

Opening our new Wellbeing Garden



From the
Headmaster

We welcomed the Court of the Merchant Taylors' Company to School for their annual visit this week. The sun shone as the Master of the Company, Mr Michael Cole-Fontayn, opened our beautiful new Wellbeing Garden,

which was generously funded by Merchant Taylors' Foundation and the St John's Association. The garden will offer a place of calm in a busy school day and the chance for boys to develop a deeper appreciation of our natural environment.

It's been a busy couple of weeks for the Music Department. Last Friday our senior musicians experienced a special afternoon of music making at Merchant Taylors' School. Back at St John's we enjoyed a fantastic Summer Concert with musicians from Years 3 to 8 performing a wide range of repertoire

to the highest standard. They also entertained our distinguished visitors with a lunchtime concert.

Year 4 concluded their Science topic on sound by making musical instruments while Reception have been inspired by the colourful graffiti art of Jean-Michel Basquiat.

We wish all our boys and staff safe journeys next week as they set off on residential trips and a restful bank holiday weekend to everyone else.



ST JOHN'S SCHOOL OPEN MORNING

Wednesday 15th May, 2024 from 9.15 a.m.



Register for our Open Morning at www.st-johns.org.uk or scan the code below

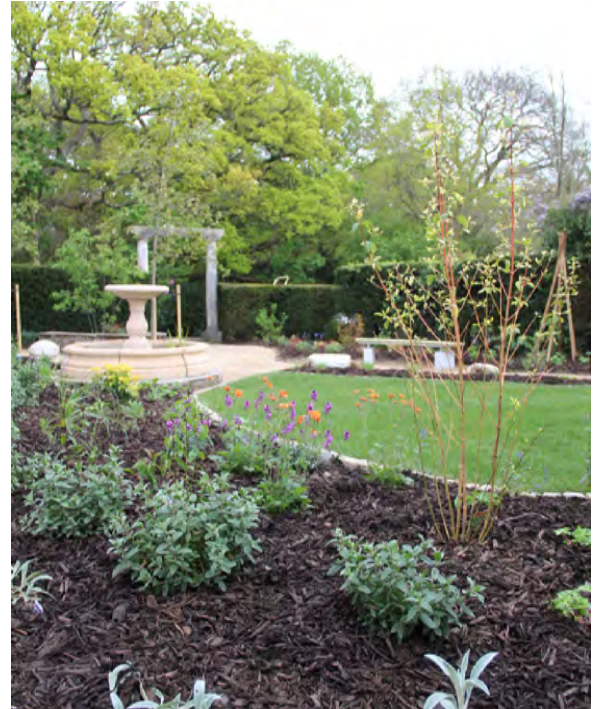
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T: 020 8866 0067 • E: admissions@st-johns.org.uk • W: www.st-johns.org.uk





The St John's Wellbeing Garden

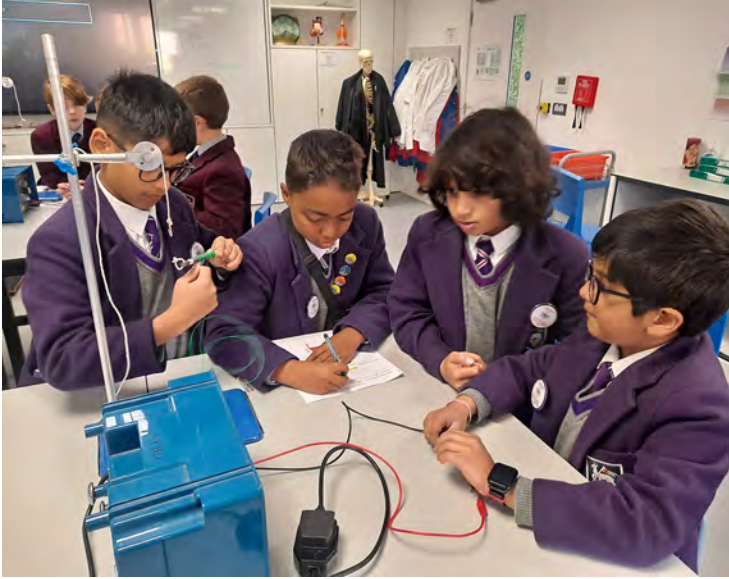
The project to design our new garden began in September last year. A small group of Year 7 and 8 boys met with Mrs Kalirai weekly to discuss the process of designing a Wellbeing Garden that would benefit our whole community. They used skills learnt in DT&E and Art to design and plan the garden. Maximilian created a design board which illustrated all the ideas, and this plan was presented to Helen Bevan, a landscape gardener, who took on the brief and worked with the boys to turn their ideas into reality. Many thanks to Mrs Bevan, Mr Doughty and his team who have worked so hard to create this beautiful garden for us.





