Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of the Spring Term. It has been a pleasure to see students return, especially as our school site begins to show the first welcome signs of spring.

We were delighted to see Dame Maggie Aderin-Pocock's recent return to La Sainte Union featured in the *Ham & High* last week. If you would like to read the article, you can find it here:

Dame Maggie Aderin-Pocock returned to La Sainte Union | Ham & High

If you missed the piece on BBC one, you can watch on BBC iPlayer here:

The One Show - 17/02/2026 - BBC iPlayer

It was a real privilege to host Dame Maggie, alongside Angellica Bell and the team from The One Show at La Sainte Union. The students involved in the filming were a true credit to the school. They conducted themselves impeccably and asked thoughtful, insightful questions throughout their time with Dame Maggie. They also gained a valuable behind-the-scenes insight into the filming process, including the time and dedication required and how this translates into the final edit.

Dame Maggie truly embodies the spirit of a Bright Woman with a Bold Future, and we hope her visit has inspired our students to recognise the many exciting possibilities that lie ahead.

Best Wishes

Miss Ridge

Bright Women with Bold Futures.

Young Writers Showcase

Congratulations to Chimamanda!

Chimamanda has been published in the Young Writers Annual Showcase collection. She was picked out as one of the best authors who had submitted over the year.

Very well done, Chimamanda!

Creative Writing Club runs every Wednesday lunchtime in E113, all are welcome - bring your lunch with you!

Reading and multilingualism

5th March is World Book Day, an annual event that celebrates the joy of reading. If you use more than one language at home, do encourage your child to read in all their languages. Some parents worry that their children might get confused or mix up their languages, but research shows the opposite: maintaining a home language is a gift that strengthens, rather than hinders, English learning. Research tells us that maintaining 2 or more languages is an advantage for later academic achievement.

Our school library has reading books in different languages but we are always looking to expand our multilingual collection – please let us know if you have any recommendations or if you have suitable books in other languages you would like to donate! Your local library will have books in different languages too.

“When children read in more than one language, they are not dividing their literacy — they are expanding it. ” — Jim Cummins

Year 9 visit Belsize Square Synagogue

We are delighted to share the details of a deeply moving and educational experience our Year 9 students had during their recent visit to **Belsize Square Synagogue**.

The day offered a profound opportunity for our students to engage directly with Jewish faith, history, and the power of human resilience. Here are some of the highlights from our visit:

- **Sacred Traditions:** Students were given a guided tour where staff explained the significance of various liturgical objects and shared insights into daily religious practices within Judaism.

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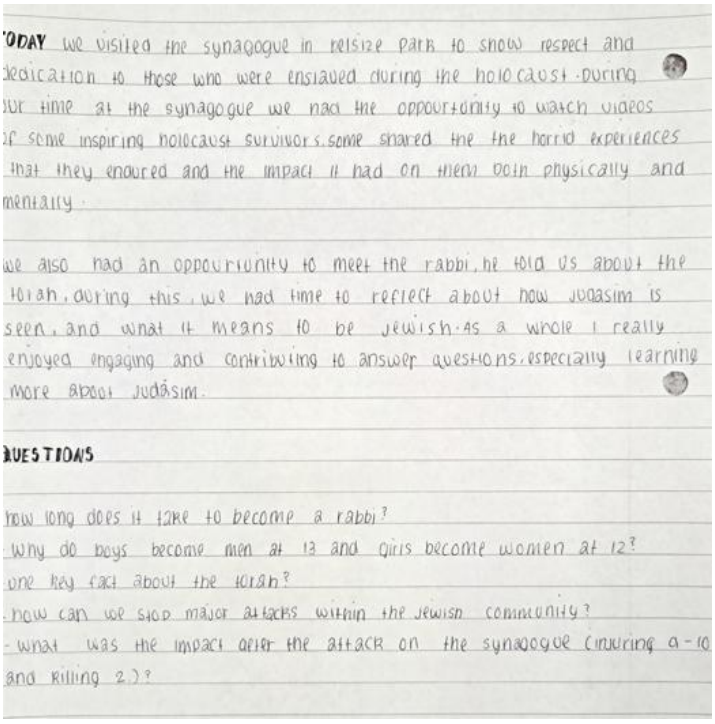
- **The Heart of the Synagogue:** The Rabbi welcomed our group, offering a rich history of the Jewish community and providing a rare look at the **Ark** and the **Torah**.
- **A Day of Remembrance:** Our visit fell on the day of Holocaust commemoration, adding a solemn and significant layer to the trip. The Rabbi spoke movingly about this history, helping students connect the past with the present.
- **Stories of Courage:** Students spent time learning about the lived experiences of survivors. We focused specifically on the "helpers"—those individuals who risked everything to help others escape and survive persecution.
- **Reflections for the Future:** To conclude the day, students contributed to a beautiful symbolic project. They added "leaves" to a tree, inscribed with the lessons they learned and their wishes for a better world. These wishes were then featured in a poignant candle-lighting presentation.

