



Friday 27th June 2025

# HEADLINES

St Mary's Catholic School



## DATES FOR THE DIARY

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July**  
Inter-House Orienteering Competition

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July**  
PE Presentation Evening

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July**  
Music Drumathon

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July**  
Year 7 trip to Globe Theatre

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July**  
D of E Gold expedition



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to share some wonderful highlights from our recent school activities and celebrations.

Our partnership with our Trust primary schools continues to flourish, and we recently hosted an exciting Science taster day. This provided our younger Y5 students with a fantastic opportunity to experience what Science is truly like in secondary school, igniting their curiosity and enthusiasm for the subject as they prepare for their transition to St Mary's.

Our Year 12 students have been particularly adventurous this fortnight. They have just completed their Duke of Edinburgh Gold practice expedition, demonstrating remarkable resilience and teamwork. Additionally, our Sixth Form students embarked on an extraordinary educational journey with their trip to CERN and visit to the United Nations. These experiences provide invaluable insights into cutting-edge scientific research and global diplomacy, broadening their horizons beyond the classroom.

We recently celebrated our Year 11 Prom, which was truly a wonderful night of dancing and celebrations. It was heart-warming to see our students marking this significant milestone in their educational journey with such joy and enthusiasm. The evening perfectly captured the spirit of achievement and community that defines St Mary's. Please do see our school website photo gallery and our Instagram for a selection of photographs.

Looking ahead to the immediate future, I must draw your attention to the heat health alert issued for the East of England on Monday 30th June and Tuesday 1st July. **Please ensure your child follows these essential instructions to keep cool and hydrated during the glorious sunshine expected: Students should wear PE kit to stay cool and bring water bottles, ensuring they remain hydrated throughout the day. Water bottles can be refilled during break and lunch times. Students must stay in shaded areas or the Refectory during breaks, wear sunscreen and hats, and those with hay fever should take preventative measures due to high pollen levels expected.** For our Year 12 students, and our students returning for our Sixth Form Induction days, students may wear a relaxed casual dress code during this period - shorts and t-shirts are permitted, provided they remain modest and appropriate for school.

I look forward to welcoming many of our students and families for our PE Presentation Evening next Friday 4th July and celebrating our sporting achievements and highlights this academic year.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring our students' wellbeing and success.

Deirdre McHugh  
Head Teacher



**GO 4 Schools**

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

# Pupil Achievements



Congratulations to Bernice (Y7) on the KS3 runner-up prize for her creative presentation celebrating the life of Pope Francis.

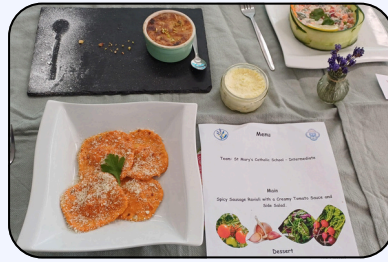


We are tremendously proud of Martha E (Y10) who has been accepted on to the University of Exeter Scholars Summer School programme. A highly prestigious and tremendous opportunity studying at the University and experiencing University life as part of their Scholars programme. We wish her every success!

# Rotary Cooking Competition

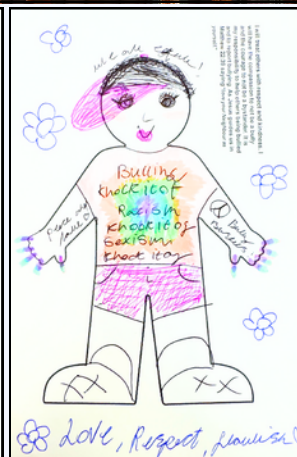
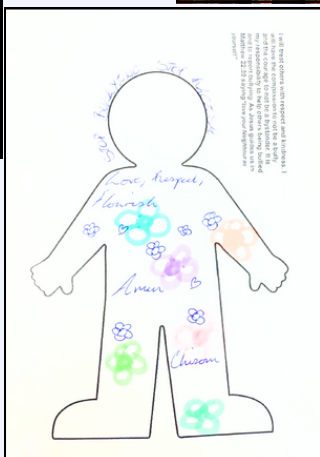
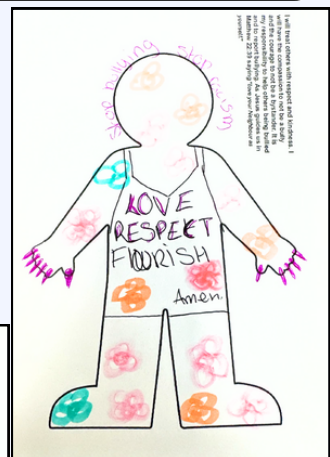
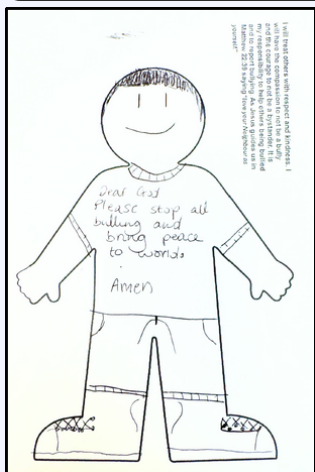
Two teams of students from St Mary's recently took part in a cookery competition organised by the Rotary Club. The Junior team consisting of Year 8 students Ivy A, Mariana A F and Sarah G, prepared a selection of tapas dishes which included rustic bread and stuffed figs, whilst the Intermediate team of Year 10 students Kayla I, Harriet C and Vivienne S made spicy sausage ravioli with a creamy tomato sauce and salad, followed by a baked nectarine and almond pudding. Delicious!

