La Retraite
Roman Catholic Girls' School

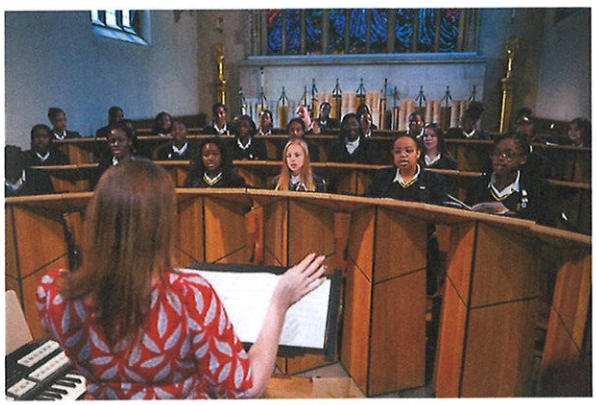
ATKINS ROAD, CLAPHAM PARK
LONDON, SW12 0AB
020 8673 5644
LARETRAITE.CO.UK
HEADTEACHER: MR D MALINS

21st May 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Pope Leo recently made reference to St. Francis of Assisi as the Catholic Church marks the 800 years since the saint's death, urging us to follow St Francis's example and that to "Care for peace is to care for life." My letter today finishes with St Francis' beautiful prayer of peace. It provides us all with guidance on how to lead a good life.

Faith Life of the school



It was with great pleasure that we welcomed some students from St Bede's Primary School to work with our students in delivering an assembly together. It was a lovely opportunity for the students to work together and they will be delivering an assembly at St Bede's in the future.

The school choir was invited to sing at Southwark Cathedral for the Good Shephard's Mass. They sang beautifully – you can see a clip at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B22UmNqdDMs

Mrs Coyle

Mrs Coyle is a Director of Learning at La Retraite and she oversees the excellent T Level and Careers provision at the school. Mrs Coyle was recently awarded the BEM medal by the King for her great work with Sixth Form education. Mrs Coyle has worked at La Retraite for an amazing 31 years and helped transform the Sixth Form from a small start with just 100 students to the 400 we have today. Mrs Coyle will be retiring at the end of June and we wish her all the best for her retirement. As her parting gift to the school, Mrs Coyle ensured that the school continued to hold the nationally recognised `Investors in Careers' award.

End of Year Exams

Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will all have end of year exams during the weeks of the 1st, 8th & 15th of June. Students have been provided with revision lists from subjects and a timetable of when the exams will take place. It is important students are revising and trying their very best with these exams. All exams will be testing knowledge from

September to May. Please support your child where you can in their revision. We wish them the very best with their exams. Reports will be published in July and sent home via email

Year 13 Graduation:

Congratulations to the Year 13 who completed their graduation at a very glamorous evening. We wish them the best of luck with their exams and expect to see them making a difference in the future.

Apprenticeships

It is very hard to get an apprenticeship and we are very pleased that the following students have secured some excellent placements for next year:

- Tristen and Daniel have been offered degree apprenticeships with ***Amazon***
- Nyella has been offered a role with ***Lloyd's Banking Group***
- Tiffany has been offered a degree apprenticeship with ***Berkeley Construction***
- Victor has been offered a paid internship followed by a degree apprenticeship next year with ***McAleer and Rushie***
- Hiba has been offered a degree apprenticeship in Cyber Security at ***British International Investments***

Crystal Palace partnership

We are really pleased to announce a new partnership with Crystal Palace FC Foundation. This is a very exciting opportunity for the school and the students The students will have the opportunity to work with a UEFA qualified coach twice a week. The Foundation will also work with the school football teams to develop their skills and organise a range of fixtures. There will be opportunities for students to learn to be coaches and to visit Selhurst Park and Crystal Palace FC academy training ground. The U15 La Retraite team has already been invited to compete in a tournament on the Selhurst pitch in June.

