



Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to St Mary's Catholic School. We are delighted that you and your child have joined our vibrant and faith-filled community.

We want everyone connected with St Mary's to feel part of our vision and to be confident that we are investing wisely, prayerfully, and gratefully in the future of our children. As an essential part of your child's educational journey, we are committed not only to delivering excellent teaching but also to continuously improving our school facilities, ensuring the best possible learning environment for our students. However, achieving these goals requires resources, and your support plays a vital role in making this possible.

For example, take our newly refurbished Victorian Building classrooms. While we now have the physical "rooms," initially, there were no doors, no lights, no desks, and not even any paint on the walls. It is the school's responsibility to raise funds for the furnishings, equipment, and fittings for these learning spaces. In fact, as part of the £5.1 million overall investment in this project, we are required to contribute 10% of the costs ourselves – a significant challenge for us.

I have been involved with the Friends of St Marys since it was established in 1996. In that time, I have had the privilege to work with many dedicated parents, governors, trustees and members of staff. FOSM has facilitated the funding necessary to financing many new classroom blocks and sports facilities and the refurbishment of existing buildings. None of this would have been possible without the great generosity of St. Marys' parents.

Looking ahead, we sincerely invite all new parents to join hands with The Friends of St Mary's and help us continue building an outstanding future for our students.

With warm regards,

*David Wojack*

Trustee of the Friends of St Mary's (FOSM)

## Who Are The Friends of St Mary's (FOSM)?

The Friends of St Mary's (FOSM) is a charitable trust established in 1996 by a group of committed parents and governors. Its mission is to raise funds that enrich the **education and spiritual development** of every pupil at St Mary's.

Over the past 25 years, FOSM has supported a wide range of school initiatives – from building renovations to equipment upgrade. These are the elements that help make a St Mary's education so distinctive and memorable. FOSM makes a huge difference to the education, spiritual welfare and opportunities for the thousands of pupils who have passed through our school



## Why we need your support

As a **Voluntary Aided School**, St Mary's receives only partial funding from the government. This means that for any building improvement or new development, the school must raise **at least 10% – and sometimes 100% – of the costs** independently.

While government funding covers basic needs, we believe your children deserve much more. The outstanding learning environment we aim to provide relies on the continued generosity of families like yours.

FOSM is an official body to assist the school in raising funds and much of that comes from the generosity of parents who make a monthly contribution via standing order. The vast majority of families choose to contribute in this way, with some continuing to give even after their children have left the school for many years – a true reflection of our strong sense of community and shared values.

# Recent successes

One of our proudest recent achievements is the **renovation of the Victorian Block**. The new refurbished classrooms and facilities are prioritised for students with the focus for a hub of classrooms. Every classroom and learning area are equipped with smart boards, Wi-Fi teaching and learning dedicated resources to maximise student outcomes, **this has only been made possible from your parental donations to FOSM**.



Before FOSM contributions



During renovations



Thanks to FOSM contributions

Other significant projects that were made possible thanks to the generosity of both past and current parents include:

School Refectory upgrade

Design & Technology block

ICT Design Studio

Sports Hall

Development of the tennis courts

Purchase of a minibus

## Future projects

Looking further ahead, we are planning to enhance the teaching facilities for our Sixth Form students. As part of our long-term development plan, parent contributions will help us create an inspiring, well-equipped learning environment that prepares older pupils for higher education and future success.



Before FOSM contributions



After development thanks to FOSM contributions

## How you can help

We invite all new parents to support FOSM by setting up a regular donation of just £8 per month per child (up to a maximum of two children per family).

**£8 per month, that's just around £2 a week, less than the cost of a weekly cup of coffee, can make a lasting difference to your child's school experience.**

Every pound donated directly fund improved facilities, resources, equipment and enrichment experiences that benefit all students.

### A Community Effort That Makes a Difference

Thanks to the generosity of past and present families, FOSM has helped the school secure **three interest-free loans of £150,000 each** from the Diocese of Westminster. These loans have enabled us to advance key stages of our development programme.

We fully understand that every family faces different financial circumstances. But when we come together as a school community, even small regular contributions can have a powerful collective impact.

**Let's build something lasting – set up your monthly £8 donation today and help shape the future of St Mary's for your child and for generations to come.**

**Donation forms are included in this pack. Please bring your completed Direct Debit form to the Transition Evening, as it will be collected when you receive your allocation.**

If you would like to volunteer with FOSM or simply find out more, we would be delighted to hear from you. Contact us by email [info@stmarys.net](mailto:info@stmarys.net)