

News from

St Mark's

The Spring Term is very much in full swing with the school buzzing with events, activities, revision sessions and exam preparations!

Later this month, we will once again open our doors to the local community in our annual **Larkhall Festival Art and Craft Day on Saturday 29th April from 11am - 3pm**. This is a wonderful occasion, full of creativity and artistic inspiration, as our staff and PTA provide a variety of art and craft activities for children of all ages to engage in. There is something for all tastes and skill levels so do come along with your family and enjoy the activities on offer.

We will also be exhibiting the entries from our sixties-inspired Art Competition as part of this year's Larkhall Open Studios, organised by the St Mark's PTA and kindly sponsored by Minerva Art Supplies. Entries are being taken right up until the closing date on Wednesday 5th April so, if you have not already done so, please encourage your son or daughter to take part. Further information and an entry form can be found at www.st-marks.org.uk.

I look forward to welcoming you and sharing the talents of our community in this very special exhibition and activity day.

Mr Barnaby Ash, Headteacher

Year 8 Maths Masterclasses

Four students from St Mark's School have recently been selected to take part in a series of weekend Mathematics Masterclasses at the University of Bath. The programme aims to inspire students to improve their problem solving skills and academic rigour whilst encouraging the uptake of Mathematics at degree level.

The first session focused on the theme of 'Multiplication' and included a workshop and demonstration by Oxford University lecturer, Vicky Neale. Students were challenged to study and predict patterns in a series of dots based on their factors.

The topic then moved onto working with Modular Arithmetic investigating how to represent different times tables as modular values. Kes, Emily, Ben and George were encouraged to discuss their findings and share ideas before discovering that their topic for the day is currently being taught during the first year of a Degree in Mathematics! This valuable experience is just one example of the school's continued dedication to providing wider learning experiences that stretch and challenge students academically.

Year 9, 10 and 11 Students take part in the UKMT Individual Maths Challenges

Earlier this term, twenty students from Years 9 - 11 took part in the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust Individual Maths Challenge. The competition consists of a series of multiple-choice questions designed to enthuse and engage students in the study of maths. The initial questions provide an opportunity for students to apply their mathematical knowledge whilst subsequent questions were focused on challenging and stretching students' mathematical skills.

A number of our students proved they were up for the challenge, securing sufficient marks to receive awards.

Zac, Max and Matyas received a Silver Award and Esi, Bryan, Tia and Freddie received a Bronze award.

Plans are already in place to enter twenty students from Years 7 and 8 into the Junior Challenge in April.



WW1 Battlefields Centenary Trip

Two students, Rosie and Finley, from St Mark's School were recently invited to attend a thought-provoking and moving trip to the Battlefields of WW1 in Belgium and France, sponsored by the Institute of Education. The 4-day trip, organised by History Teacher, Mrs Cradock, included visits to Caterpillar Cemetery, Menin Gate, Tyne Cot, the largest British Cemetery, the Somme and Vimy Ridge as well as a field hospital cemetery in Lijssenthoek, where 200 hundred of the soldiers buried were under the age of 18.

The trip provided a poignant and humbling reminder of the many soldiers from around the world who lost their lives in France and Belgium during the conflict.

Rosie was given the great honour of placing a wreath at the Last Post Ceremony at Menin

Gate before the group travelled to Thiepval Memorial finding one name, much closer to home, that of missing soldier private James Donald Smale (aged 20), a soldier from Larkhall.

Young Parliament 2017

'Get Involved, Get Inspired' was the theme of this year's Young Parliament Conference, held at Norton Hill School. Representatives from St Mark's were invited to debate a range of thought-provoking topics affecting young people.

Students presented a range of ideas on how schools and local authorities could engage with young people, highlighting the important role that they play in providing nurturing opportunities and challenge - spiritually, physically and emotionally - that will allow them to grow.

Batheaston Garden Group

The 2017 season of events with a talk by Robert Harvey entitled, **British Wildflowers in Nature and the Garden.**

Robert is a professional environmental scientist, photographer, horticulturist, writer and speaker. He lives in Wiltshire..

The illustrated talk will take place at the Church of the Good Shepherd Hall, Batheaston on Wednesday, 26th April, commencing at 7:30pm. Admission is £2

for members and £5 for non-members.