



# ST JOSEPH'S NEWS

The Newsletter of St Joseph's College

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ST JOSEPHS COLLEGE SEI9



## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have really welcomed the lighter mornings and evenings in recent weeks. Spring signifies new growth, the warmth of the sun and the smell of freshly cut grass, as we anticipate the blissful climate ahead. As we come to the end of another term, let us celebrate our achievements. I am hugely grateful to all the staff who have gone above and beyond this term to support our students' learning - taking time from their own schedules to provide enriching opportunities, supporting holistic development. To all the members of our community who have been present when students require encouragement and nurture, thank you – it is these magical moments that I witness on a daily basis which make St Joseph's College a remarkable community.

Last year, Pope Francis spoke about Christ's Passion, reflecting that in our own lives hope can sometimes be 'sealed behind the stone of mistrust'. Christ's disciples discovered a new beginning in the cross, and we can do the same. "This is how God's hope germinates," explained the Pope, "it is born and reborn in the black holes of our disappointed expectations - and hope, instead, never disappoints. Out of the most terrible instrument of torture, God wrought the greatest sign of his love". Through his wounds, the Pope continued, Jesus converts evil into good and sorrow into love.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a wonderful opportunity for spiritual growth. I am pleased to report that students had the opportunity to receive the sacrament at the college this week. I am grateful to our local priests who gave up their time to facilitate the holy events this half-term, as we further strengthen our links with local parishes.

### Uniform expectations

I would like to encourage parents that when we return for the start of summer term, Form Tutors will be closely monitoring uniform standards. Shirts should be tucked in, ties properly tied, lanyards (with timetable) on, trousers worn around the waste, and a school blazer worn to and from school. Shoes should be black and polishable.

To reiterate; hoodies, sports jackets, jewellery and trainers are not permitted and will be confiscated if seen. Du-rags (head wraps) and face masks should not be worn on the college site.

Final Prayer: Protect, O Lord, your people who trust in the patronage of your Apostles, Peter and Paul, and by their constant protection protect your people. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

With best wishes for Easter.

Mr G Mantillas

## **The Joy of Easter: A Message of Hope and Renewal**

At the heart of Easter lies the central mystery of our faith: the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus conquered sin and death, offering us the promise of salvation and eternal life. The empty tomb stands as a powerful symbol of God's victory over darkness and despair, and the dawn of a new era of grace and redemption.

Easter calls us to embrace a spirit of renewal and transformation. Just as Jesus emerged from the tomb to new life, so too are we invited to let go of our old selves and embrace the possibilities of new beginnings. Let us cast off the chains of sin and self-doubt and allow the light of Christ to illuminate our hearts and minds.

## **St Joseph's Feast Day - 19th March 2024**

We were delighted to host the St Joseph's Mass on the 19th March. The Year 7s behaved impeccably. An example for us all. I thank the readers for volunteering including: Jacob, Reuben, Jason, Jacob, Andre, Deandre. I also would like to thank our Y8 Altar servers also: Erastus, Jasiah, Simon and Obinna.

## **The Sacrament of Reconciliation**

On Tuesday 26th March, there was an opportunity for students and staff to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession).

The Sacrament offers a chance for spiritual renewal and cleansing. The students who took up this opportunity have reconciled with God and the Christianity community.

## **Morning Mass**

For the first time in a decade, the College celebrated Morning Mass from 7.40am -8.10am. The Mass is a positive way to begin the day with spiritual nourishment and reflection. We were delighted to see students, staff and parents/carers supporting this.

We thank Fr Deo for leading the Mass. We are planning and hoping for Morning Mass to take place on the "last Wednesday of the month". We will inform you about the next Morning Mass. And finally, the holidays are important for both Christians and Muslims and therefore I wish you a Happy Easter and Eid-ul-Fitr to all our Muslim families!

May the joy of Easter fill your hearts with hope and your lives with abundant blessings. May the risen Christ be your strength and your guide, now and always.

**Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and joyous Easter season.**

# END OF TERM NEWS



***Our Head Girl***

## **Message from our Head Girl, Duaa Sahi**

As we think about International Women's Day, let's give a shoutout to all the amazing women who've made a big impact in our lives. Take a moment to reflect on the influential women in your life - whether it's your mom, sister, friend, or a teacher who's made a difference. And here's one of my favorite quotes by Eleanor Roosevelt: "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." This quote resonates with me deeply, reminding me to believe in my dreams and aspirations.

