

# INSIDE ST GABRIEL'S

St Gabriel's  
NEWBURY

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I always love the summer term. I know that for two of the year groups in school it brings the reality of public exams, and indeed for all in school there are assessments of some sort that take place, but the better weather, the wide range of activities and sports that are available for all the pupils at St Gabriel's to participate in, means that it is a wholly rewarding time of the academic year.

This start of summer, despite not being quite the glorious weather that we might have hoped for, has had all the ingredients of a classic May in school, and I am sure that the reports you find in these pages will help you to enjoy much of what has made up the first half of term.

Enjoy!

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely of the headmaster, written in a cursive style.

## Jubilee Day.

We had a fantastic celebration Friday 27 May celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the end of the first half of the Summer Term. We had spectacular weather for the BBQ outside in the Marquee and it was lovely to see all the pupils enjoying the grounds. Some classes even held revision sessions in the sunshine!

The pupils and staff were dressed in red, white and

blue and the excitement was brewing for the Jubilee bank holiday the following week.

We were also generously donated two Rowan trees from Reading Matins Rotary Club to replace trees lost in the storm a few months ago. The Junior School were tasked with planting these saplings along with a time capsule full of items important to the children including current currency, favourite toys and letters to the future pupils of St Gabriel's School.



A splendid day of celebrations was had by all! We hope our community had a fantastic time enjoying the extended bank holiday during half term.



### Announcing our Sixth Form Officers

We are delighted to announce our Sixth Form Officers for the academic year 2022- 2023. Congratulations on your positions, and we look forward to hearing all about your aims for the coming year.

**Head Girl - Oluchi A**

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**Deputy Head Girl - Lily G**

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**Head of Charity & Junior School**

**Liaison - Anneliese B**

• • •

**Sports Captain - Alice H**

**Senior Prefect - Eve G**

• • •

**Head of Diversity/Inclusion &**

**Head of Wellbeing - Emily W**

• • •

**Head of Sustainability - Lily W**

• • •

**Head of Social Media - Jessica A D**

## **BEDE**

House Captain - Jemima W

Vice Captain - Adelaide B

## **CHAD**

House Captain - Holly H

Vice Captain - Emily J

## **AIDAN**

House Captain - Erin T

Vice-Captain - Olivia C

## **ALBAN**

House Captain - Izzy W

Vice-Captain - Catherine S

### Interview with our Head and Deputy Head Girls

Our Head Girl, Oluchi, and Deputy Head Girl, Lily, both joined St Gabriel's in Year 7. Emily, from the Marketing Department, took time to interview them to understand their experience of life at St Gabriel's, their leadership roles, and their plans for the future.

*What is your favourite memory of your time at school so far?*

Oluchi: There are so many amazing memories. My favourite would have to be the science song in Year 11. We did a rendition of "Don't stop me now" called "Don't drink the acid". Participating in the creation and execution was so much fun. I'm proud to say our entry won.

Lily: My favourite memory was the Parc Astérix trip in Year 8.

*Tell us about securing the role of Head Girl/Deputy Head Girl?*

Oluchi: It was a two-step process. The first step was writing a formal application letter detailing what I thought would make a good Head Girl, why I would be the right fit and what the role would mean to me. After this, I attended an interview with Mrs Chapman and Mrs Trevis where I answered questions about what I wanted to do in the role and how I would make a positive impact. The interview was a bit nerve-racking as I did not know the specific questions that would be asked but, in the end, I just answered as naturally as possible demonstrating my dedication to the school and to the role.

Lily: To get the role of Deputy Head Girl, I had to write a letter to Mrs Chapman and Mrs Trevis explaining why I thought I would be a great fit. This was followed by an interview where I outlined what I hoped to achieve as Deputy Head Girl. I thought this process was very important, even though I was nervous, and was thrilled once I got the position.

*What duties will you be performing as Head Girl/Deputy Head Girl?*

Oluchi: As Head Girl, I will be attending many school events such as Open Morning and Speech Day, representing the student body to parents both prospective and those whose children already attend the school. Within the school, alongside Lily, I will be running the School Council and attending regular meetings with Mrs Chapman, acting as a mediator between the student community and the school leadership to ensure everyone's voice and opinions are heard.

Lily: As Deputy Head Girl, I will be meeting with many different people and attending Open Mornings along with other school events.

*What are you excited about achieving as Head Girl/Deputy Head Girl?*

Oluchi: Covid has meant that year groups have been very isolated, and the younger years especially have not experienced the vibrant St Gabriel's community. My main aim as Head Girl is to strengthen inter-year group relationships by meeting with year groups in a more informal setting and engaging them in activities, such as group discussions and team building activities. I would love to set up a support

network, which would put pupils in contact with other students who have had a similar experience. I would also like to extend the number of end of term activities to include events such as themed quizzes within year groups or Houses to allow for friendly competition and boost pupil morale after a strange couple of years.