Our Year 9s represented the school with immense maturity and curiosity. We are incredibly proud of how they engaged with such sensitive topics, showing empathy and a genuine commitment to building a more compassionate world.

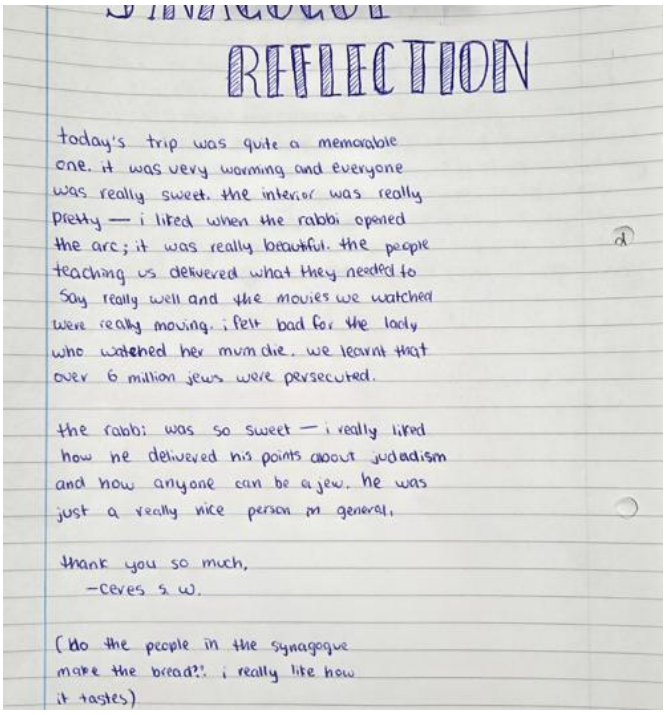


TODAY we visited the synagogue in Belsize Park to show respect and dedication to those who were enslaved during the holocaust. During our time at the synagogue we had the opportunity to watch videos of some inspiring holocaust survivors. some shared the the horrid experiences that they endured and the impact it had on them both physically and mentally.

we also had an opportunity to meet the rabbi, he told us about the torah, during this, we had time to reflect about how judaism is seen, and what it means to be jewish. as a whole i really enjoyed engaging and contributing to answer questions, especially learning more about judaism.

QUESTIONS

how long does it take to become a rabbi?
Why do boys become men at 13 and girls become women at 12?
one key fact about the torah?
how can we stop major attacks within the jewish community?
what was the impact after the attack on the synagogue (injuring 8-10 and killing 2)?



REFLECTION

today's trip was quite a memorable one. it was very warming and everyone was really sweet. the interior was really pretty — i liked when the rabbi opened the arc; it was really beautiful. the people teaching us delivered what they needed to say really well and the movies we watched were really moving. i felt bad for the lady who watched her mum die. we learnt that over 6 million jews were persecuted.

the rabbi was so sweet — i really liked how he delivered his points about judaism and how anyone can be a jew. he was just a really nice person in general.

thank you so much,
-ceres s. w.

(do the people in the synagogue make the bread?. i really like how it tastes)

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WAC Arts Workshop

On 19th January, a group of Year 9 pupils began working with artist/educator Emma Jacobs from WAC Arts.

-She will be coming in for a series of workshops with us and we will be designing and creating a collaborative, immersive installation sculpture on the theme of "People, Places and Purpose."

-Pupils began by collecting photographs of people and places that are really important to them and made luggage labels to celebrate them.

- The final piece of work will be exhibited in the summer as part of the "WAC Arts Schools Festival", then at the "Camden Schools Biennale", at Central St Martins School of Art.