As we approach Easter, let's prioritize our well-being. Take some time to rest, relax, and recharge. Consider starting a new habit, like reading a book or doing a 10-minute exercise routine each day. It's essential to focus on our mental health and find moments of peace and joy amidst the busyness of life.

And to our Year 11 students preparing for their GCSEs, remember that consistency is key. Set aside some time each day to focus on your studies. As a Year 13 student, I can guarantee that consistent effort pays off in the long run. Stay focused, stay motivated, and believe in your ability to achieve your goals.

## **Headteacher's Award**

Last Friday we celebrated the Headteacher's Award for a group of selected students.

This award is for students who Tutors have identified as:

- Having overcome adversity
- Being committed to their community
- Facing special challenges
- Supporting their friends
- Showing empathy and concern for others
- 'Turning a corner' in terms of their attitude or behaviour

All the students chosen can be very proud of themselves. Keep up the good work!

## **Opening times**

Please note that students can access the College site from 7.30 am each morning. The Café is open for students to buy breakfast and there is free porridge available for all students.



***Hardworking students***

# SCIENCE UPDATE

## National Science Week

The 8th-17th March was National Science Week! Students in the College used their science lessons to investigate important ideas beyond the National Curriculum.

Year 7 classes were geologists, building volcanoes and testing out the best combination of vinegar and bicarbonate of soda to give the most explosive eruption.

Year 8 classes were environmentalists with their investigation of polymers and the issues they can cause; this included looking at the chemicals that make Nylon and then making their own slime.

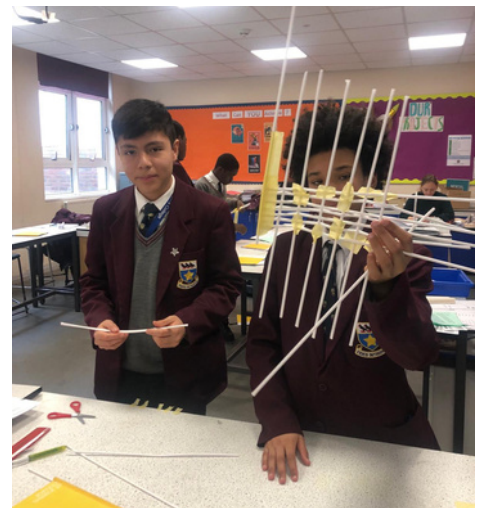
Year 9 classes became structural engineers for the week. They had to design and build a bridge using tape, paper straws and paper which could hold the most weight. There were some very creative and structurally sound designs.

Year 10 classes were forensic scientists in Biology, testing urine samples to identify a criminal, energy specialists in Chemistry, using fruits and metal strips to generate electricity and material scientists in Physics by making and testing Non-Newtonian fluids.

A brilliant, exciting and educating week for all!



***A classic experiment***



***Making structures***



***An inspiring day***

## Science Live! Year 8 Trip

On Friday, 25 year 8s got to visit the Emmanuel Centre in Westminster to attend the ScienceLive! Key stage 3 talk, where they heard from some of the UK's top scientists, including their paths to becoming the scientists they are today and their research.

The boys really enjoyed learning about material science, astrophysics and having a live Q&A with professor Robert Winston.

# TRIPS AND EVENTS

## Pi Day

I am pleased to announce that we had 45 winning entries to the Pi Day treasure hunt last week, and so after a random draw I can announce that the winners of a calculator and maths set are:

Ali Mahdi Hasan – 10 Netherton  
Karen Ghiasvand – 9 Beulah  
Ricardo Compass-Bailey – 7 Hill  
Jashik Jawahar Ali – 10 Grange

And the grand prize winner of a Raspberry Pi micro computer and monitor is:

Jayansh Sharma – 8 Hill

We are also going to be giving out house points to the houses with the most entries – and the points go to:

1st Place – Hill (+314 Points)  
2nd Place – Beulah (+150 points)  
3rd Place – Dane & Netherton (+100 points)



*Hunting high and low*



*Finding the next clue*



*Well done Ephraim!*

## Music Workshop

Last week, a group of students visited a Rap Therapy music workshop at the Museum of Croydon. All students were fantastically behaved and have thoroughly enjoyed the workshop. Ephraim Emron was a star student chosen by the workshop leader and has won studio time as a prize. Well done Ephraim!