Achievements

The following students have achieved an amazing number of merits.

Year 7		Year 8		Year 9		Year 10		Year 11		Year 12		Year 13	
Gael Maegan	773	Desire	571	Bridget	615	Khadijah	622	Mariam	443	Suray	334	Kanyinsola	327
Faveur	733	Diana	571	Penny	568	Gresa	473	Tiffanie	403	Surayah	320	Condolezza	323
Mariama	709	Sakinah	563	Annevie	523	Sofia	419	Treasure	391	Onyinyechi	291	Hermione	303
Alina	675	Keziah	545	Fiyin	517	Princess	405	Destiny	364	Julie	267	Casey	274
Jessie	664	Caliciah	544	Hannah	507	Kaira	401	Eduwa	348	Ramatu	248	Chelsea	170
		Annamae	544										

Super impressive!

La Retraite Sporting Life

The athletics team dominated the recent Lambeth Championship, including winning all the relays. La Retraite had by far and away the biggest team – a testimony to the enthusiasm of the students and their hard work in training. A big shout out to the coaches: Ms Gray, Mr Ogungbayi and Mr Machado.

The following students did particularly well:

800m
Year 9- 2nd Sondos

300m
Year 8- 2nd Fatima
Year 9- 2nd Eniola
Year 10- 2nd Sydney

200m
Year 7- 2nd Ava, **Nelly 1st**
Year 8- 2nd Page, **Jessiphine 1st**
Year 9- **Audrey 1st PB 28.09**

100m
Year 7- 2nd Zizi, 2nd Maya
Year 8- **1st Caliciah, Joy 1st PB 13.16**
Year 9- 2nd Shiloh
Year 10- 2nd Axiah

T Level Childcare successes

The year 13 Childcare students have achieved the best ever results in the teaching component of their course with 10 Distinctions, (Nicole, Lashirah, Kayshelle, Aset, Grace, Leonah, Alexa, Renise, Andrea, Fantasia) and five merits, (Brianna, Tumi, Tatianna, Lasharnae and Precious).

Amazing stuff!

Events and trips

Thank you again to all the staff who have helped organise a huge range of trips and thank you to the students for their enthusiasm. The following are just some examples of trips that have happened since Easter

- The Great Big Dance Off
- Amazon Trip
- Debate Mate Cup final
- Theatre trip to watch *'One Flew Over The Cuckoos Nest'*
- Year 12 Biology Field Trip
- Stratford Regeneration- Year 10 Geography
- Ninja Warrior trip
- Sunderland University Visit
- Year 12 Construction visit to Helme site (Feltham)
- Jack Petchey- Hamilton Trip
- Year 8 Residential to Braithwait
- Armed Forces T20 Cricket Day at Lord's in 2026 on the 23rd of April

Keeping Students with Allergens Safe.

At La Retraite RC Girls School, we have a high number of students and staff with different types of allergens, of which the most severe one is "Nut Allergen". For some students, the presence of nuts can cause a severe reaction and even death. Our obligation as a school is to adopt a number of measures to protect, support and keep these students safe. Please ask your children **not** to bring any food items or snacks that may contain nuts in to school.

Thank you for your understanding. Remember, we are a **Nut free School**

News from the library

This year the **Phoenix Book Club Award Ceremony** took place at BTG School where we celebrated an event that brings together students from across the borough of Lambeth. Students from different schools participated, having all read and voted on four shortlisted books to determine the winning author. The event was a resounding success, marked by enthusiastic student participation and meaningful engagement with the authors, who spoke with students and shared insights about their work. They also signed the books students had been reading.

We came 2nd in the quiz. Congratulations to everyone that participated

Finally, as ever, a really big thank you to everyone and I hope you have a lovely sunny, half term break.

I leave you with the prayer of St Francis of Assisi:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is error, the truth;
where there is doubt, the faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled, as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

Kind regards,

Dominic Malins
Headteacher