We can't wait until the next workshop!

and

Choosing Strategic Direction

A 'Level Business Students at LaSWAP receive a lecture on Choosing Strategic Direction from former management consultant and renown textbook author – Professor Dr Adrian Haberberg

On Wednesday 21st January 26, A' Level Business students at LASWAP received a lecture from Professor Dr Adrian Haberberg. The students have been studying the concept of Strategic Direction, with a particular focus on: Choosing which markets to compete in and what products to offer - which have been studied in the light of the: Ansoff's Matrix, Bowman's Strategic Clock and Porter's Generic Strategies theoretical models. Professor Dr Haberberg worked with the students to consolidate this knowledge as they analysed the strategic position and strategies of various well known businesses in the Entertainment and Media Streaming Industries, majoring on Netflix, as it's the company the students are most familiar with.

The students were able to identify whether the business was operating in a broad or niche market, explain how the business had differentiated themselves and why they chose specific countries when executing market development. As a closing bonus, Professor Dr Haberberg took the students beyond their curriculum and gave them an insight into the limitations and current criticisms of these theories, before giving them a few valuable tips for writing highly impressive exam answers.

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Seb - A 'Level Business Student said – *'The session was very insightful and gave me a deeper understanding of the Theory'.*

Kai - A 'Level Business Student said – *'This was an amazing experience. The examples the Professor gave helped me understand the limitations of the Models'.*

Valentina – A 'Level Business Student said – *'The session helped deepen my understanding of the strategy models'*

Matteo – A 'Level Business Student said – *'It was great to have a Professor of the subject and Textbook Author help us to dive deeper into the topics we are currently studying. The fact that he made it an interactive session helped our learning even further.'*

Mrs Chukwuma, Head of Faculty said that 'One of the aims of the Faculty is to make the curriculum real to the students and I am glad that Professor Haberberg, with his theory based presentation on www.netflix.com made this a reality'.

Humanities Faculty News

On the 27th January 2026, Year 12 and 13 A' Level Politics and History students journeyed to UCL to attend the prestigious Sidney Seminar, entitled The Collapse of the American Constitutional Republic. The lecture gave our A' Level pupils not only a flavour of University lectures but illustrated the grave constitutional crisis facing modern America. It is, argued the guest speaker, the most serious period of crisis in its history. Certainly, argued Professor Michael Stokes Paulsen, it poses the greatest internal threat to the survival of America as a free constitutional republic since the U.S. Civil War (1861-1865). Interested to know more about Prof Paulsen's thesis? Sidney Seminar - The Collapse of the American Constitutional Republic | Faculty of Laws

PSHE News

During the first half of Term 2, our PSHE provision has been enriched through a range of carefully selected partnerships with external charities and organisations. These sessions complement classroom

learning by offering students expert-led, age-appropriate opportunities to explore complex and relevant social issues.

Year 8 students participated in sessions on menstrual health delivered by *Period and Pause*, helping to normalise conversations around menstruation, challenge stigma, and promote positive wellbeing. Year 8 also took part in sessions led by *Shout Out UK*, including contributions from BBC presenter Aaron Roach Bridgeman, focusing on media literacy, misinformation, and countering extremism, and supporting students to think critically about the media they consume.

Year 9 students began the Camden Choices Programme, which raises awareness around drugs, gangs, and knife crime, encouraging informed decision-making and an understanding of risk, consequences, and support networks. Year 10 students started the Camden Consent Programme, which explores consent, healthy relationships, communication, and personal boundaries in an age-appropriate and reflective way.

In addition, Years 8 and 10 benefitted from impactful theatre performances and follow-up workshops delivered by *Loudmouth*. These sessions addressed key safeguarding themes including exploitation, grooming, and county lines, using engaging drama-based approaches to encourage discussion, awareness, and reflection.

These external partnerships play a vital role in strengthening our PSHE curriculum, ensuring students develop critical thinking skills, and are supported to make safe and informed choices.

PSHE topics

PSHE topics

Year 7 - Introduction to periods

Year 8 - Shout Out UK workshops on media literacy and counter-extremism

Year 9 – Camden Choices Programme

Year 10 - Camden Consent Programme

Year 11 - Parenthood and fertility

Report card for La Sainte Union can be accessed here:

https://camden.schoolreport.org.uk/school/index.html?schoolId=2025401

Alternatively, you can scan this QR code with your phone's camera:

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