



## ICELAND TRIP

On 1 April, 40 geography students, accompanied by Miss Brenton, Mr Langton, Mrs Roberts and Mr Wilder set off for Iceland to explore the country's landscapes. Over the course of the next three days we experienced the best of South Iceland, travelling around the Golden Circle, seeing amazing waterfalls and geysers, as doing well as a brilliant walk up to the Solheimajokull glacier... [read more.](#)



## CALENDAR:

Y7 Subject Parents' Evening, Y10/Y12 Computer Science Trip, Y7 & Y8 Junior Maths Challenge, Y9 Computing Trip, Y7 Gamelan, Y10 Reports issued, Y11 & 12 Computing - Alumni Talk and Sixth Form House Rounders.

## CAREERS OPPORTUNITIES:

Industry Webinar – Film & TV

## GOVERNOR VACANCIES:

Vacancies on St Bart's Governing Body

## KRAKOW TRIP:

Just before the Easter break, 32 students from across the Year 12 cohort visited Krakow to develop their knowledge and understanding of the Holocaust.



## YOUNG ENTERPRISE FINAL SUCCESS!:

Our Young Enterprise company, Flame Fortune, participated in the Young Enterprise area final on 22 April at Oracle, Thames Valley Business Park, Reading.

## PI WARS 2024:

Last weekend two St Bart's teams travelled to the Cambridge Computer Laboratory to take part in Pi Wars 2024.



## MACHINAL THEATRE TRIP:

In an era of true crime podcasts and documentaries, 2024 felt like the perfect time to revive Sophie Treadwell's Expressionist play 'Machinal'.

## BART'S KIT GETS NEW LIFE:

St Bart's are delighted to be able to donate some of our old sports kits to youngsters in Zimbabwe.



## Y12 EQUINIX TRIP:

Year 12 Computing students were welcomed to Equinix's office and data center in Slough.

## SPRING SEWING BEES:

The Textile Department's termly competition continues...



## PHYSICS OLYMPIAD 2024:

The Physics Olympiad always presents a significant challenge for the students who have volunteered to tackle it, and this year was no exception.

## PE:

[Sophie Representing Wales](#)  
[1st XI cricket: Leo leads the way](#)



**Congratulations to Curnock ~ House Drama 2024 Winners**



## ICELAND TRIP

On 1 April, 40 geography students accompanied by Miss Brenton, Mr Langton, Mrs Roberts and Mr Wilder set off for Iceland to explore the country's landscapes.

After landing, we went to the FlyOver Iceland experience, which was a virtual reality immersive tour around some of Iceland's most impressive landscapes. After being a bit sceptical to begin with, everyone thoroughly enjoyed it and said it was a brilliant way to start the trip. Over the course of the next three days, we



experienced the best of South Iceland, travelling around the Golden Circle seeing amazing waterfalls and geysers, as well as a brilliant walk up to the Solheimajokull glacier. A-level students were able to experience a glaciated landscape first-hand, which helped with revision for their Unit 1 paper. GCSE students enjoyed the black sand beaches at Vik and were able to revise their Coasts topic using the Dryholaey headland to pick out key landforms.



Our Icelandic driver and tour guide were fantastic and gave us lots of interesting information about the country and its landscapes. It was brilliant to hear about the country from local people. On our final full day we got to unwind and relax at Krauma Spa, one of Iceland's many geothermal baths. We all spent a peaceful hour or so soaking in the hot tubs. Braver members took the plunge in the cold bath with Ben and Kathryn lasting the longest; Miss Brenton was too much of a wimp and could only manage dipping her toes! After an early start on Friday morning to the airport, we were treated with one last surprise - being able to see the volcanic eruption on the Reykjanes peninsula from the safety of our coach window.



[Visit our website to see more photos from the trip.](#)

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## Calendar

Y7 Subject Parents' Evening	Wednesday 24 April	Remote, 4.30 – 7.00pm
Y10/Y12 Computer Science Trip	Thursday 25 April	Bletchley Park, 8.15am – 4.30pm
Y7 & Y8 Junior Maths Challenge	Thursday 25 April	P4 & 5
Y9 Computing Trip	Friday 26 April	Legoland , all day
Y7 Gamelan	Monday 29 April	WCC
Y10 Reports issued	Wednesday 1 April	
Y11 & 12 Computing - Alumni Talk	Wednesday 1 April	WCC, 12.10 – 12.40pm
Sixth Form House Rounders	Wednesday 1 April	P5

[View all school events in our online calendar. Click here to go straight there](#)

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## CAREERS OPPORTUNITIES

### SPOTLIGHT: Industry Webinar – Film & TV

Tuesday 30 April 2024, 6.00pm - 7.00pm. This webinar is suitable for all year groups and anyone, students, parents/carers and staff, is welcome to join in. If you require any further details, please email: [careersguidance@adviza.org.uk](mailto:careersguidance@adviza.org.uk) The webinar will be recorded and become available on the Past Webinars page so that it can be viewed again at a later date. Bookings are free and can be made via the [Events page](#) on the Careers Portal now.