Lily: I am excited to get to meet the younger years as it has been difficult due to Covid. I would also love to plan more school events which would allow different years to socialise together and have fun.

*What qualities do you think are important to bring to the role?*

Oluchi: I think being a good team player is essential to the job. As Head Girl, you work with the Deputy Head Girl as well as the wider Prefect Team and Senior Management. Listening skills are also important; the role requires talking with lots of different groups, taking on board their ideas, understanding them and passing them on. Being able to listen well allows people to feel important to the conversation (which they are).

Other attributes, such as being an approachable figure and good communication skills, are equally important.

Lily: I think it is essential that the Deputy Head Girl is approachable to the younger years, a team player and a good communicator.

*Do you have any hobbies or passions?*

Oluchi: I like creative writing (a long-time hobby of mine) and I am writing a fiction novel. I find it a relaxing thing to do and allows me a break from my very intense science-based subjects. I play the violin and participate in the Friday Judo Club, which is a great way to relieve any stress at the end of a busy week. I love debating/discussing topics, whether it be with my parents at home or in the Debating Club run by Mrs Archer. It is always fast-paced and engaging (also slightly daunting), requiring you to take a motion and prepare an argument to debate your side passionately.



I love to take in the plethora of ideas around me and use them to refine my own views.

Lily: One of my hobbies is playing the piano even though I do not take grades. I also love listening to music, along with playing it, as it helps me relax.

*What would you say to anyone joining St Gabriel's?*

Oluchi: Time really flies by when you are having fun. I remember joining the Senior School in Year 7, getting my first key fob, and finding my way around the school. Now I am planning my university choices and have less than three full terms left. I would advise anyone joining St Gabriel's to take full advantage of all the opportunities offered to you and to strive to be the best you possibly can be. Work well in everything and be open, don't limit yourself to what it appears you are good at.

The teachers are always available to help (and convince you to fall in love with their subject); do not be afraid to fail because they are there to support your progress. With all this said, you only pass through the Senior School once so enjoy the journey as much as possible.

Lily: My advice to someone who is joining St Gabriel's would be to take every opportunity they are given. There is so much on offer with a huge variety of activities, clubs and clinics, which are a great way to de-stress and meet new people. I would also say that the teachers are so supportive and encourage you with your studies.

*Where do you see yourself in the future?*

Oluchi: Maybe with a scalpel in hand, carrying out life-saving brain surgery or sitting in a clinic diagnosing a condition. I have always wanted to study Medicine at university, not just because of my personal interests in the subject, but also to make a difference to the lives of many people.

Lily: In the future, I hope to be working in a job that I love hopefully doing something that relates to history as it is one of my favourite subjects.

Do follow the Sixth Form on twitter [@StGabrielsSixthForm](https://twitter.com/StGabrielsSixthForm) to hear more from our Sixth Form Officers!



### Spring Dinner & Study Leave

On Thursday 5 May, Year 11 - 13 were invited to a Spring Dinner celebration. After being postponed a few times, the students were able to get dressed up and enjoy an evening at the school. After a lovely drinks reception outside the Oval Room, they enjoyed a delicious three course meal with their peers and teachers.

This was a wonderful spring celebration and for Year 11 & 13 this was a poignant evening to reflect on their time at St Gabriel's.

We were joined by a photographer from the Newbury Weekly News who was able to capture a few images.



*(Photos taken by Phil Cannings, Newbury Weekly News. Use of these images prohibited without acknowledgement.)*



Both Year 11 and Year 13 have now gone on their study leave but before they went, they had a great few days of celebration. After the final assemblies, Year 11 went off to Hollywood Bowl and Pizza Hut and Year 13 were treated to LaserQuest!

There were BBQs and blow up obstacle courses, afternoon tea and finally the Year 13 students versus Staff rounders match! Good luck to our students for their GCSE and A Level exams this year!



### Dance Scholars Trip to the Ballet

On 19 May, all of the dance scholars went to see a performance by the Central School of Ballet. They performed four very interesting dances and we enjoyed all of them.

The first dance was called 'Twice Removed'. The mixture of ballet and contemporary really interested us as it was a new style of dance that we had not experienced much of. This made an excellent start to the evening and it only got better.

The second dance was very joyful, it was called 'Sunset in Cape Town'. The use of props (a beach ball) and sound, which included clapping and singing, really captured our attention. We thought that this dance would be very hard to beat.

The next dance was on the topic of the pandemic. It really evoked emotion in some of the audience. This one had the clearest storyline and was by far our favourite.

The last dance was a superb way to finish the evening. Half the dancers were in pointe shoes and they all danced to an interesting mix of techno style music. Although the dancers were in ballet shoes, this dance had a very hip-hop style.

