



— Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025 —

# HEADLINES

Welcome Back!

St Mary's Catholic School



## DATES FOR THE DIARY

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>**

September  
Pret-a-Portrait photographs

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>**

September  
Year 10 information evening

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September**  
Year 12 & 13 Retreat

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September**  
Open Evening, 6pm - 8.30pm  
(school closes at 1pm for students)

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September**  
INSET day  
(pupils not in school)

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September**  
Flu immunisations



**GO 4 Schools**

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

Dear St Mary's Community,

As we begin this new academic year, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude as I reflect on the remarkable achievements of our students and the wonderful start to the term.

First, I extend the warmest of welcomes to our new Year 7 cohort, who have settled into St Mary's with such grace and enthusiasm. It has been truly heart-warming to witness how beautifully they have embraced our school community from their very first days with us. Last evening marked a particularly special moment in their St Mary's journey as we were honoured to welcome Bishop Paul McAleenan, who celebrated Mass with our Year 7 students and their parents. The blessing he bestowed upon them as they embark on this significant chapter of their education was deeply moving and perfectly encapsulated the faith-centred foundation upon which our school stands.

The evening was made even more memorable as we witnessed four of our exceptional Sixth Form students being commissioned as Eucharistic Ministers. These young people exemplify the very best of our school values, demonstrating remarkable leadership and serving as beautiful witnesses to their faith. Their commitment and dedication inspire us all.

Our summer examination results have filled us with tremendous pride and joy. Our A Level students have shown themselves to be a great testament to hard work and dedication, with their achievements opening doors to extraordinary opportunities. I am particularly delighted to share that four of our Year 13 cohort have secured places at top Medical schools – a remarkable accomplishment that speaks volumes about their academic excellence and determination. Our students are now pursuing their dreams across a vast array of subjects, from International Law, Politics, and Economics to Fashion Journalism and Nursing. Additionally, several students are undertaking degree apprenticeship programmes with leading companies, and we wish them every success in these exciting new adventures.

At GCSE level, I could not be more proud of our exceptionally talented and hardworking students, who have outperformed national averages in spectacular fashion. An outstanding third of all grades awarded were at 7–9, compared to just 22% nationally, whilst an impressive 88.6% of our students achieved grade 4 or above in English and Maths, significantly exceeding the national average of 65%. These remarkable results, achieved by both our Year 11 and Year 13 students, are a testament not only to their hard work and positive attitude but also to the dedication and expertise of our outstanding teaching staff.

Finally, please note two important dates for your diaries: our **Open Evening** takes place on **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September, with school closing at 1.00pm for all students.** The following day, **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September, is an INSET day** when school will be closed for students to allow our staff training to take place.

I wish you and your families a restful and relaxing weekend  
God Bless,

Miss Deirdre McHugh, Head Teacher

Spread the word! Tickets for our Open Evening can be booked [here](#)

LOVE - RESPECT - FLOURISH

# GCSE Results Success

Students at St. Mary's Catholic School have shown remarkable determination and commitment in achieving the GCSE results they deserve this summer. There were heartwarming scenes of joy, relief, and celebration as students opened their envelopes and shared their success with parents, teachers, and friends.

Among the students, Angus Vyvyan achieved eight grade 9s and two grade 8s, while Livia Neville was awarded two grade 9s, five grade 8s and two grade 7s. Both students shared their feelings after receiving their results, saying they felt a great sense of relief.



Both students expressed how immensely grateful they were for the support of their parents during what was a very demanding time. Livia said: 'I could not have done it without my family'.

The students thanked their teachers for the guidance and support throughout their exams.



Students Ruby and Jayden both achieved eight grade 8 and 9s.

St Mary's is incredibly proud - not only of the fantastic results - but also of the personal qualities the students have shown throughout their journey. They consistently live out our Gospel values and contribute to the strong sense of family that defines the school.

The school offers its blessing to all students, whether they have continued into its Sixth Form, pursued other pathways in education, or entered into employment.

We wish them joy and positivity as they embrace the challenges ahead.