St Bart's Careers Education Programme is delivered through PSHE lessons, assemblies and a portfolio of careers events. [More information on the programme can be found on our website.](#) You will also find on our website a [Careers Opportunities page](#), which features news the school is sent on Apprenticeship Courses and Programmes, University Workshops and Schemes, Industry Webinars, Careers Resources for Parents and Carers and much more. The opportunities on this page are updated weekly. [Please click](#) to view the latest information.

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## VACANCIES ON ST BART'S GOVERNING BODY

St Bartholomew's School Governing Body is looking for new Governors to join the team and make a valued contribution to school life.

The role of the Governing Body is to set the strategic direction and ensure the educational performance, management and financial health of the school. In particular, we are looking for individuals who have skills and experience in the areas of finance, human resources and secondary education.

You don't need to be a St Bart's parent to apply for the role – we actively encourage applications from a range of people in our community.



St Bart's Governors need to have a passion for education as well as a high level of enthusiasm and confidence. Some time is needed during the day for visits and for some evening meetings, approximately three or four per term, in order to carry out the duties required. Terms of office are for four years.

If you are interested in becoming a Governor at St Bart's, and would like to find out more without any obligation, please contact me ([hsutherland@stbarts.co.uk](mailto:hsutherland@stbarts.co.uk)) or leave a message with St Bart's Reception on 01635 521255 by 9am on Tuesday 7 May.

*Mrs H Sutherland, Clerk to the Governors*

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## KRAKOW TRIP

Just before the Easter break, 32 students from across the Year 12 cohort visited Krakow to develop their knowledge and understanding of the Holocaust. Accompanied by Mr Owen, Mrs Lane and Miss May, students began their tour at Kazimierz, which since the 12<sup>th</sup> century has been known as Krakow's Jewish Quarter. However, as a result of Nazi persecution



since Poland's occupation in 1939, and the devastating loss of life and culture due to the Holocaust, this once vibrant space is now much smaller in size and population. After visiting one of Krakow's oldest synagogues and Jewish cemeteries, students listened to the testimony of [Anna Janowska Cioncka](#), who spoke of her family's experience under Nazi persecution.

Exploring pre-war Jewish life and meeting and speaking with a Holocaust survivor helped to prepare students and staff for day two, which involved a full tour of the concentration and extermination camps of Auschwitz-Birkenau. Here, students learnt more about the function of both Auschwitz 1 and Birkenau and spent time exploring a range of exhibits including 'Shoah', which provided an overview of pre-war Jewry, whilst commemorating the 1 million Jewish children who were murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators. We ended our trip exploring the former Jewish ghetto in Krakow, and learning about the heroic efforts of [Tadeusz Pankiewicz](#), a Polish pharmacist, who provided medicine and supplies for those trapped behind the ghetto wall.

*Sreelakshmi Sreejith (12D5) said, "I found this trip very interesting and it showed me the true struggles that the victims of the holocaust went through. I think the [pre-trip] seminars really helped me to develop a basic understanding of what the Holocaust was, so that when I went on the trip I could get the full experience and develop that understanding which was very helpful."*

From the moment we left St Barts at 3am on the 27 March to our arrival back, our students were phenomenal. They engaged with all elements of the trip and supported each other exceptionally well. A huge thank you to each of you.

A further thanks to all staff involved, with a special thanks to Mrs Lane and Miss May.

Don't forget to follow our Beacon journey on our new Instagram account: [beaconbarts2024](#)

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## YOUNG ENTERPRISE FINAL SUCCESS!

Our Young Enterprise company Flame Fortune participated in the Young Enterprise area final on 22 April at Oracle, Thames Valley Business Park, Reading.

This event is the culmination of all the work that students have put into the program since September. Students set up an exhibition stand, which was visited by a team of judges, and they were questioned on their business activity, the processes they followed and the skills they have developed as a Young Enterprise participant.

Each competing team gave a short presentation, detailing their business story. Judges then selected winning teams in areas such as business planning, innovation, company report and organisation and management. We are the only West Berkshire school participating in Young Enterprise. Our Young Enterprise team did an amazing job on Monday evening. They were very smart and professional in their appearance, the trade stands looked great, they spoke to the judges with enthusiasm and delivered a polished presentation. The teams were awarded with participation trophies for getting to this stage, as many student companies fail in the early days of the program.



