



Headteacher's Bulletin

March 2024

'At the heart of our school community is a commitment to prayer and worship. Our curriculum provides children with a thirst for knowledge and wisdom, a high level of challenge and a deep understanding that we are all equal and made in the image of God. Our relationships with each other, our local community and global companions leads us to want to care and serve others.'

Our school has had a busy and most productive term. The enrichment events, activities and projects continue to be a source of inspiration to challenge our pupils' learning and spiritual growth.



PARISH CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION- The National Lottery Heritage Project

"Our relationships with each other, our local community and global companions lead us to want to care and serve others."

The Church of the Annunciation at Marble Arch is the proud recipient of a £90,000 grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund. This substantial grant is a crucial step towards safeguarding a vital piece of London's historical fabric and propelling the church towards a promising future.

The project will repair and conserve the Calvary War Memorial on the corner of Old Quebec Street and Bryanston Street, looking at the organisation's resilience to plan for its future and other conservation and business planning, architectural studies, school pilot projects and fundraising efforts to address identified needs.

Hampden Gurney will be contributing to this important project through a pilot study that involves a range of exciting, creative, imaginative and educational activities to be exhibited and performed at the Church of the Annunciation on the 19th June 2024. We are very much looking forward to be able *to care and serve others* through this aspirational initiative.

Commenting on the project, The Revd Dr Lincoln Harvey, Vicar of the Annunciation Marble Arch, said:

"This is a significant milestone in the life of our community. We are hugely grateful to the Heritage Fund for supporting this project. We look forward to working closely with them and with all our local community as we deliver this important resilience project, as well as several exciting new initiatives to test out our future plans."

Stuart McLeod, Director of England – London & South at The National Lottery Heritage Fund, said:

"We are delighted to support the Church of the Annunciation with this important resilience project. Thanks to money raised by National Lottery players, they will be able to look towards the future to ensure that this amazing Grade II Listed building is serving its community for centuries to come. This project is a fantastic example of how we can support our churches and encourage new heritage investment that benefits our local communities and economies."*

[The Annunciation Marble Arch 'Sharing Our Future'](#)



Staffing

We wish Mrs Aitken aka Ms Irina Panas, every joy and happiness as she looks forward to the long-awaited birth of her baby over the Easter. Mrs Aitken will return to work in January 2025 following her maternity leave.

We also say a fond farewell to Mrs Lauri Potter, Yr 1 class assistant, who will be leaving to join St Benedict's School from next term. Mrs Potter had expressed her desire to gain new experiences as part of her learning pathway towards a teaching career. We wish Mrs Potter every success to a wonderful future. *Chau!*



Year 1 Teacher and Teaching Assistant



We would like to welcome Mr Pravesh Sangha to Hampden Gurney next term. Mr Sangha will be taking over Yr 1 whilst Mrs Aitken is away on her maternity leave. Mr Pravesh Sangha is a graduate from the University of Leicester with a Sociology degree. He completed his Qualified Teacher's Status (QTS) at the University

College of London and in his third year of teaching.

Year 1 class will now be supported by Ms Joy Cobacha, (currently Yr 3 teaching assistant), to maintain stability for this cohort with the departure of both members of staff. We are confident that a smooth transition will be achieved and continuity in pupils' learning sustained as they move into the final term of this academic year.

Thank you!



The PTA is an integral part of the school community. It has been a tremendous source of help and support to the school over the years, both in terms of fundraising and social activities, and assisting at school events and with various projects. The money raised by the PTA has helped the specialist teachers for Art, Music and P.E., equipment for the playdecks, school enrichment trips and general 'Wish List' teaching and learning resources.

The staff and I are immensely grateful and thankful to the PTA and all parent/carers who had found time to help during their busy lives. However, to sustain this collaborative partnership, the PTA will require a strong team of volunteers to commit to keep it functioning. Our special thanks to the PTA Chairman and Treasurer: Mrs Rice, Ms Buckmaster, and Mr Loizou, for their tireless efforts to co-ordinate and steer the fundraising events throughout the year.

Fundraising Events



A massive THANK YOU to the PTA for organising another stupendous cake sale! Once again, our talented bakers baked up a storm raising over £1800 for the school! Congratulations to the Cake competition winners: Ruby Y6, Rose Y4 & Jacob Y2; Kendra Y1; Oscar Y6; and Rose and Darcie Y6. All winners have received a special Easter prize from the PTA. Not forgetting all the children who took part making delicious and beautiful cakes for a really good cause!

Sadly, it is the final year for Ms Baylis, our dedicated Yr 6 parent, who had spearheaded our Bake Sale for the last 4 years and raising significant amount of money to support the work of the school. **We wish to thank Ms Baylis** for her commitment and positive engagement to galvanise interest and support from the local business and communities.

Of course, all our fundraising raising efforts would not have succeeded without the generosity, time, energy and enthusiasm of all our parents and friends. Thank you!

Our ambitious school musical fundraising event, featuring the **School Orchestra** and **Beauty and the Beast** musical, will be held on the **6th June 2024**. This year, we will be aiming to **raise £15,000 toward replacing the outdated 8-year-old laptops and PCs in the ICT suite, which will support pupils' learning more efficiently**. Our current budget will not be able to support this significant resource expenditure and we are very much relying on the generous gifts from parents to up-grade the ICT equipment.