## Year 7 and 8 Voicebox

On Tuesday 12th March our Year 8's participated in a workshop on 'Healthy Masculinity'. In the session they explored the impact of masculinity on their lives in order to improve their relationships, wellbeing, and opportunities. The boys now feel empowered to embody healthy masculinity!

## **SJC's Got Talent**

In a brilliant of creativity and unity, our amazing students came together to create some original songs based on the College's Words of the Week. With words ranging from faith to fearlessness, the performances were a testament to the diverse talents within the SJC community.



### ***Keyboard time***

From heartfelt lyrics to freestyling greatness, student performers wowed us with their originality and confidence. But it wasn't just about individual brilliance – students also embraced teamwork, supporting each other's varying skills and abilities to deliver unforgettable performances.

This was a real celebration of student talent and huge credit goes to the SJC Year 10 band who filled the Hall with energy and kickstarted the show. Special recognition is due to Na-Shawn Smith, whose electrifying drumming made us get up and dance. Additionally, our Golden Buzzer students, Ayman from Hill House, Kiyaan from Grange, Henos from Beulah, and Ramiro & Franklin from Dane House, deserve applause and will receive points for their exceptional contributions.

After a thrilling competition, the results are in! Dane House claimed the top spot, earning an impressive 300 House Points. Brooklands secured second place with a commendable score of 150 points, while Hill House followed closely behind, earning 50 points for third place.

## **Curtain Call Drama Event**

With all six houses vying for glory, the stage was set for a fun afternoon of entertainment. From the antics of Sassy Sarah, the troublesome teenager, to the daring escapades of a ninja granny whose chicken was ripped from her hands, and even a sketch reminiscent of a classroom scene at SJC, each performance wowed us with creativity and humour.

As the students poured their hearts into crafting these masterpieces, the atmosphere in the hall was filled with excitement, setting the stage for unforgettable sketches. In a stunning display of talent and showmanship, Dane clinched the top spot, claiming 300 points for their house, followed by Grange securing 150 points, and Netherton in third place winning 100 points.

Yet, amidst the fervour of competition, Ayman stole the spotlight with his remarkable costume as Sassy Sarah, earning a cheeky 50 points for Hill. From start to finish, Curtain Call was a triumph of creativity, camaraderie, and sheer theatrical comedy.

# AROUND THE SCHOOL

## Duke of Edinburgh Award

Last term, a group of 9, year 9 boys signed up to undertake the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. Those 9 boys: Hugo T, Hugo FM, Rafe F, Ali B, Ismaiel H, Elijah E, Enock M, Kenekukwu O, and Mohammad KB, will have to complete 3 months of physical activity, volunteering, and learn a new skill. They will also complete an overnight hike. Well done to the boys for signing up, and we wish them the best of luck in their completion of their Duke of Edinburgh.

## British Museum Trip

On Friday 15th March, the Year 7 Transition class went to the British Museum to see the Islamic and middle age galleries that link to the current learning in History. The boys really enjoyed their day out and could not wait to go again to more museums.



*Outside the famous steps*

## Anime Club

Anime club is about celebrating cultural differences and enjoying current trends and events that the boys enjoy! This year, anime club has had more than 40 students join in the fun activities. The latest activities was a Dragon Ball Legend tournament .

The reason why we are holding a dragon ball legends tournament is In honour of the late Akira Toriyama, creator of the Dragon Ball series. The winner of the tournament was Malcolm Usiholo in Year 7 and he will receive two books from the Dragon Ball Super series.

## Tutor Sunflower Competition



*From the smallest seeds...*

Each Tutor group has now been given pots, soil and seeds so that they are able to grow their own Sunflowers.

Points will be awarded per year group for the tallest sunflower and there will be bonus points for anyone that has a flower before the end of the summer term!

The plants will have to be looked after during the Easter holidays so we are calling on any Green fingered students to care for the plants at home for two weeks.