**Flame Fortune were also winners of the award for Best Company Report and were overall runners-up on the evening. They will now, with the winners, represent Berkshire at the regional final on 16 May. We wish them every success in this event!**

Prizes were presented by Mr Andrew Try, Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire.

‘Getting to meet entrepreneurs and business heads through Young Enterprise was inspirational and has taught me many valuable skills’. – Robert Lambert

I have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in Young Enterprise and for me it has taught me many important lessons, for example - there is nothing more powerful than success, especially when you have worked long and hard to get there. Similarly, Young Enterprise has taught me how to work in a team and appreciate the differences that our team may have’. – Tom Grimbleby

The students who took part on the evening are: Sakshi Kamra, Sreelakshmi Sreejith, Barney Owen, Alec Dukes, Robert Lambert, Mikey Cloete and Tom Grimbleby. Also in the company but unable to attend the event, are Jennifer Bibin and Laura Swanson.

## PI WARS 2024

Last weekend two St Bart's teams travelled to the Cambridge Computer Laboratory to take part in Pi Wars 2024 – Disaster Zone! Pi Wars is an international, challenge-based robotics competition in which teams build Raspberry Pi-controlled robots and then compete in various non-destructive challenges to earn points. The competition takes place over a single weekend and at the end of each day, prizes, medals and trophies are awarded to those competing. The competition is open to anyone from around the world and includes entries from schools, clubs, families, groups of hobbyists and solo roboteers. To compete, teams had to work extremely hard over a number of months researching, coding and testing, with support from St Bart's teachers and equipment.



The St Bart's Year 12 teams were Team Turing Incomplete (Aayush Joshi, Sohaib Alam and Kai Quiruga), who competed in the Young Team - Experienced Category, and Team CmunchMadness (Aryan Agarwala, Daanyal Begg and Shubham Tripathi), who competed in the Young Team - Novices Category.

Aayush said "The day was very eventful. Challenges were held back to back, giving us minimal time to prepare. We also submitted a blog and a technical, artistic and creative merit video as part of the competition overall. This was a huge endeavour and we are very grateful to our teachers for their support. We've developed many skills, specifically designing, modelling, CAD-ing, mechatronics, programming, and testing, as well as soft skills such as resilience and contingency management, which we will undoubtedly use in our academic and professional lives."

Six teams took part in the Young Team - Experienced Category and Team Turing Incomplete were awarded 4th place overall within the competition, having secured 2<sup>nd</sup> place in three challenges (narrowly missing out on 1<sup>st</sup> place) and a 3<sup>rd</sup> place in one challenge. In their Young Team - Novices Category, Team CmunchMadness won the 'Escape Route Challenge' and were awarded 9<sup>th</sup> place in a field of 26 teams! Congratulations to all the students.

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## MACHINAL THEATRE TRIP

In an era of true crime podcasts and documentaries, 2024 felt like the perfect time to revive Sophie Treadwell's Expressionist play [Machinal](#). Lucky for the Drama department as this is also an A Level set text that we study. It did not disappoint, in supporting students with ample ideas on how to direct, design and act in this production to suit a modern audience. This powerful play is loosely based on the sensational execution of Ruth Snyder, an American woman sentenced to death by the electric chair in 1928. Our students particularly loved the design of this production, the jarring soundscape and the intense and hard hitting yellow set design. A thoroughly successful trip to support Y12 and 13 in their exam writing.

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## BART'S KIT GETS NEW LIFE

St Bart's are delighted to be able to donate some of our old sports kits to youngsters in a Zimbabwean



orphanage and to young people learning to play Fastpitch, a type of softball. St Bart's Estate Manager, Mrs Craven, who is originally from Zimbabwe, organised for friend and fellow Zimbabwean, Richard Brown, to take the sweatshirts, t-shirts and sports bibs to Zimbabwe. Mrs Craven says, "Richard and myself played Fastpitch many moons ago in Zimbabwe for our country. Upon moving here we have continued to play and now I umpire as well as coach and Richard coaches the Under 16 British team."

The British Softball organisation are helping to develop the sport in Zimbabwe, and with Fastpitch now included, the Olympics, the popularity of the sport is rising, so it's great that St Bart's can help other young people to enjoy it too. Following his trip, Richard reported back, "Your donations were well received. Thank you to the school, very much appreciated."