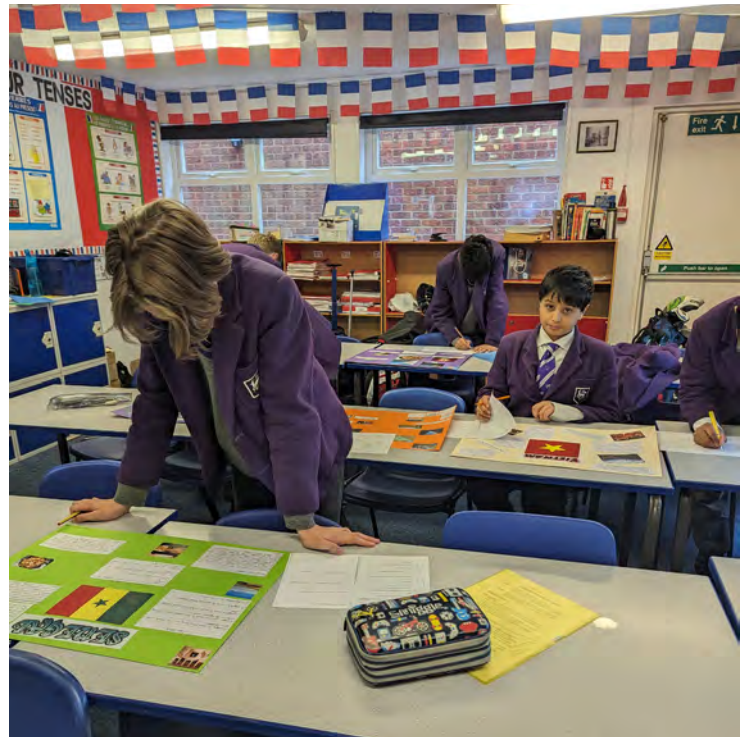
Merchant Taylors' Year 5 Science Challenge

Last Friday, four Year 5 boys represented the School at the MTS Science Challenge. The boys were challenged to complete experiments and problem solving tasks based on the three sciences; Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The boys worked well together, showing good teamwork skills and accomplished all of the tasks. The competition was very strong amongst the nine schools taking part and they had an exciting day.



Year 8 research French culture

Year 8 have been researching the cultures of different Francophone countries. The boys chose a wide array of countries and learnt about geography, traditions, music, cuisine and famous people. They designed and created posters to collate their work and assessed each others projects, reflecting on the skills and lessons they had learnt through the process. Bon effort, les gars!





Spinach smoothie - thumbs up or thumbs down?

Was it a thumbs up or thumbs down for the tasting table this week from the Pre-Prep? The new tastes were spinach smoothie, Jersey Royals, carrot pakora and carrot cake.





Graffiti Art in Reception

The **Robins and Squirrels** have been inspired by the American artist Jean-Michel Basquiat. The boys learnt how Jean-Michel loved to use vibrant colours, scribbling and spraying paint in bold, quick lines to create groovy pictures on the streets of New York. The boys enjoyed using these ideas in their own artwork and even signed the pictures with special 'tags', just like Jean-Michel. Our classrooms are now covered with graffiti!





Plant studies in Year 2 Science

The **Badgers and Eagles** have been investigating what plants need to grow. They have enjoyed exploring our beautiful grounds. As an experiment, the boys planted Petunia and Cress seeds and are watching them carefully day by day.





