

Word on the Street

STUDENT NEWS AND VIEWS



Cultural Diversity

On Friday 26th May, the School Council celebrated World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development with a fun activity which involved the entire school. Teachers and students were encouraged to use index tabs to pinpoint on a world map where they have connections across the world – this activity was a hit with all involved.

I was in charge of making sure everyone got a chance to contribute to the world map and that everything was running well as well as assisting



individuals in selecting their nations and positioning their tabs.

Teachers and a large number of pupils took part in the event. A lot of individuals even participated two or three times, just because of the sheer number of international connections they have, and they brought friends! Teachers and peers continued to participate long after break and lunchtime had ended, demonstrating

their enthusiasm. I didn't even know about many of the cultures represented at our school, so it was amazing to see how many there were. I was also astonished by how some of the countries on the map were completely packed and had no room left.

By Easa Rahman



Prefects



Prefects Participate at Parents' Evening

This year, Prefects have been surveying parents at each parents' evening in an effort to receive feedback from parents and students.

Engaging with parents was not an easy task for me, however, my experience of these interactions has helped me gain an understanding of communication. This has improved my confidence, enabling me to discuss and converse confidently with my classmates.

My high level of engagement during parents' evenings has taught me how to interact with a range of people from different backgrounds and ages. The experience has also taught me to assess how I can change my speaking based on the audience: at some points I was required to translate the survey to parents or explain it further. My responsibility showed me that I need to reflect on the way that I articulate myself.

I volunteered to help with parents' evenings because I wanted to expand my skillsets, especially on communication. I've been able to

gain some invaluable insight into how I can converse boldly with others in an informal and formal manner, and this has certainly made me a more committed prefect.

This role has ultimately helped me broaden my role as a leader in the school and has assisted me in developing an understanding of interactions with our school community.

By Tonima Howlader

Primary School Art Club

As a volunteer with the primary school art clubs, I was given the opportunity to help younger students develop their artistic and creative abilities. I took on a caretaking responsibility as I was required to help students use potentially dangerous tools such as scissors and sharpeners.

My favourite part of the experience was getting to know the students and their interests. For example, one boy wanted to become a footballer, so I spoke to him about my own knowledge on football and gave him advice on how to reach his aspirations. The ability to pass on nuggets of wisdom to younger students was an incredibly rewarding experience.

I would absolutely take on this responsibility again, as I developed my leadership, patience and

communication, which could further support me in the future.

By Tahia Khan

Checking Uniform

My experience of doing uniform checks as a prefect helped me understand how important it is to have a good standard of uniform, and therefore how broad a teacher's role is as they also have to check how presentable we look every morning. From Year 7 to 9 I had always wondered why teachers were so concerned with what we were wearing, but now I know that uniform contributes to a feeling of pride and belonging within all of us – I'm not longer annoyed that my rings and hoop earrings were always being confiscated!

One thing that I thought was amusing during these checks was how students would whip their blazers out of their bags or hide under tables whenever I would enter the classroom to do a uniform check. I never quite understood how interesting a teacher's experience can be completing such duties.

I would end by advising all teachers to keep an eye out for younger year groups who start to take liberties as they get older – I would know!

By Warda Barbhuiyan



Love Trails Festival



My experience of the Love Trails Festival was one like never before. Being able to go there with Trailfam was the best possible opportunity!

Engaging with other trail running groups was even better. We even got to talk to lots of people in general at the festival. The central



theme of the event was trail running and trying to expand our community. At the same time, we all enjoyed ourselves and made the most of our time in Wales.

Although being around other trail running groups was new to me, I know that everyone enjoyed themselves. We were all really friendly to each other and very welcoming; in comparison

to other trips, this has to be my best experience by far. Not only did I have fun but I had the chance to bond with my teachers. In fact, Trailfam and lots of other groups were able to watch Mr Stokes's speech as well as his Q&A with the leader of another group, Tyler, who is the leader of the Outrunners. As we were all there for trail running, we got to take part in a 5k run, a mile run and even some glowstick relay races with the Outrunners. We also had time to relax, eat some delicious food and attend a performance!

I cannot wait to take part in more events with Trailfam in the future – I just know there are even better experiences lying in store.

By Zahraa Rahman, 7A



Globe Theatre Trip

On Thursday 6th July, I took part in a trip to the Globe Theatre for a tour on LGBTQ+ history within Shakespeare's works and world.

On the tour we had a guide who explained that the Globe Theatre was - and is - a safe haven for the queer community. That a gay man in Shakespeare's time was very common to encounter but that lesbian women were considered 'failed men' and thereby deemed insignificant. As a result lesbians

- alongside the transgender and bisexual communities - flew under the radar and their relationships were framed as 'close friendships'.

Interestingly, we discovered that Shakespeare's plays were very queer-based which felt so refreshing to hear.

Ultimately, I am so glad that I went on this trip and was able to have the opportunity to express myself and learn more about my identity.

By Maggie Cunningham



House Dodgeball

I recently took part in a dodgeball competition which was one of my highlights of this year.

In this competition there were teams made up of a range of people: there were teams just for years 8 and 9, there was a boys' and girls' team, alongside a team for students from Year 9 upwards. It was also lovely to see all the support coming from my friends in the stands.

The first match was between Tower and Barbican pupils and it was a really tough match because all the

players were completely in the zone and giving it their all. The teams that made the next round were Tower and Tate, and there was certainly some friendly competition during this round. At one point Tate had a Year 9 pupil on their team and so we had to restart the entire game, but overall it was a pleasant game and Tate played their way to victory on the day.

