



Friday 14th March 2025

HEADLINES

St Mary's Catholic School



Dear Parents

As we approach the mid part of Half Term 4 and the bustling Spring term, I find myself reflecting on the remarkable achievements and vibrant energy that permeate our school corridors. The dedication of our students and staff continues to inspire, creating an atmosphere of growth and excellence that truly embodies the spirit of St Mary's.

In recent weeks, our classrooms have been abuzz with focused learning and outstanding teaching. It's a joy to witness the engagement and enthusiasm of our students as they delve into their studies, supported by our committed teachers who consistently go above and beyond to nurture their potential. The extra-curricular and super curricular opportunities on offer and undertaken by our students are testament to the sense of 'Love, Respect, Flourish' as our school values in action.

To summarise the last two weeks in particular.....Science Week brought a fresh wave of excitement to our school, with a plethora of activities designed to ignite curiosity and deepen understanding in the scientific realm. These hands-on experiences not only enriched our curriculum but also kindled a passion for discovery that will undoubtedly serve our students well in their future endeavours. The celebration of World Book Day was another highlight, transforming our school into a haven of literary exploration. It was heartening to see our library bustling with activity and our students immersing themselves in the joy of reading. These moments of literary appreciation are crucial in fostering a lifelong love for learning and imagination. For our Year 11 and Year 13 students, the post-Mock examination period has been a time of reflection and renewed determination. As they receive feedback and refine their revision strategies, I am impressed by their resilience and commitment to achieving their target grades. Their hard work now will undoubtedly pave the way for success in the upcoming examinations and puts them in good stead for the next stage in their revision and examination preparations.

I'm thrilled to share a particular point of pride: our Year 11 girls' netball team has clinched the District championships! This victory is a testament to their skill, teamwork, and unwavering spirit. We celebrate not just their win, but the dedication and sportsmanship they've demonstrated throughout the season.

This week we had the delights of the Year 9 musicians and bands who competed in the annual "Battle of the Bands". It truly showcased their immense talent, teamwork, and musical ability. Each performance was a testament to their dedication and hard work, with every member contributing their unique skills to create something extraordinary. The level of creativity and professionalism displayed was exceptional, and it was clear that these young musicians have not only honed their craft but also developed a strong sense of collaboration and support for one another. Their energy, passion, and commitment to their performances left a great impression, making the event a celebration of both their individual talents and the power of working together as a band. It's inspiring to see such our Y9 cohort already demonstrating such a high level of musical excellence and teamwork.

Looking ahead, I'm excited to invite you all to our Spring Term music concert on Tuesday, 25th March at 7:00 pm in the School Hall. This event promises to be a delightful showcase of our students' musical talents, and I encourage everyone to attend and support our young performers.

As we continue to nurture excellence in all aspects of school life, I'm filled with gratitude for our supportive community and the collective effort that makes St Mary's such a special place of learning and growth.

God Bless,

Deirdre McHugh

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday 17th March
Inter-House Rotary Quiz

Thursday 20th March
Year 8 Parents' Evening
4.30pm-7.30pm

Monday 24th - Friday 28th March
Charity Week

Monday 24th March
Year 11 Futures meetings
4.30pm-6.30pm

Tuesday 25th March
Spring Concert, 7pm

Friday 28th - Saturday 29th March
Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Expedition



LOVE - RESPECT - FLOURISH

CHARITY WEEK, 24th - 28th MARCH

Lent is a season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. During this Jubilee of Hope, we can give hope to the most vulnerable in our society through our support of charities that embody the Catholic Social Teachings of Human Dignity and the Option for the Poor. At St Mary's, we are aiming to do this during this Lenten Season through our fundraising activities for two charities:



Across organises pilgrimages of a lifetime to the Catholic Marian Shrine of Lourdes in south-west France for those needing special care. People who are sick and disabled (VIPs) are taken to Lourdes, accompanied by a doctor, nurses, a priest and helpers by Jumbulance: a unique vehicle with ambulance status, specially constructed to carry the VIPs. The money we raise will fund a team of helpers consisting of our 6th Form students, who will assist the VIPs on a pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Westminster's Catholic Children's Society is a charity very close to us as a school. The funds we raise will support the charity with their mission of bringing hope and positive change to disadvantaged children and families across London, Hertfordshire and South-East England.



