



Friday 13th June 2025

HEADLINES

St Mary's Catholic School



DATES FOR THE DIARY

**Monday 16th -
Wednesday 18th
June**

D of E Gold practice trip

Friday 20th June

Catholic Primary School Tournament

Friday 20th - Monday 23rd June

Year 12 Science trip to CERN

Monday 23rd June

Year 10 Physics trip to Oxford

Wednesday 25th June

Year 11 Prom

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

What a wonderful few weeks it has been at St Mary's as we enter Half Term 6 and the second half of our summer term. The last fortnight has been filled with moments that truly reflect the heart of our school community and the values we hold dear.

Our students have also been showcasing their talents beyond the classroom in remarkable ways. The first Trust 'Speak Out Challenge' event brought together all Trust schools for what proved to be an absolutely captivating finale to our public speaking competition. The standard was exceptional, and I am delighted to congratulate our winners who represented St Mary's with such distinction. Their confidence, eloquence and poise were a testament to the outstanding work being done across our Trust schools in developing students oracy. A selection of photos from the event is in this edition for you to enjoy.

Looking ahead, our Duke of Edinburgh programme continues to flourish, with twenty-seven Year 12 students preparing to embark on their practice Gold expedition next week. This represents months of dedication, preparation and commitment from our students, and I know they are ready to embrace this challenge with enthusiasm. I must extend my sincere gratitude to our accompanying staff who are facilitating this incredible experience. Their dedication ensures our students can work towards achieving this prestigious award, developing resilience, leadership skills and independence that will serve them well beyond their school years.

I have had the absolute privilege of visiting our Parishes in the Lea Valley Deanery over recent weeks, witnessing our students as they received the Sacrament of Confirmation. These sacred moments represent such a significant milestone in their faith journey, and I cannot express how proud I am of each and every one of our young people. Their commitment to their faith and the grace with which they approached this important step has been truly inspiring. We continue to hold them in our prayers as they grow in their spiritual lives.

As we move into what promises to be an exceptionally busy few weeks ahead for the summer term, I do encourage you to keep a close eye on our school calendar. We have an action-packed half term ahead, with Work Experience opportunities for both Year 10 and Year 12 students, our exciting Enrichment Week, KS3 charity 'Colour Run Challenge', Sports Awards Presentation Evening in addition to the seasonal events for athletics and sport championships fixtures. There will be numerous notices and information coming your way to ensure these events are a tremendous success for our students, please do ensure you keep an eye out for further information.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to provide the very best opportunities for our young people.

Wishing you and your families a restful and relaxing weekend,

Deirdre McHugh
Head Teacher



Click [here](#) to access your child's academic achievement and progress data.

LOVE - RESPECT - FLOURISH

Pupil Achievements

Higher Aspirations

Y12 student Richard has been recognised for successful completion of the University of Cambridge Gonville and Caius College Higher Aspirations Scheme. Richard has his heart set on being a future aeronautical engineer and is making tremendous progress in making his dream a reality. We are very proud of him!



Gaelic Football Success

Congratulations to Blake S and Ella W (both in Year 7 at St Mary's) who competed in the U13 Hertfordshire Girls team at the British Festival of GAA Football held in Manchester recently. Overall, the Hertfordshire girls' teams finished in third place in competition.

Speak Out Challenge 2025

On Wednesday 4th June, St Mary's was delighted to host Years 4 - 8 students from across the schools of the St Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust as they took part in the 'Speak Out Challenge 2025'. St Mary's Sixth Formers Jessica and Sofia welcomed the participants, greeting them with warm and encouraging words.

The aim of the challenge was for the students to showcase their public speaking skills and share their views on thought-provoking topics ranging from sustainability to how social media affects teenagers. The themes were designed to encourage creativity, empathy and critical thinking.

Well done to the participants who performed with such confidence and huge congratulations to the winners, including St Mary's students Rhalou (Y7) and Sara (Y8).



Year 9 New York trip

Year 9 students recently enjoyed an exciting educational trip to New York City, packed with unforgettable experiences and interactive learning. Their adventure began at MoMath, the National Museum of Mathematics, where they engaged in hands-on activities that made maths both fun and fascinating. The Science Hall offered them a chance to explore innovative exhibits and interactive displays, sparking curiosity and inspiring their scientific minds.

As part of their spiritual journey, the students visited St. Peter's Church, where they were warmly welcomed to the family mass by Fr. Quinn. This special moment allowed them to connect with their faith and the wider community while away from home.

The trip included a visit to the 9/11 Memorial, where students reflected on the significance of the site and paid tribute to those affected by the tragic events. This moment provided a powerful reminder of resilience and hope.

In addition to these meaningful visits, the students marvelled at breath-taking views from the Empire State Building, enjoyed a scenic cruise around the Statue of Liberty, and ended their visit with a trip to see a spectacular performance of *The Great Gatsby* on Broadway. This combination of education, culture, faith and reflection made for an enriching experience that the Year 9 students will remember for years to come.

Students in Year 8 who would like the opportunity to go on the trip next year should keep an eye open for a letter that will be circulated soon.



New Senior House Captain Team

On behalf of our new Senior House Captain team, we look forward to serving your child as they represent their house in a wide variety of House-related activities next academic year.

