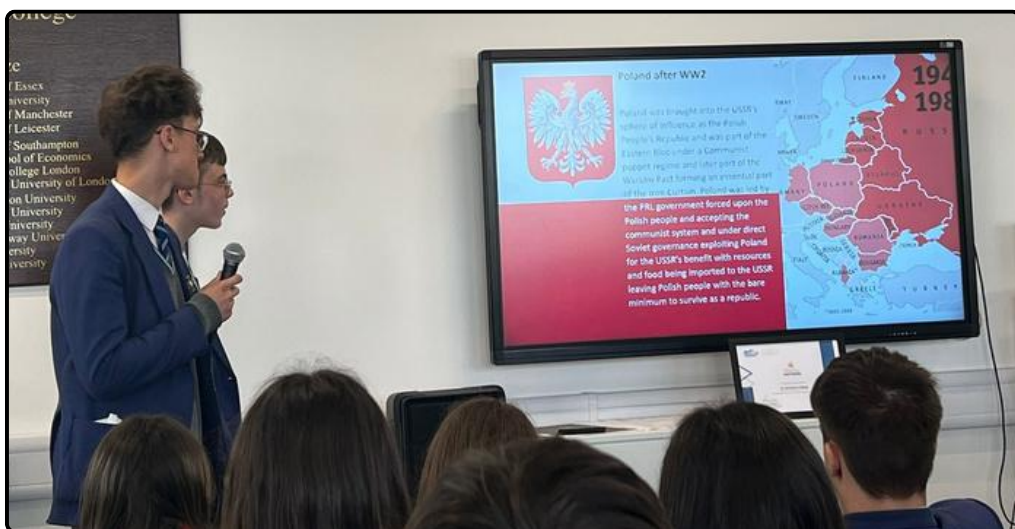


They did not win the competition but represented very well our school and I am proud, as their teacher, of the quality of their work. The jury recognised just that and praised them for it. The winner, a 14-year-old singer and composer melted the jury with a song she also composed. Here are some mementos of the event.





This year Poland is holding the presidency of the European Union and we were honoured to host a special event led by Clarinda Calma representing the Polish Embassy and featuring presentations from Mr Dunne and students including Janusz, Samuel, Hannah, Chloe, Isadora as well as musical performances from Marta, Danielle, Daniel and a brilliant musician from the embassy who was amazing on the violin. The event was rounded off with some Polish and Ukrainian delicacies which were enjoyed by everyone!







# YEAR 11



## YOUR FUTURE STARTS NOW!

The Library is open every day after school until 5pm – and it's the perfect place for You to get ahead.

- Quiet, focused space to revise
- No distractions – just determination
- Tables, Wi-Fi, and the support you need
- Stacks of past papers for every subject – ready for you to pick up and work on



**The more You practise,  
the better You get.**

Give a past paper to your teacher – they'll mark it and help you improve!

**GCSES ARE AROUND THE CORNER  
– USE EVERY MINUTE WISELY.**

Don't leave your  
success to chance.  
Come to the library.  
Put the time in.  
Make it count.