Overall, we really enjoyed the evening and would love to do something like this again.

- Olivia M & Josie G, Year 9



## Year 9 Art

Year 9 have been working on large scale collaborative charcoal drawings in response to their current art topic of 'Movement'. They have also been working on 'kinetic drawings' based upon the work of artist Heather Hansen. The idea with the charcoal studies was to create a sense of energy and movement by drawing around their body shapes in a variety of poses to show an action.

- Ms Hunter, Art Teacher



## Year 7 Water Cycle Rap!

Some Year 7 pupils were tasked with creating a song/rap about the water cycle to help them learn it, and we've had all sort of creative

offerings. Take a look at this version here! Great effort girls!

## Sixth Former wins prestigious hockey award!

Our Year 13 student, Evie, has been awarded the David Prosser Award at the Marlborough Hockey Club awards ceremony.

This award is dedicated to David who sadly passed away last year. He captained not only the Welsh team but also for Great Britain. When he played for Wales, he was the youngest capped player at 17. David started the junior section of Marlborough Hockey Club and began with only 14 players which then expanded to over 130 players.

Evie has said how honoured she is to have been given this award in its debut year. Evie has been incredibly dedicated to this club, having played since she was seven but also undertaking the role of coach, umpire and referee for the last five years.

"I feel very honoured to be recognised for all my hard work over the years and will miss being part of the club when I leave in September." - Evie



## Black Classicists: From Ostracism to Scholarship

During the George Floyd trial in the US, our pupils wanted to know more about issues of colour and race in the ancient world. For a number of reasons, the world of Classics has traditionally been seen as a predominantly white and western field, despite the fact that 'classics' covers not only Ancient Greece, Rome and Western Europe, but also Africa and Asia.

Research into the field showed that there has been lots of work done to make the world of Classics more diverse. Shining a light on one particular area has been the work of Professor M.V. Ronnick, who curated the Black Classicists Exhibition in the US. The exhibition showcases the work of African-American Classicists who broke down barriers of colour in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. They wrote Greek and Latin textbooks, lectured widely and published extensively. This exhibition has toured the US widely, but until this year had never been seen outside America. When St Gabriel's contacted Professor Ronnick to see if it would be possible to show the exhibition in the UK, she immediately agreed and the project, with the help of a grant from Harvard University Press, was up and running.



The exhibition has had an official opening at St Gabriel's, with an opening address from Professor Ronnick, and also been seen at Oxford University, Cheney School in Oxford and Downe House. It has future showings scheduled for Cambridge and Bristol Universities, the Ure Museum Reading and schools from as far apart as Bristol to Doncaster.

At the Oxford showing, our Sixth Form classicists were invited to give a presentation on how the exhibition began, why it matters, the Classicists themselves.

They also discussed the direction that Classics as a discipline should progress, to ensure fantastic academic work such as this is not hidden again.

It was wonderful to be invited to exhibit the Black Classicists' event. What a truly insightful, thought-provoking event to learn about the black community who have given back to education and making a difference in history." - The Mayor



It is fantastic that this story has now been featured in the Newbury Weekly News. The exhibition is now travelling to Clifton College in Bristol, then crossing the country to The Ashcombe School followed by Reigate School in Surrey.

Thank you to Mr Ives for organising this spectacular exhibition and bringing it over from the USA. For those interested in learning more, the exhibition may be returning to Newbury in the near future for the community to see so stay tuned to find out more.





### Senior Drama Club

On Friday 13 May, Senior Drama Club performed their very first pop-up theatre as part of an initiative to offer live theatre experiences during the school day.

The Junior School beamed with excitement as the performers arrived with their surprise performance of 'Little Red Riding Hood'. The students watched on as the seniors presented Riding Hoods journey, meeting the wood cutter and the wolf along the way to visit Granny. The girls produced an incredible performance that the juniors thoroughly enjoyed in the sun during their lunch break.



### Robotics Club

Robotics club with Mrs Knott and Mrs Haywood Smith is open to Y7 and Y8 has been running since September.

The club meets in the DT room once a week and the students have been working on a selection of challenges including designing and building two programmable lego robots. The students write programs to solve a variety of problems using their robots, these include a speed challenge, collecting disused tyres and planting trees. One of their robots also has to perform a dance showcase, displaying an original team logo and producing sound as well as dance moves. Finally the team have researched the ecological impacts of robots and the issue of recycling them.