Overall, this was a great experience for me and I would love to take part in the competition next year.

By Habib Raihan





Great Outdoors Month

Did you know that plants are beneficial as they release oxygen?

As part of Great Outdoors Month, I planted some herbs with my form class and watered them every day. After I found out that we were going to be doing this, I completed some research on these herbs and found that the more you water these herbs, the more

that they grow, but that if you water them too much, the herbs could die. As a result I ensured that I checked on my herbs every school day, including outside of House Week.

A week after we had first planted the seeds, the herbs began to sprout. They are continuing to grow every day and I make sure to check on them on a daily basis. The plant is now 10cm tall!

One of the reasons I have been so invested in this project is because I have experience of gardening and planting seeds from primary school. I would always grow apples and cherries when I was younger, and this year I am growing something new at secondary school – herbs!

By Rochelle Wallace, 7F

Singing in the Choir

During the summer term, the school choir spent months preparing for the showcase on 12th July. It was definitely a nerve-racking experience but it boosted my confidence because I performed in front of an audience. Every time we rehearsed, our performance got even better. I also really enjoy choir because we sing songs that we haven't really encountered before. This time, we sang: Something Inside So Strong, I'm Still Standing, Beat It, Green Garden, The Rhythm of Life,



Rolling in the Deep, When I'm Gone, Bella Ciao, Shake It Off and Someone Just Like This. I personally enjoyed watching the solo acts and duets.

I joined the choir because it is so enjoyable and energetic. It has helped me bond with different year

groups, have greater self-esteem, and become a more advanced singer without feeling judged as I learn. Ms Dawson has taught us so much and I cannot wait for choir next term.

By Cailey Sicberras



Aqua Park Activities

The Thorpe Lakes Aqua Park featured a number of exciting water attractions, including inflatable slides, climbing walls and obstacle courses. It is based in a scenic location, so visitors can enjoy the beautiful surroundings of the countryside while they get stuck into the various activities on offer.

I recently visited the Park as part of a Rewards Trip with the school and we had a lot of fun! One of the things that I found really useful about the Park were



its safety procedures: before entering the Park, guests are required to attend a safety briefing where they are informed about rules and regulations. This is followed by a swim test which ensured that all of us are capable of treading water. The park also makes it mandatory for guests under the age of sixteen to wear life jackets. All of these measures were in place to ensure the safety of all guests which I really appreciated.

Once we got into the park, we were blown away by the variety of attractions on offer. My personal favourite was the 'Wipeout' attraction which was a giant inflatable obstacle course over the water. It was so much fun trying to navigate each obstacle – even falling into the water was fun! I would highly recommend Thorpe Lakes Aqua Park to anyone looking for a fun and exciting day out.

By Koraz Ali



As part of my contribution towards Culture Day, I am going to be holding a food stall with difference cultural cuisines, while the teachers will be setting up a drinks' stall. The drinks' stall will be selling various cultural beverages from all over the world for pupils and teachers to quench their thirst.

I think it is very important that our school embraces its diversity, especially in a world with so much conflict and misinformation through social media. In our Culture Day assembly we will be learning about influential people from different backgrounds; this is particularly pertinent because we want to be able to travel the world when we are older and be open to new traditions, ideas and rituals. By Ahmed Omar Sharif

Football Practise

My memories of football training are ones that I cherish.

Some people think that playing football is difficult, but I've had the opposite experience. We play lots of matches alongside carrying out training drills to help us develop.

I remember playing a match one day when we drew at 1-1 and had one minute of playing time left. We

conceded a penalty; the person taking it had a lot of pressure on them as every one of us was putting him off. When he took the penalty, it went over the bar and all of us began laughing.

Students who attend football training are selected to play in matches against other schools. Our first game was against a school based in Stepney Green and we got to leave school early for this (which is always great!) As a captain I am responsible for instructing my teammates, and also encourage my teammates if we are losing or is we make mistakes.

Football club is definitely worth it and I am looking forward to our future matches.

By Easa Tsang



World Ocean Day

When you are surfing, you are riding towards the shore on the crest of a wave by standing or lying on a surf board – this is what I learned on my recent surfing trip.



As part of Ocean Day, a group of students (including me) were taken on a surfing trip to Bristol to a centre called The Wave. The Wave is an island surfing destination borne out of a passion for technology, nature and health. At its heart is an unbelievable



surfing lake with perfect wave set in an incredible green space.

We surfed, painted and ate a lot during this trip – it was packed with the best possible things you could have on a trip!

By Mariana Lopez Castano

The Big Quiz

My experience of The Big Quiz was really fun. At the beginning of the event, my friend and I sat down and jogged our memories so that we were ready to compete. However, my friend became distracted just before the quiz so it seemed like I was just playing on my own at first!

Round 1 was about world events which I was confident about because I had been watching the news with my father the night before. Events that came up were Queen Elizabeth's II death and the devastating



earthquake in Turkey. As expected, I was successful in this round and was ready to face Round 2 – general knowledge.

Did you know that Alfredo di Stefano played for three different nations? That was one of the questions that came

up, which I was happy to answer, but I wasn't too lucky with some other questions.

Thankfully, I was successful in Round 2 and moved onto Round 3 which was all about music. I really thought Bon Jovi or Billy Joel would be played but, as it turned out, it was modern pop music (which I really dislike). I completely failed this segment and got only three questions right.

In the end, I fared well with most of the questions. I played against a large number of people, so I really cherished the experience and thought it was a great way to end my day.

By Sahnan Kabir