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## Y12 EQUINIX TRIP

On 19 March, 18 Year 12 Computing students were welcomed to Equinix's office and data center in Slough. Equinix is one of the most important technology companies that you've (probably) never heard of, providing and managing critical data centre infrastructure in 33 countries.

The students were welcomed by Bruce Owen, Managing Director in the UK, who opened with an ask-me-anything Q&A session. Bruce was lightly grilled about what on earth data centres are, who Equinix's major customers and competitors are, and his ascension to being UK Managing Director, among other things.



After Bruce's warm and enlightening introduction, the students split off into groups to a variety of round-robin stations. All the stations were incredibly interesting and gave the students invaluable insight into the day-to-day of working in the technology sector.

With 'HR' and 'Talent Acquisition', students learned about the job application and recruitment process, critiquing CVs and picking up tips for their own applications in the future. Students were reassured to learn that companies like Equinix would not bin their applications over a small typo—recruiters are instead looking for an

application that matches the profile of the job description. The importance of context was highlighted several times: spelling and grammar are not the most important skills for a data centre engineer, though they are more important for technical writers.

'Customer Success' presented the customer success lifecycle, explaining the importance of maintaining positive customer relationships and the sales opportunities this can develop. This station highlighted the variety of roles available within a company like Equinix: you can work for a technology company without being an engineer.

The station on apprenticeships was extremely helpful for a few of the students who are considering taking computing further but are not interested in university. Apprenticeships are a sensible alternative to university for many students, as they provide desirable 'real-world' experience and get your foot in the door at competitive companies.



Currently, many graduates leave university and find it hard to get a job because the market is saturated. Our students were fortunate to be able to speak to a handful of current Equinix apprentices and to speak to the person who manages the UK apprenticeship program. What a fantastic networking opportunity!

The highlight for many was, unsurprisingly, the opportunity to tour inside one of the data centres and speak to two extremely knowledgeable data centre engineers. We were whisked through several layers of security, including an airlock straight out of a Star Wars film, before standing in front of rack upon rack of servers. In Computing, we study networking and the structure of the Internet, but it is often hard to appreciate the scale and sheer quantity of hardware needed to keep our emails sending and Snapchat notifications pinging. The students also learned the vital importance of redundancy: Equinix have an 'n + 1' rule, which means for every piece of hardware and every connection, there is another identical replacement ready to step in if the original goes down.

After the round-robin of stations, we listened to a talk by Ferhan Gunen, VP of UK Operations. Ferhan's emphasis was on the importance of communication and relationships, which is an important message that can often get lost when buried deep in academic study.

In addition to being an enjoyable trip, it was a fantastic networking opportunity for many of our students. A huge thanks to Cllr Sam Dibas for reaching out to make this trip happen, and to Equinix for putting on such a strong show at no cost to the school or our students.

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## SPRING SEWING BEES

The Textile Department's termly competition continues... The St Bart's Sewing Bee! Every term, a student from each class is awarded the Textiles 'Sewing Bee' and is given a certificate and a



ST BART'S SEWING BEE



Textiles themed prize. This award is not just for great quality work, it is for being an excellent Textile student on



the whole, including organisation and demonstration of the Bart's Values within lessons. Year 7 students last term produced some fantastic Monster stuffed toys and Year 8 students a cultural patterned drawstring bag. Well done to last term's winners and runners up and good luck to the Summer Term Textiles students - this could be you!

### Year 7:

**Winners:** Georgina Rushmer-Wilson, Shraddha Ramalingam, Edward Cohen and Maya Buczkowska

**Runners Up:** Olivia Dow, Adcock, Zuri Williams, Chloe Rubery, Anh Pho, Imogen Staniford, Pranav Irukoti and Josie Appleton

### Year 8:

**Winners:** Sara Malik, Lavin Jaji, Iris McArthur and Sophie Meynell

**Runners Up:** Jessie Murphy, Ellie Owen, Dylan Griffiths, Holly Fry, Izzy Hill, Tom Parry, Penelope Neilson, Oliver Masson, May Myers and Divi Kaler.



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## PHYSICS OLYMPIAD 2024

The Physics Olympiad always presents a significant challenge for the students who have volunteered to tackle it, and this year was no exception. Congratulations to all the students listed below for not being afraid to take on the challenge. The papers are a significant test of the students' problem solving ability, however this year they were set some particularly quirky questions. For instance the Year 12 paper contained a question asking the students to calculate the number of molecules in a mug of tea drunk today that could have passed through Julius Caesar when he was alive (its more than you think!). Nevertheless, as always, St Bart's students put in strong performances and the vast majority of them achieved medals.