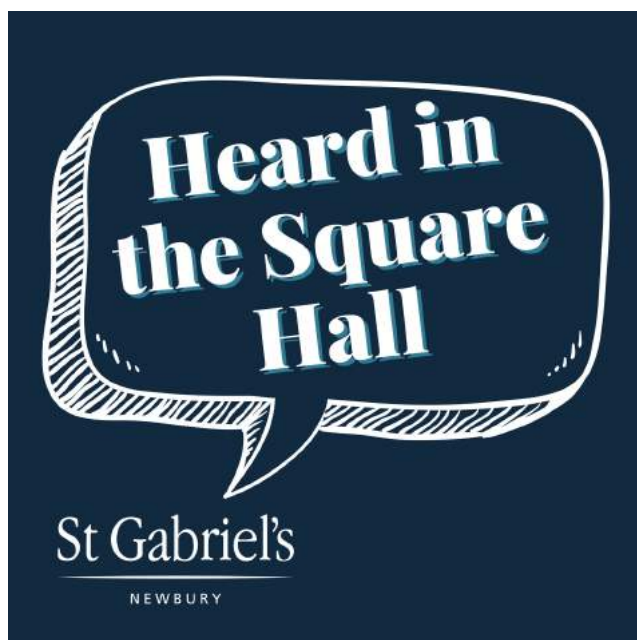


### Podcast

As you will remember, St Gabriel's launched its podcast "Heard in the Square Hall" earlier this year. We received such a positive reception to the inaugural episode, and I would like to thank everyone who listened, followed, and rated the show.

I am delighted to announce that our second episode, "PART 1 - We are not a one sport school", has now been released and is available to listen to on [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), and the St Gabriel's [website](#). I am joined by Mrs Brazendale, our fantastic Head of PE, who discusses the depth and breadth of PE at St Gabriel's. Learn about the range of sports we offer, the extensive number of clubs for pupils to participate in and her expectations of PE as we welcome boys into Year 7 in September. I am also joined by Year 7 and Year 9 pupils who wanted to share their sporting experiences.





If you would like to immerse yourself in the sporting action at school, follow the PE Department on Twitter [@StGabrielsSport](https://twitter.com/StGabrielsSport).

As always, any feedback is greatly appreciated. If you do have any pupil news to share, please email [comms@stgabriels.co.uk](mailto:comms@stgabriels.co.uk). Thank you for all your support and stay tuned for another episode of Heard in the Square Hall.

### Duke of Edinburgh

Our Year 10 students went on another fantastic training expedition this half of term. There were 28 students participating and they were very lucky with the great weather!

Good luck to our Year 9 class for their training at the end of June!



### Ukraine Fundraising



In March, our pupils requested to open a fundraising page to support the people of Ukraine. We opened a JustGiving page to support the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

We had an overwhelming level of support and a number of fundraising activities over the next few months. In March, our Year 10 class organised a film night in aid of this cause, raising £70.

On 29 March, pupils and staff were encouraged to wear yellow and blue as another fundraising activity.

Finally, at our Open Morning on 7 May, our Sixth Form students arranged a sunflower stand. The sunflower is the national flower of Ukraine, and our Open Morning visitors could plant some sunflower seeds and donate to this important cause.

Thank you to our community for your support and donations to this cause. We are so thrilled that we have raised £3,618 to go to those families in need.





## PE

This half of term has been another busy one for the PE Department. The swimming pool is now open, cricket matches are in full swing and we are looking forward for the sports days and swimming galas to come.



The West Berkshire League continues and there have been some amazing cricket performances. On Wednesday 18 May, we hosted the Athletics Festival and welcomed six schools to take part in a number of events. This was a fantastic afternoon of sport



for everyone involved. Our U15 relay team also made it through to the West Berkshire athletic finals this term!

There are number of pupils who have been excelling in their sports outside of school too. Lucy in Year 12 has been selected for the U18 England rugby training camp - congratulations! Kitty in Year 7 and Imogen in Year 10 travelled to Florida for a cheer competition over the Easter holidays too.





## Covid-19 Guidelines

The current guidelines for the school are that pupils should isolate for three full days post a positive LFT. The isolation period starts the day after a positive test.

If you suspect that your child has Covid and you do not test, we advise that they remain off school for three days. If they feel well enough after the three days, they can return to school.

If your child has a spike in temperature, we advise that they remain off school until 24 hours has passed since their high temperature.

- Olivia Rowland, School Nurse



## Relaunch of the PTA

Don't forget the PTA Quiz night on Friday, 24 June. This is always a fun (and quite competitive!) night that allows parents to come together and at the same time raise money for the PTA. Details are available from the office.

## GCSE & A Level Exhibition 2022



I love hearing from our community with updates and achievements, so if you have anything to share please do contact me at [ejennings@stgabriels.co.uk](mailto:ejennings@stgabriels.co.uk)

I am always eager to publish on social media or in the news section of the website.

I would also love it if you could take a second to write a review on the St Gabriel's Google page or on Facebook. It only takes a second and is invaluable to us as a school. If you would like to read all previous newsletters, please [click here](#).

Thank you ever so much for your help and I wish all our pupils a lovely break.

Warmest wishes,

Emily Jennings, Marketing Assistant