This production seeks to embed music education in the heart of the curriculum, opens opportunities, and gives children the ability to express themselves, to explore their creativity, to work hard at something, persevere and shine. These experiences and achievements stay with them and shape their lives. The weekly music lessons, Christmas concerts, enrichment trips to musical events, and of course, our fundraising Soiree, are exciting channels of opportunities available to progress pupils' learning beyond the core school provision.

Visitors to the school



We welcomed the Secretary of State for Education, The Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP this World Book Day! After a brief tour of the school, a group of children read with Ms Keegan in our well-resourced and fantastic school library, sharing their enthusiasm for books and reading.

The main aim of the World Book Day is to encourage children to explore different genres and develop a passion for reading. 'Well Done' to all the dedicated readers who came dress in their favourite book character that day.

[Hampden Gurney News](#)

We also received an interesting visit from the Deputy Headmistress of St Paul's Girls' School, Mrs Beesley and two SPG's bursary students. The bursary students spoke on how the impact of being awarded a bursary has on their education and the amazing opportunities and experiences at the school. The Q&A session was particularly helpful for our pupils to gain more insight into this prestigious school.

Parents Evening

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended the school for Parents Evening last week. Parents Evening is a great opportunity for parents and teachers to connect, share valuable information about your child/children's learning progress and development. I hope that the reports from teachers were helpful and purposeful up-dates to support your children.

Sports

Our HGS swimming team returned to school heavily weighed down with medals from their exceptional performances at the swimming Gala this year. We are incredibly proud of their achievements, demonstrating such great sportsmanship and coming in first place with the overall events.

The school's netball team also participated in the Westminster Netball tournament and came second! Once again, pupils gave their best effort, displayed their skills and sportsmanship and had a lot of fun.



Secondary Schools	Offer	Accept	Bursaries/Scholarships
Wetherby Senior	2	0	
St Marylebone Girls	6	3	
Tiffin Girls Grammar	1	0	
Latymer Upper	4	2	
South Hampstead High	5	0	1 Academic scholarship
The Oratory School	1	1	
Francis Holland-Regents Park	3	0	2 Academic scholarships
Grey Coats	2	1	
City of London Girls	3	0	
Marylebone Boys	1	0	
Fulham Boys School	2	1	
North London Collegiate	6	5	
Putney High Secondary	1	0	
Godolphin & Latymer Girls	4	2	
St Paul's Girls	1	1	
Queens College	2	0	1 Academic & Music scholarship
Ibstock Independent	1	0	
Dulwich College	1	1	
CFBL French School	1	1	
Twyford Secondary	1	0	
Haberdasher Aske's	1	0	
UCS	2	1	
Northbridge House	1	1	
Westminster City Boys	1	0	
St Benedict's	1	1	
Merchant Taylor's Independent	1	0	
Belmont Secondary	1	0	
Nonsuch & Walington Secondary	1	0	
Highgate	2	1	
Haberdasher School	1	0	Music and Art scholarship
JFS (Jewish School)	1	1	
St Michael's Secondary	1	0	
Holland Park Secondary	2	2	
Wilson's Secondary	2	1	
North London Grammar	1	0	
City London for Boys	3	1	
Queen Elizabeth Boys	2	0	
Henrietta Barnet	4	0	

Secondary Schools

Once again, our Year 6 pupils have achieved some amazing secondary school entrance results this year. Almost all pupils, state and independent, have been offered their first school preference and we are incredibly proud of their fortitude and hard work to accomplish these wonderful outcomes.

Although excellent academic attainment is not the only measure of success in a school, we are very proud of the Year 6 children for what they achieved and will continue to do so as they prepare for the 2024 KS2 statutory tests (SATS) on the 13th May. We are reassured that their strong foundation accomplished at Hampden Gurney will serve them well as they journey towards a brilliant future ahead.

May I take this opportunity to thank all our dedicated and commitment staff for their care, and professionalism to teach, support, inspire and motivate every child in their charge to secure such tremendous outcomes and exit destinations for all our school leavers

Upcoming dates

27 March—12 April	Easter Holidays
15 April	Start of Summer Term
	Breakfast Club starts
	Year 6 trip to Globe Theatre
22 April	Year 5 trip Thames Explorer
	After school clubs start
23 April	PTA Uniform sale
26 April	Year 6 PGL fundraiser
29 April—3 May	Scholastic Book Fair
6 May	Bank Holiday
13 May	Year 4 Kew Gardens visit
27 - 31 May	Half Term
3 June	Year 4 trip to Supreme Court
6 June	Beauty and the Beast production, 6pm
10 June	Beauty and the Beast matinee
12 June Year 4	Electric Barge
13 June	Year 6 Holland Park
14 June	Year 6 PGL
	New Parents Coffee morning, 9am
21 June	Sports Day, Paddington Rec
24 June	Year4 & 5 Sayers Croft
28 June	PTA Rooftop Auction
12 July	PTA Summer bop
24 July	Last day of school year, 3pm

School day and term dates 2024



**Have a wonderful Easter holiday, stay safe
and see you on Monday 15th April!**