We believe a successful House System is an integral part of an effective school and we are extremely proud to be a key part of this.

We asked each member of the team a few questions and here are their answers:

Oliver Dolan

1.What A Levels are you studying?

History, Politics and English Language.

2.What extra-curricular clubs do you participate in?

Going to the gym every morning before school.

3. One thing you love most about the school?

The sense of community and family feel at the school, and the teachers who really are invested in their subjects and inspire students to become interested in them too.

4.What are your aspirations are for the future?

To study history and politics at University and become a History teacher.



Maeve Dunne

1.What A Levels are you studying?

I am studying A Level Psychology, Economics and History.

2.What extra-curricular clubs do you participate in?

I have participated in netball, I used to be a student mentor and I am currently part of the chaplaincy team.

3. One thing you love most about the school?

The one thing I love most about the school is the sense of community and the friends I have made here.

4.What are your aspirations are for the future?

In the future, I want to go to university and then work in finance.



Fabian Joseph

1.What A Levels are you studying?

I am studying Biology, Chemistry, Maths and an EPQ.

2.What extra-curricular clubs do you participate in?

I've participated in basketball and rugby and been involved with Year 7 mentoring. I help GCSE students with maths, attend Medical society and do one-on-one tutoring.

3. One thing you love most about the school?

I love how supportive the school is for everyone and all the various opportunities it provides, allowing students to thrive and excel.

4.What are your aspirations are for the future?

I aspire study Medicine to become a Doctor and aid society.



New Senior House Captain Team

Kai Fellows



1.What A Levels are you studying?

Maths, Chemistry and PE.

2.What extra-curricular clubs do you participate in?

I'm mad about Athletics. I recently competed in the 400m at the Hertfordshire County Championships!

3. One thing you love most about the school?

One thing I love about this school is the sense of community and belonging it holds which makes everybody feel welcome.

4.What are your aspirations are for the future?

To go to university to study sports science/physiotherapy alongside trying to represent my country in athletics!

Jessica Komolafe

1.What A Levels are you studying?

I am currently studying A-Level Sociology, RE (Ethics, Philosophy and Christianity) and BTEC Health and Social Care.

2.What extra-curricular clubs do you participate in?

Within the school I am Co-President of the Chaplaincy Team, but outside of school I volunteer at a pre-school that runs after school. I play golf and during the half terms I teach young children how to develop their golf skills.

3. One thing you love most about the school?

One thing I love most about the school is the relationship between students and teachers, especially in Sixth Form. The teachers are always willing to help out and bend around their own free time to help you on a subject you don't quite understand or offer opportunities for you to stretch and challenge yourself even further.

4.What are your aspirations are for the future?

In the future, I would like to become a Child's Nurse or a Midwife because I love working with kids, and if my job in the future includes that, I'll be really happy.



Chloe Hellen

1.What A Levels are you studying?

Health and Social Care, Design Technology and Media studies.

2.What extra-curricular clubs do you participate in?

I'm a very keen Netballer having represented the school many times.

3. One thing you love most about the school?

The sense of unity within our school community.

4.What are your aspirations are for the future?

I'm keeping my options open, but I'm keen to study a degree at university.





JUNE 2025

HELP WITH OUR RAFFLE

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you on behalf of The Friends of St Mary's from St Mary's Catholic School, Windhill, Bishop's Stortford. We are a group of parents, guided by two school Governors, dedicated to raising vital funds for projects that benefit our school community.

We are holding a "Grand Raffle" and we would greatly appreciate if you would kindly consider donating a prize?

Any prize, however small, would be much appreciated. In return, your Company's logo and prize will appear on;

*** Our Website www.stmarys.net**

*** In our "Headlines" newsletter which is sent to all Parents. (We have 1,150 students covering a large geographic area).**

The raffle will be taking place during our PE Presentation Evening on Friday 4th July.

I do hope that you will feel able to support this cause, to benefit the children of St Mary's and their ongoing educational needs.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future, and thank you in advance for your support.

Yours faithfully
Joanne Miller, Joanna Hunt & Samantha Soames

Email: info@stmarys.net
On behalf of The Friends of St Mary's.

Warm weather information reminder

As warm weather is here, we would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers of the following information:

- Students to bring in a water bottle and ensure they stay hydrated during the warm weather
- Students to stay in the shaded areas/Refectory at break and lunch time to ensure they are cool
- Students to leave their school jumper at home
- Students to wear sunscreen and a hat
- Students with hay fever are to ensure they take preventative measures due to the high pollen levels expected
- Non-Blazer days will be indicated as appropriate.



MESSAGE FROM THE STUDENT HUB

Water Bottles

Please remember to send students to school with a reusable water bottle to ensure they stay hydrated.

The canteen no longer sells water in plastic bottles, so students will need to refill their reusable bottle.

Please ask students to bring their water bottle with them if they come to the Hub for First aid.



Delivering Special
Provision Locally

Click [here](#) to access the new DSPL3 newsletter which contains details of courses and workshops that are available to parents.

RETURN OF MATHS EQUIPMENT

We kindly request that Year 11 and 13 students return any borrowed calculators, maths equipment, revision guides or flashcards that are no longer needed to Mrs Wilkin.