Year 4 have been designing musical instruments

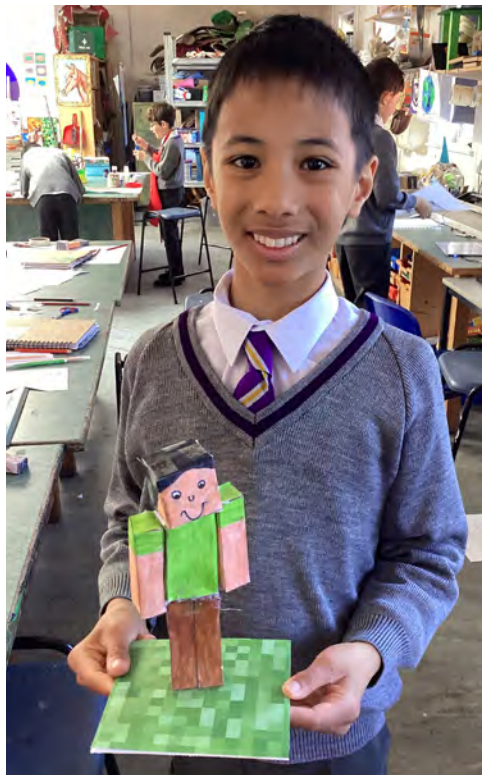
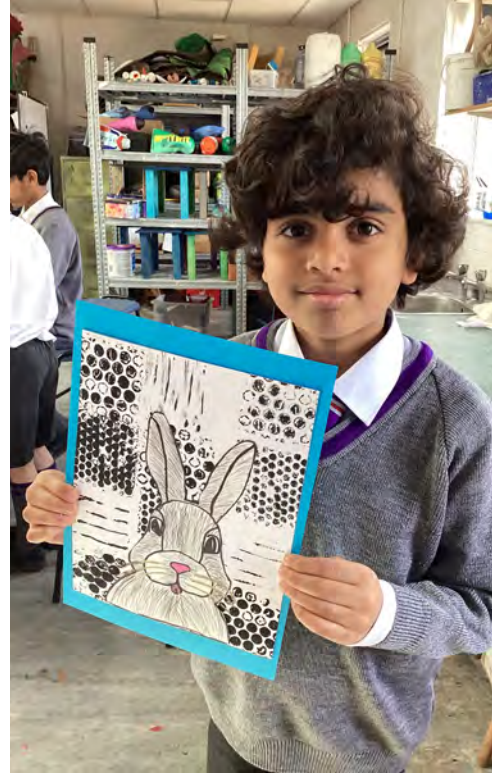
To conclude our Science topic on sound, Year 4 used their knowledge on the properties of sound to design and build their own musical instruments. Once the instruments were complete, the boys played them to their class and demonstrated how they could make sounds of different pitch and volume.





Lots of activity in the Art room this week

Year 7 have finished making their giant toothpaste sculptures. Year 4 have been learning about texture and Year 5 are well on their way to completing our very own St John's Minecraft village.





Prep Schools Orchestral Afternoon and Concert

Last Friday our senior string, brass, woodwind and percussion players enjoyed a special afternoon of music making at Merchant Taylors' School. During the afternoon, the boys were coached in instrumental groups by the expert music team at Merchant Taylors' before they all gathered in the Great Hall for an excellent orchestral concert. What a fantastic opportunity for our boys.





Our Summer Concerts

We enjoyed a fantastic evening of music-making on Tuesday by choirs, ensembles large and small and our stunning Young Musician of the Year soloists. We were entertained by over 180 boys, from Year 3 to Year 8, including many boys who began learning an instrument in September. Our Year 8 Prefects introduced the music with confidence, setting a great example to the younger boys. The next day the boys entertained the Court of the Merchant Taylors' Company with a lunchtime concert.





Our Summer Concerts





Colts Cricket v Belmont

The Year 5 and 6 Colts teams played their first matches of the cricket season against Belmont school last Friday. All matches were extremely positive, with wins for the A & B teams, who put in controlled and disciplined performances.





Colts Cricket v Belmont







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Important dates & contacts

Monday 6th May: Activity Week

School Closed – Early May Bank Holiday

Year 6 Trip to Dorset Departs

Year 7 Trip to Normandy Departs

Year 8 Trip to St David's Departs

Tuesday 7th May: Happy Puzzle Workshop (Years 3-5)

Wednesday 8th May: Year 4 Trip to Whitemoor Lakes Departs

Year 2 Trip to PGL (arrive at school 10.00am)

Year 5 assessments

Thursday 9th May: 1940s Day (Year 5)

Friday 10th May: Police Forensic Science Workshop (Year 5)

All Residential Trips Return

No Swimming

Saturday 11th May: U13 Cricket Festival at Belmont at (12.00pm – 4.00pm)



The team responsible for the Wellbeing Garden: designer Mrs Bevan, our Bursar Mrs Demetriades and Head Gardener Mr Doughty



Notices and reminders

Open Morning Wednesday 15th May 9.15am: A chance to see the School in action and hear the Headmaster speak. Please tell your friends and families. We look forward to welcoming you.

The Lamb back-page: In future we will not be posting the school diary and notices on the back page of The Lamb. The calendar is available to view on the website. For the notices, please read the comprehensive weekly bulletin, which is published on Thursdays by the School Office.

Please continue to visit www.st-johns.org.uk for all the latest information on sports fixtures and results. Do please continue to send in pictures to lambeditor@st-johns.org.uk for inclusion in The Lamb.

House Points 1st Lawrence 126.79, 2nd Churchill 124.02, 3rd Oates 121.47, 4th Lincoln 121.46

We wish all our boys and teachers who are on residential trips safe journeys and look forward to hearing all their travellers' tales on their return.