Charity Week Activities

all take place during period 5

LIP SYNC BATTLE
MONDAY MARCH 24TH
2:10 PM HALL
VIP ENTRY TO ALL 5 EVENTS £20
OR £5 FOR INDIVIDUAL EVENT
PAY ON PARENTPAY

ST MARY'S SCHOOL
CHARITY WEEK 2025
**TEACHERS THROUGH THE
KEYHOLE
GUESS WHOSE
HOUSE IT IS...**
TUESDAY 25TH MARCH
2:10pm Hall
Get your VIP ticket (£20 for all 5 events)
or just for this event (£5) on PARENTPAY.

ST MARY'S SCHOOL
CHARITY WEEK 2025
IT FACTOR
WEDNESDAY
MARCH 26TH
2:10 pm (period 5)
Main Hall
VIP ENTRY TO ALL 5 EVENTS £20
OR £5 FOR INDIVIDUAL EVENT
Get the tickets
on PARENTPAY
For more information see
Year 12 Mission Team

**BATTLE BEGINS
TODAY!**
THURSDAY 27TH MARCH
2:10 PM SPORTS HALL
**GAMES
GALORE**
VIP ENTRY TO ALL 5 EVENTS £20
OR £5 FOR INDIVIDUAL EVENT
TICKETS ON PARENTPAY

ST MARY'S SCHOOL
CHARITY WEEK 2025
SOAK A TEACHER
FRIDAY 28TH MARCH
COURTS
VIP ENTRY TO ALL 5 EVENTS £20
OR £5 FOR INDIVIDUAL EVENT
GET THE TICKETS ON PARENTPAY

Tickets available via [ParentPay](#) until
Thursday 20th March

£20 VIP ticket all event access OR £5
tickets for individual events.

More events at break and
lunch time - pay by cash
or card!

HAVE YOU ORDERED YOURS YET?

The hoodie can be worn instead of the school blazer for the duration of the Charity Week.

Charity Week Hoodies



Catholic Children's Society

GET EXCLUSIVE SMSC
CHARITY WEEK
HOODIE
ONLY £25

Size and colour option choices can be made while ordering.

GO TO PARENTPAY NOW
ORDER BY MONDAY 17TH MARCH!

INTER-HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

St Mary's recent Inter-House Photography competition highlighted that we have quite a few budding photographers in our midst! Students were asked to submit original photographs with the theme 'Winter Wonderland' and, as can be seen from the pictures above, the children evidently have the photographer's eye!

Congratulations to the winners: Brian T, Noah S, Yvette V-M, Carlos D, Ivy D, Celeste S and Isaac H.



BATTLE OF THE BANDS



The recent Battle of the Bands was an electrifying event filled with incredible performances, showcasing the dedication and talent of our students. Each band brought their unique energy to the stage, impressing the audience with their hard work, creativity, and passion for music.

Congratulations to the overall winners and to everyone who took part!





JOIN US FOR OUR 2025 MUSIC SHOWCASE

St Mary's Spring Concert

TUESDAY 25TH MARCH AT 7PM

TICKETS £5 VIA PARENTPAY
STUDENTS GO FREE!



MESSAGE FROM THE STUDENT HUB

Forgotten Items

Please encourage students to take responsibility for remembering their own belongings. We do not accept forgotten items unless they are food, glasses or medication.

Lost Property

Please ensure that all students' belongings are labelled with their name. This makes it easier to return belongings when they are handed in to Lost Property.

School Uniform Consultation outcome

Following the uniform consultation, which involved a variety of stakeholders- parents, students, staff, and governors, there is substantial support for the retention of St Mary's traditional uniform.

To coincide with the Government's guidance on uniform affordability, the shorter skirt will be subject to a phased discontinuation. The shorter skirt was introduced in 2019 due to affordability. However, this is now commensurate with the longer skirt and the uniform supplier has therefore been instructed not to replenish stock of this item.

The outcome of this consultation, which will be implemented for September 2025, saw a majority of all responses in favour of the longer skirt. The shorter knee length skirts will be phased out until September 2026. Stakeholders are advised to take note of this transition and we appreciate your cooperation in upholding the school's uniform policy which can be found on our website.

Considerate driving and parking

We would like to remind parents of the need to drive and park responsibly in the roads surrounding the school. Please be vigilant as children may be attempting to cross the road and be mindful of the speed limits when driving.

Roads adjacent to St Mary's are restricted parking areas for residents only. Whilst it is appreciated that it may be difficult to find suitable parking nearby, please follow basic road safety guidance:

- Do not double park
- Do not park on double yellow lines or corners
- Do not park across the driveways of houses

Parking in these roads is by resident permit only, cars parked here for a substantial amount of time are liable to receive a parking fine.