# STUDENT VOICES

Below are some student submissions that we are including in the newsletter. We have had a lot of great work sent to us and these are just two of the fantastic articles. One is some Easter tips from Andre whilst the other is a response to Mr Dench's Word of the Week challenge from Abishek. We would love to show off more student work. If there is something that your child would like to send in please ask them to email it to arussell@sjc.ac. The theme for the first newsletter of the Summer term will be 'new beginnings'.

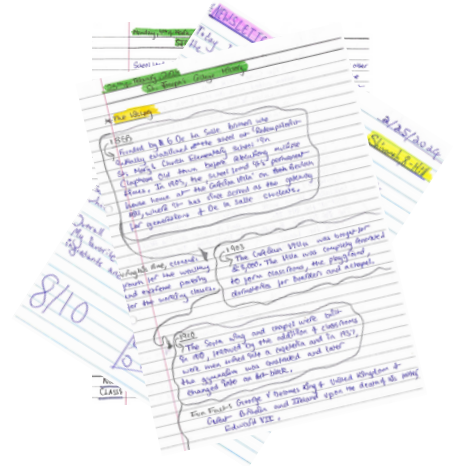
## Any plans for Easter? - Andre Adom

If you are looking for what you can do to get in to the Easter spirit look no further because I have the best ways to celebrate the end of lent.

Firstly, you can celebrate with lots of Easter items. Easter is a very joyous springtime season with colourful Easter eggs to give away! If that isn't your thing you could try using arts and crafts to create an Easter bonnet or design an Easter mug. Try and get creative!

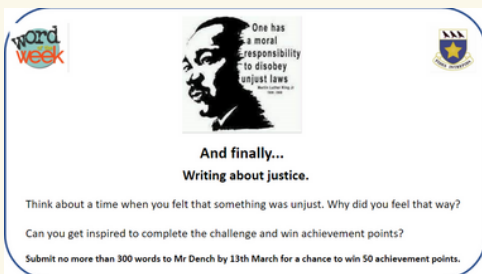
Now onto the main edition; the sweet treats! I want to talk about 'Hot cross buns, hot cross buns, one a penny, two a penny, hot cross buns! Who doesn't like a good old hot cross bun, especially with butter! However, don't forget chocolate Easter eggs! My favourite is the Cadbury's Crunchie, but they come in all shapes and sizes. I also love the mini editions including the Cadbury's creme egg! Don't forgot to treat yourself at the end of lent.

Thank you for reading and Happy Easter to everyone.



**More submissions!**

## Justice - WOTW Challenge - Abishek Srirooban



### **The word of the week prompt**

Martin Luther King once said 'Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere'. I have had moments in which it has felt unfairly treated. When MLK said this he basically meant that when something unfair happens, it is a danger or threatens the idea of justice for everyone. He believed that if we ignore the unjust events and inequality that happens in society, it could make things worse for others.

Overall, his message is that if we see someone being treated poorly that we should not just stand there, but instead we should take action and help them. I believe that standing against injustice is an important part of fighting for our rights, and if we do so we can make the world a better place for future generations. We all have a voice and people must use theirs!



### Bedrock Learning: a tool to help improve Key Stage 3 students' literacy

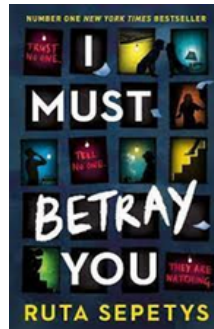


Our English Department use an online vocabulary programme called Bedrock to help improve students' vocabulary and reading skills. All Year 7, 8 and 9 students are set a Bedrock Extended Learning task to complete each week. The programme includes a range of texts, both fiction and non-fiction, and the tasks adapt to suit each student's learning needs.

You can monitor your child's progress by logging on to the system yourself. If you wish to monitor the progress of your child on Bedrock, please contact their English teacher who will be able to provide you with the access code you need and give you further advice.

### Tutor Reading Programme

The Tutor reading programme relaunches this term with a host of fantastic new titles for each Year group! There has been a real focus to pick exciting books that the students will really enjoy reading for pleasure!



## YEAR 11 TRIP

Last weekend Year 11 went on a revision trip with a difference!

There was a real focus on getting out of the classroom and into nature. Outdoor activities have been shown to increase focus, teamwork and resilience, all vital skills to learn before the start of the GCSE exam season.