Well done to the girls who managed their tasks extremely well in what was a very hot kitchen on a very hot day!



# Anti-Bullying Awareness

In recent year group assemblies we have focussed on anti-bullying awareness. Representatives from each year group put themselves forward as anti-bullying ambassadors, signing pledges to bring awareness to this important topic.



# Duke of Edinburgh Award

This year has seen the Duke of Edinburgh Award extended across the school, with over 50 Year 9 students taking part in the Bronze award, over 60 students in the Silver award and almost 30 students undertaking the Gold award.

Each award level sees students volunteering, taking part in physical activity and learning or advancing a skill. Along with this they have to carry out an expedition of varying length, with the Silver and Gold award participants taking part in practice expeditions before the real thing. This year the Bronze expedition took place in March around Bishop's Stortford when the students were blessed with lovely weather. The Silver group also practised around Bishop's Stortford before conducting the real expedition in the North Chilterns, and the Gold group have just returned from their practice in the North Chilterns with the real expedition taking place from 7th July in Snowdonia (Eryri), Wales.

At Gold level, students organise their own residential experience, where they have to engage in a new activity in an organised environment with people they do not know.

We look forward to launching the DofE with the next round of students in the coming weeks as they embark on this opportunity from September.

*In the mornings we got up and made breakfast and took our tents down. Then we walked for 8 hours each day, using a map to navigate our way, we took regular breaks as it was quite hot while we were out. In the evenings, we relaxed and played games like Uno and volleyball.*

*I really enjoyed getting to the campsite and relaxing with the others, and it was nice to play games with everyone. I also enjoyed bonding with the people in my group, and I brought a speaker with me and we played music.*

*I would do it again because the sense of achievement I gained when we reached the end of the last walk was really great because it was challenging but very rewarding.*

Cristina A,  
Y12



*My experience of DofE was nothing short of exceptional. It taught me a plethora of skills, all of which are applicable to the rest of my life. From orienteering to cooking, or simply teamwork.*

*It was an experience I'll never forget, especially thanks to the amazing and fun teachers who came along with us. I couldn't recommend it to year 11's more, it will be one of the best experiences you'll ever have with your friends.*

Richard L,  
Y12

*DofE was a very enjoyable experience for me. It taught me resilience and how to persevere when faced with a physical challenge. Personally, the best part of the expedition was being able to camp at night with my friends.*

*It felt extremely rewarding and motivating knowing that we all would be able to relax at night and cook our own food at the campsites. I think it is a once in a lifetime experience.*

Joseph S, Y12



# CERN trip

Last week a group of Year 12 students headed to Geneva in Switzerland for a whirlwind trip where they visited four world-renowned institutions, each associated with a different topic that impacts the modern world.

First stop was CERN, the European Organisation for Nuclear Research, where the students learnt about the Big Bang and the workings of the Large Hadron Collider, the world's largest particle accelerator, which is used by scientists to test theories that form the basis of particle physics.

Next, the students visited the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum where the exhibits and interactive displays highlighted the importance of humanitarian work around the world, helping those affected by war and displacement.

The multitude of different zones in Geneva's Botanical Gardens, ranging from a volcanic greenhouse to a Japanese garden, gave the students an opportunity to learn about biodiversity, ecosystems and the importance of conservation.

Finally the students visited the United Nations Office and learnt more about this important organisation where global leaders gather to address issues ranging from human rights to climate change.

The trip was an amazing opportunity for the students to engage in a range of topics which helped reinforce a sense of global citizenship.



# Reading Champions Take Flight !

On June 18th, our Reading Champions were rewarded for their dedication with an exciting trip to the Stansted Airport Aerozone. Each student on the trip had read at least 30 books over the school year – a fantastic achievement that earned them this well-deserved celebration.

The day was packed with engaging activities. Students explored the history of Stansted Airport, participated in hands-on STEM challenges, dressed up in authentic airport staff uniforms, and even got to try their hand at flying a plane in a flight simulator!

One of the most memorable moments was a talk by acclaimed author Melinda Salisbury, who shared insights from her book series exploring the dangers of AI and technology. Her session sparked a lively and thoughtful debate among students about the role of AI in art and creativity – a topic that resonated deeply with our students.

The trip concluded with a visit to the airport's viewing platform, where students watched planes take off, land, and taxi – and even received waves from friendly pilots!

A huge thank you to everyone who made this trip possible. It was a day full of learning, inspiration, and celebration.

**Want to be on next year's trip?** Read 30 books over the school year and earn your Reading Champion badge!





## MESSAGE FROM THE STUDENT HUB

### Year 9 Immunisations & Athletics Districts

The Year 9 DTP/Men immunisations are due to take place on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July**. Please ensure you have followed the link in the email sent to you and responded.

If your child is going to the athletics districts on that day, please contact the immunisation service or your GP to rearrange:

Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust  
hct.csaisherts@nhs.net / 0300 555 5055 option 1

### Collect Medication Held at the Student Hub

Please ensure that all medication held at the Student Hub has been removed by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July.

Any medication left in the Hub at the end of the academic year will be disposed of.



## SPOT THE SIGNS, SUICIDE PREVENTION WEBINAR

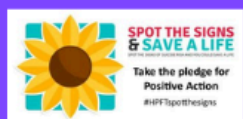
15TH SEPTEMBER  
2025

FREE FOR ALL  
HERTS PARENTS

7PM - 9PM  
ONLINE



Contact us to discuss your training needs, or head to our website by scanning the QR code below:



Please contact [cyp@hertsmindnetwork.org](mailto:cyp@hertsmindnetwork.org) to book your space!

LOVE - RESPECT - FLOURISH