For the Senior Physics Challenge, (Year 12), particular congratulations must go to **Tom Bentley** for achieving a coveted **Gold Medal**.

**Silver Medals** were won by Aryan Agarwala, Aayush Joshi, William High, Kirsten Fraser, Katherine Carney and Annabel Maclean.

**Bronze 1** medals were won by Eve Macleod, Barney Owen, Kimi Enevoldsen, Lewis Hanna, Sid Karra, Charlotte English and Daanyal Begg.

**Bronze 2** medals were won by Kai Quiruga, Nikhil Kopparapu, Sohaib Alam, Vipul Chaudhari, Isaac Giaever-Enger, Yuvaan Narayanan. Andreas Vlachopoulos and Sakshi Kamra.

In the Intermediate Physics Challenge (Year 11) there were no gold medals for St Bart's this year. Medals achieved were:

**Silver:** Charlie Fox and Isaac Rutter.

**Bronze 1:** Deenuka Worrall, Swathi Sivabalan, Henry Waters, Arpit Bhabhra, Samson Tu and Vivaan Rajawat.

**Bronze 2:** Shivam Mathur, Ryan Raturi, James Houghton, Emily Tompkins, Meenakshi Ganugapati, Clara Zeferino, Harry Cantwell, Jack Collings, Kaden Bamfield, Amogh Kasetty, Will Fortmuller, Abi Hamblin, Daisy Haydn-Jones and Euan Gerhardt-Mcleish.

**Commendations:** Jemima Blake and Jack Strutt

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## PE



### Sophie Representing Wales

During the Easter holidays Sophie (12D6) represented Wales at the Lacrosse Home Internationals Festival in Cardiff! She was Co-Captain of the Under 18 Wales Performance team. The youth teams played over three days alongside matches for the senior men and women, playing seven matches in total against teams from Scotland, Ireland and North and South East England.

Wales finished in 5th place overall, with Sophie scoring some great goals throughout, behind the England North and South teams who dominated the top four positions but above the other nations. What an achievement - well done Sophie!

### 1<sup>st</sup> XI cricket: Leo leads the way

The 1<sup>st</sup> XI cricket team began the season in scintillating style last week with a thrilling win over local champions, Reading Grammar, who won the inaugural Toby Radford Trophy – the competition we devised in 2023 for senior red-ball cricket involving six schools across West Berkshire and Oxfordshire.

Reading posted a daunting target of 176-6 off their 20 overs, boosted by 11 sixes over the short boundaries at Brown's Meadow. The bowlers all worked hard, but the pick of them was debutant Y12 Tom, who finished with 3-22 from his four overs. The impressive calmness and cricketing maturity exuded by Y12 Seb as a captain in the field, was then immediately apparent in his batting: he nonchalantly took 14 off the first over – with a cover drive and swivel pull reminiscent of prime Michael Vaughan among his attacking shots. He looked awesomely good, so it was a surprise when he was castled for 34 by a yorker in the seventh over with the score on 47.



Our charge to the target was taken up by talismanic Y12 all-rounder Jimmy, who deposed their spinners many yards over the fence – literally and figuratively – several times, but when he fell to a wonder catch by the Reading captain inches off the ground at mid-off, St Bart's were wobbling at 89-4 in the 12<sup>th</sup>. To cut to the chase, the always enthusiastic Y10s, Leo and Soorya began a partnership in the 14<sup>th</sup> over that put on an unbeaten 77 to steal the game away from the baffled and bewildered opposition. Soorya danced to an impish 29 off 14 balls with a clever mix of guile and aggression, while Leo – cool as the proverbial cucumber – smote boundary after boundary with crunching command in his 45 off 22 balls.

Fittingly, the team's 12th six sealed victory from the first ball of the last over. It was struck by Leo, whose fine form began over the Easter holiday in India, on tour with Middlesex Schools Cricket Academy, where he brilliantly amassed two centuries and a 75 in conditions that traditionally confound English batters. The St Bart's team can feel proud and confident going into this week's national T20 cup match against Abingdon. Might a giant-killing effort be on the cards?

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# Uniform Shop



**Just inside the Students' Entrance  
on the right**

**Open on Fridays  
during term time from 2.45pm to 3.30pm**

## **PLEASE DONATE!**

Have you finished with your uniform or PE kit?  
Please bring donations to the shop on Friday afternoons or anytime via school reception (no white shirts please).

**Volunteers are needed to help in the shop, for one hour on a Friday afternoon (term time). Once a month or once a term, it's up to you.  
Please contact us at [stbartspa@gmail.com](mailto:stbartspa@gmail.com)**

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