*Congratulations!*

# A-level Results Success

Year 13 students achieved outstanding results in their A levels and KS5 qualifications, which saw them able to take up offers from top universities, degree apprenticeship programmes and employment. Our students secured places at a wide range of prestigious universities, a few of which are shown below. This breadth of choice is a true testament to the expert advice and personalised guidance offered by our Sixth Form Team, who work tirelessly to help each student find the right course to match their individual goals and aspirations.

The school is immensely proud not only of the excellent results, but of the remarkable young people our students have become. Their determination, independence and resilience have been truly inspiring.



Vivian Ilsley achieved A\*, A\*, A\*,  
and will study Maths at  
Durham University

Laura Sydee will study  
Medicine at the  
University of Ljubljana,  
Slovenia after gaining  
A\*, A\*, A grades.



Jessica Banks who achieved  
A\*, A\*, A  
and will study Medicine at the  
University of Birmingham.



Amelia Perkiss achieved A\*,  
A\*, A, C  
and will study Maths at King's  
College, London.



Stefan Wlodarczyk who  
achieved A, A, A, A, B  
and will study War Studies at  
King's College, London.

The results have opened doors for our students but academic success is just one element of our broader mission to develop confident, compassionate individuals prepared to make a positive impact.

We couldn't be more proud of the achievements of all our students and wish them every success for the future.

*Well done!*

# Imperial College Summer School

This summer, I attended the Imperial College Summer School in London, a fully-funded residential programme that was profoundly inspiring and personally transformative. From the moment I arrived at this renowned university, I was struck by the exceptional calibre of the teaching and the remarkable diversity of opportunities. The schedule was wonderfully ambitious with an impressive array of scientific disciplines. We began with mentally demanding STEM challenges designed to hone analytical thinking, before venturing into engrossing explorations of bio-engineering. There, we saw how intricate principles of science were developed into life-changing medical procedures. We also meticulously delved into the composition of pioneering materials, exploring how they are reshaping industries like aerospace, energy, and infrastructure. Throughout the program, a series of workshops facilitated interactive participation while simultaneously fostering a spirit of inquiry and collaborative research.

The pièce de résistance was the half-day end-of-the-programme competition. I joined three other students to design an exhibition stall to showcase all the knowledge and principles we learned at Imperial to our peers and mentors. This challenging, yet exciting task demanded not only theoretical rigour but also strong communication. After hours of spirited discussion, careful planning, and artistic flair, our team's efforts were rewarded with a victorious first-place winning prize – an achievement that seriously humbles me to this very day.

Yet the summer school was not only confined to laboratories and seminar rooms. We also got the opportunity to enjoy a trip to the Globe Theatre to see a performance of “The Merry Wives of Windsor”. The juxtaposition of daytime engineering lecture hall and theatrical brilliance by evening created a number of days of extraordinary breadth and richness.

Reflecting upon the entire experience, I can say with certainty that the Imperial College Summer School has left an indelible impression upon me. It has broadened my intellectual horizons, fortified my confidence, and inspired aspirations of higher learning with renewed clarity and vigour. I feel immensely fortunate to have taken part in such a prestigious initiative, and I can highly recommend that fellow students apply for future places because not only will you encounter a world of knowledge from first-class educators but you will also forge lasting bonds of friendship, and find inspiration that will illuminate your path, allowing you to return to school with a newly awakened sense of what the future could possibly hold.

Alexander M (Y11)



## Student Success

James M (Y11) took part in an International junior golf competition in Portugal over the summer. He was the winner of the under 16 competition, shooting 75 (+3) gross on day 1 and 71 (-1) gross on day 2.

In addition to winning the U16 trophy, he also placed 3rd in the overall under 21 World Amateur Golf Rankings competition.

Congratulations James!



# Prayer Intention Requests

As a Catholic school community, prayer is at the heart of everything we do. We believe, as St James reminds us, to “pray for one another” (James 5:16) and to lift up each other’s needs to God. Prayer not only deepens our relationship with the Lord but also strengthens us as a community of faith, reminding us that none of us journey alone.