The trip was a fantastic success and the students returned to SJC refreshed and ready to face their upcoming exams. [Click here to watch the highlights!](#)



*Leading the way*



*Climbing high*

## Denis Treacy Alumnus Visit

Last week SJC had a visit from a very successful alumnus. Denis Treacy is one of our former pupils and has achieved great things since leaving the College. After a long career in Food Science, he is now a global president of a \$5bn company and flies around the world in a private jet!

Denis spoke to the Year 10s about what it is like to become a scientist and how they come in all shapes and forms, his career path, and the previous roles he has done including making Jaffa Cakes. Lets hope that some of our current students can follow in his footsteps!



*Sharing his story*

## UCL Envision Programme

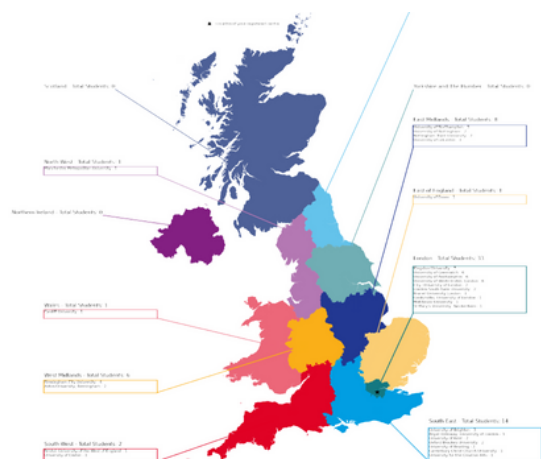
Are you a Year 10 pupil of Black heritage? Do you want to find out more about your options after secondary school? Are you interesting in attending university? Apply now for a place on Envision UCL!

Envision UCL is a programme exclusively for students of Black African & Black Caribbean heritage in Year 10 who are interested in learning more about university and their future options.

The Envision programme consists of three in person events taking place across three Saturdays in May, June and July on the UCL campus in central London. The events are free to attend and a packed lunch will be provided to all attendees. [Follow the link here for more information](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/widening-participation/learners/secondary/envision-ucl) or visit: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/widening-participation/learners/secondary/envision-ucl>.



*A great opportunity*



## UCAS destinations

Here is a map of the Universities attended by our 2023 cohort. They are spread far and wide over the British Isles and we are so proud of each and every one of them! If you want to check out the bigger version of the map and be inspired, there is a large display outside the Sixth Form centre.

Good luck to all our current Year 13s in their journeys and we hope they can continue their success!

# MOVIE MAKING CLASSES



## Movie Making Classes for Ages 5-18

Learn all about Movie Making...

Members learn a whole host of creative skills, from directing, acting, photography and camera skills, costume design, video editing and more.

Fun and friendly classes are ideal for making new friends, as well as developing new skills, confidence and creativity.

**“Sophie’s confidence has sky-rocketed.”**

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a Free Trial Class:  
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# ENRICHMENT TIMETABLE

Here is the updated enrichment timetable for the spring and summer terms. There are loads of really fun activities to do so please come along!

Extra curricular clubs are a great way to try new things, make new friends and share your passions with others.

One new club starting this term is the 'Press gang' media club. If you want to practice your journalism by writing for the newsletter or for our social media, come along on Mondays from 3:00 - 3:30 in N24.



Club/activity	Who is it for?	When is it?	Where is it?	Staff
Press Gang – newsletter and media club	Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13	Monday 3:00 – 3:30	N24	Mr Russell
Football	Year 8	Monday 3:00 – 4:15	Meadow	Mr Curwen
Football	Year 11 Team	Monday 3:00 – 4:00	Meadow/field	Mr Jones
Basketball	Years 7 and 8	Monday 2:45 – 4:00	Sports Hall	Mr Delaney
Model United Nations	Years 11, 12 and 13	Tuesday lunch 1 and 2	The Parlour	Mr Austin
Digital Academy	Years 9 and 10	Tuesday 3:00 – 5:00	Off site	Mr Austin
Futsal	Year 10	Tuesday 3:00 – 4:00	Sports Hall	Mr Monk
Chinese club	Years 7, 8 and 9	Wednesday 13:15 - 13:45	LS04	Mr Austin
Making Music (Who's Got Bars?)	Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13	Wednesday 2:45 – 3:45	H02	Ms M Osei
Reading for pleasure/discussion	Year 8	Wednesday 2:50 – 3:30	N15	Mr Dench
Dungeons and Dragons club	Years 7, 8, 9 and 10	Wednesday 3:00 – 4:00	N02	Mr Mason
Football	Year 7	Wednesday 3:00 – 4:15	Meadow	Mr Curwen
Basketball	Years 9, 10 and 11	Wednesday 2:45 – 3:00	Sports Hall	Mr Delaney
Pokemon club	Years 7, 8 and 9	Wednesday 2:45 – 3:30	S14	Mr Theophilou
Coding Club	Years 8 and 9	Thursday lunch 2	S21	Sixth Form
Rugby	Years 7, 8, 9 and 10	Thursday 3:00 – 4:00	Meadow	Mr Lipscombe/ Mr Bradley
Table Tennis	Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13	Thursday 3:00 – 4:15	Gym	Mr Curwen
Badminton	Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13	Thursday 2:45 – 4:00	Sports Hall	Mr Delaney
Puzzle club	Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13	Friday lunch 1 and 2	SC01	Ms Wilkins
Anime club	Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13	Friday 2:45 – 3:45	LSR	Mr Keys
Chess Club	Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13	Friday 3:00 – 4:00	N13	Mr Barrett-Marshall

Over the past three weeks the SJC PE department has been extremely busy.

On Wednesday, the Chelsea Foundation hosted a 6th Form Futsal competition which saw schools from Haywards Heath, Westminster and Clapham compete in a tournament. And I'm happy to say that our 6th form team, not only represented the college with pride, but also ran out winners of the competition.

I'm grateful to the Chelsea team that ran the competition, and it once again shone a positive light on the students within our College. I often compare our students with students representing other schools, as well as how staff present themselves. I'm proud to say that our students showed maturity, respect and graciousness when others did not.



***A fantastic win!***



***Taken moments before a great save***

Prior to this Mr Curwen's Y8 football team beat Archbishop Tennysons to reach the Semi-Finals of the Croydon Cup. At the start of the year the Y8's lost to the same team 7-2, so to run out winners is a testament to the work John has done with the team since September, but also to those students who have worked hard at training and listened to John's feedback. I look forward to seeing how the boys fare in the semi-finals. This same team also hosted Cedars school and shared a 3-3 draw, this was a great game to give players the opportunity to impress – we also thank staff that came down to watch these games. The boys do enjoy seeing the support of teachers.

Mr Jones' Y9 were due to play in the Quarter Finals on Wednesday but the game was pushed back a week. We look forward to seeing how the boys fare in this game as well. His Year 11's play this evening, again in the ¼ finals at home to Harris Beulah Hill.

Tomorrow sees the Year 10 travel to Cedars for a friendly.

Mr Delaney's Y11s travelled to take on Harris and unfortunately lost in basketball – Mr Delaney is doing some great work in building up the colleges basketball program – regularly seeing over 20 students attend training each night.

We look forward to next term which will see more summer fixtures including cricket, and athletic competitions – leading towards our very own sports day!

# POLITICS PROJECT VISIT

We had the Politics Project in on Monday presenting to 6th Form about the importance of politics and how decisions made by the Government affect their day-to-day lives. Students were also given the opportunity to register to vote.

You can register online here or follow this link:  
<https://docsend.com/view/uef2f77izwpdsyrg>

It only takes 5 minutes - you just need to fill in where you live, your date of birth, name, nationality and National Insurance number.

Feel free to forward this email on to your friends and family so they can also register. The upcoming elections offer a crucial opportunity for you to make your voice heard and influence the direction of our community, city, and country.



**Sign up to vote!**

## GCSE PODs

*Well done to the top  
achievers on GCSE POD this  
week!*

1. **Daniel Odongo**
2. **Samuel Shepherd**
3. **Joshua Swaby**

## Year 10

1. **Denis Furculita**
2. **Kieran Tagoe**
3. **Dan Soji**

## Year 11

## UPCOMING DATES

**Thursday, 28th March** - Student leaving times:

- 11:00 – Year 11
- 11:10 – Year 7
- 11:20 – Year 10
- 11:30 – Year 8
- 11:40 – Year 9

**Students return on the 15th April.**