We would like to invite you to share any special prayer requests you may have – for your family, friends, or loved ones. These intentions will be remembered during our student (Wednesdays at 9.30am) and Staff (Friday) morning prayer, so that together we can place them before God with faith and hope.

If you would like to send in a prayer request, please follow the link below . All requests will be treated anonymously and with care and respect.

<https://forms.office.com/e/ct8Mb7rJPA>

Thank you for joining us in living out our Catholic mission to support and pray for one another.

God Bless.



## Attendance - Every Day Counts!

**Reporting illness** : attendance@stmarys.net or 01279 654 901 follow prompt 1 – providing a reason for illness (not feeling well is not an accepted reason).

For **medical leave requests**, email your child’s Head of Year (initialoffirstname.surname@stmarys.net) and copy in the Attendance Officer (attendance@stmarys.net) with supporting medical evidence.

For anything else a Leave Of Absence Application Form can be found [here](#). Please return the completed form to the Headteacher’s EA, Dr. Juliff (r.juliff@stmarys.net) for Miss McHugh’s review. Please copy in the Attendance Officer (attendance@stmarys.net).

**NOTE** : St Mary’s encourages parents to treat mild illnesses, (headache & sore throat etc.) with ibuprofen or paracetamol and still send their child to school. These medications are also available via the student hub.

**REMINDER: ALL STUDENTS IN ALL YEAR GROUPS TO BE IN FORM BY 08:40.**

## Vaccination programmes

Vaccinations are an important way of protecting young people from potentially serious and life-threatening illness. The link below is to a government document that explains in more detail the vaccination programmes:

[Adolescent Vaccination Programme: Briefing for Secondary Schools](#)

Flu vaccinations this year will take place on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September and Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October. Further information including an e-consent link will be send directly to parents.



During last academic year we began using Go4Schools ([www.go4schools.com](http://www.go4schools.com)). This program allows you to see live attainment data as teachers input it rather than waiting for reports to be written or books to be returned.

Its unique functionality allows parents and students to see assessments results, homework, timetable, and attendance. In addition students can see the assessments they will have, enabling them to prepare in advance.

Each student can see their individual end of year Target Grade meeting this means they have made good progress. Their CWG (Current Working Grade) demonstrates how far they are from target and their teacher will support them to reach their target grade. Parents can also see all of the assessments that contribute towards the CWG and support their studies at home.

Regularly throughout the year, we will ask teachers for their feedback on your child's A2L (attitude to learning) and also once a year we will ask for A4C (Area for Celebration) and A4D (Area for Development). Once this data has been collected, we will email you to let you know that a report is available via Go4Schools.

Please check the Go4Schools website regularly so you know the progress that your son/daughter is making, and contact their teachers or Head of Year if you have any concerns ([info@stmarys.net](mailto:info@stmarys.net))

## Logging into Go4Schools

If it is your first time logging in, please use the first-time user tab. A link will be sent to:

**Students** - Your child's St. Mary's Email address (for Year 7 these are shared in your first IT lesson)

**Parents** - The email account that St. Mary's holds for you

Click on the link to verify it – check your junk mail if there you have not received one.

You will then be promoted to set a password – please follow the instructions provided.

## Notices

Does your child have a special educational need? Please see details of the DSPL SEND coffee morning below.

**DSPL3 SEND COFFEE MORNING**

You are invited to a relaxed and supportive coffee morning designed to offer valuable information and networking opportunities.

- Connect with other parents and carers
- Share experiences and gain insights into various topics that matter to you
- Practical advice & emotional support
- Meet and chat with others in a similar situation
- Bring any questions or topics you'd like to discuss
- Professionals in attendance including Early Years, Outreach, Family Support, Behaviour Support, DSPL

We look forward to seeing you there and fostering a strong, supportive community together!

We have identified a minor data breach which resulted in access to some student data. No data was lost and we have closed this element of sharepoint to prevent any unauthorised access. As a matter of routine we have made a voluntary declaration to the Information Commissioner's Office. We anticipate no further action. We have reviewed all our access protocols to ensure all data systems are secure.