



— Friday 28th November 2025 —

HEADLINES

St Mary's Catholic School



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Wednesday 3rd December
Scholastic Book Fair begins

Thursday 4th December
Year 9 DTP/MenACWV vaccinations

Monday 8th December
Feast Day

Thursday 11th December
Y13 Parents' Evening



GO 4 Schools

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

Dear St Mary's Community,

Today, our Year 11 students are stepping into the professional world with confidence and style. Dressed in sharp suits and business attire, they are participating in our 'Mock Interview Day'. These students have meticulously prepared their CVs and are now meeting our dedicated Alumni and industry professionals who have generously volunteered their time to provide our students with their first experience of a formal interview. The commitment of our visitors to inspire and motivate our young people is truly commendable. I look forward to sharing more about this transformative experience in our next newsletter edition.

We have a momentous occasion approaching on Monday, 8th December - the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, which also marks our school's 130th anniversary of providing 'Excellence for all'. This special day embodies the visionary spirit of the founding sisters of St Mary of Nemur. We are honoured that Bishop Paul McAleenan will be celebrating Mass with us, accompanied by the Parish Priests from our Lea Valley Deanery Parishes. Our Key Stage 3 students will gather for Mass at 9:00am in the Sports Hall, with Key Stage 4 and 5 students joining at 11:30am. I kindly ask our entire community to keep our school in your prayers on this significant day.

As we enter the first week of Advent, a time of prayer and preparation, we are embracing a powerful opportunity to make a meaningful difference. We are asking each student to donate £2 to Mary's Meals, a remarkable charity addressing child hunger globally. By ensuring children are fed, Mary's Meals removes a critical barrier to education: hunger and malnutrition. Their model not only provides immediate sustenance but also contributes to long-term change by increasing children's chances of attending school and improving their future prospects.

To put this into perspective, just £19.15 can feed a child for an entire school year. Our goal is for each form class to raise a minimum of £40, which would enable us to feed over 75 children for a whole year through our offertory collection on Monday, 8th December.

I kindly request that every student brings a £2 coin to school next week, so together we can teach our children the profound impact of compassion and collective action.

Tomorrow is our school occasional day whereby the school is closed to staff and students.

Wishing you and your families a peaceful and blessed long weekend.

God Bless,

Miss Deirdre McHugh
Head Teacher

mary's
meals

a simple solution to world hunger

LOVE - RESPECT - FLOURISH

BSET Futures Fair

We would like to draw to your attention to an exciting and highly valuable event taking place on Saturday 17th January 2026: a Futures Fair that will aid our Year 11 and 12 students in making confident, informed decisions about their next steps.

As detailed on the flyer opposite, the event brings together representatives from 35+ universities, and visitors will also have the chance to explore a wide range of career pathways by meeting employers such as Tees Law, Price Bailey Chartered Accountants, the British Army, the Royal Air Force, Affinity Water, and TUI.

Furthermore, there is a programme of **expert talks** designed to support students with:

- choosing the right course;
- preparing competitive applications;
- developing personal statements;
- exploring opportunities to study overseas.

The event is **free to attend** and we strongly encourage your participation. St Mary's Sixth Form is committed to supporting students throughout their full seven-year journey and we see this as an excellent opportunity for young people to explore future pathways with confidence.

Please scan the QR code on the flyer opposite for further information on the full programme and also to register your interest to attend.

We look forward to continuing our shared work in supporting students to become informed, ambitious, and successful young adults.

Sincerely,

Mr. Noble

Director of Sixth Form

Mr. Hadley

Head of Year 11



BSET Futures Fair 2026
Saturday 17 January 2026
11.00am – 4.00pm
FREE TO ATTEND

Meet with representatives from 35+ universities, including Cambridge, Newcastle, Hertfordshire, Oxford Brookes, Lancaster, Birmingham, Sheffield, Suffolk, Warwick, Exeter, and Anglia Ruskin.

Discuss career opportunities with employers, including Tees Law, Price Bailey Chartered Accountants, the British Army, the Royal Air Force, Affinity Water, and Tui.

Hear from experts on a range of key topics, to help you with choosing the right course, ensuring your application stands out, and applying to universities overseas.

Full programme details available soon.

Register your interest now to attend.



BISHOP'S STORTFORD COLLEGE
ESTD 1848

bishopsstortfordcollege.org



Author Visit - Seth Burkett

Last Friday, we were delighted to welcome author and former footballer, Seth Burkett, to St Mary's. He spoke with Years 7 - 9 about his footballing career, how he got into writing and about his different styles of writing.

Seth also delivered a kick-about session with our competition winners. We loved having Seth visit and we hope to see him again soon!



Inter-House Football and Rugby

The recent Inter-House Girls' Football and Boys' Rugby competitions where students from Years 7 to 11 represented their Houses with outstanding energy and teamwork was a great success.

The girls showed tremendous skill and perseverance throughout their football matches. Teamwork and positive spirit shone through. Congratulations to all participants for their enthusiasm and determination—whether defending, scoring, or cheering from the side-lines, every contribution made a difference!

The boys' rugby matches were equally inspiring, filled with impressive displays of strength, strategy, and respect for one another. Players across all year groups tackled challenges head-on and supported their teammates with great House spirit.

Many thanks to our Year 10 and Sixth Form student leaders for their hard work in organising and supporting these fantastic events.

Well done to all the students who showed fantastic enthusiasm and camaraderie throughout.

	Y7 Boys	Y7 Girls	Y8 Boys	Y8 Girls	Y9 Boys	Y9 Girls	Y10 Boys	Y10 Girls	Y11 Boys	Y11 Girls
1st	T	A	T	K	A	M	K	M	T	B
2nd	M	T	B	B	B	K	J	A	R	J
3rd	A	B	K	J	M	A	T	J	J	R
4th	B	M	M	T	K	B	A	K,T	B	A
5th	J	J	A	M	T	J	M	B	M	T
6th	K	K		A	J	T	B		A	M
7th										K



Inter-House Cross Country

We are delighted to share highlights of this year's Inter House Cross Country Competition where students proudly represented their Houses and embraced the challenge of either a 3K or 4K route. Every pupil, whether seasoned runner or less confident competitor, demonstrated fantastic commitment. It was inspiring to see students cheering one another on, and contributing valuable points to their House totals.

A special mention must go to our Year 10 GCSE PE students, who played a vital role in ensuring the event ran smoothly. Acting as course marshals, they provided encouragement, guidance, and support to all runners. Their maturity and leadership were evident throughout, and we are incredibly proud of their contribution.



RED Wednesday

On Wednesday, 19th November, St Mary's joined schools and parishes across the country to shine a light on the suffering of millions who are persecuted for their faith. It was pleasing to see many students and staff supporting our fundraising efforts and raising awareness about Aid to the Church in Need and about the young people who have to live under persecution. Students wore items of red clothing and joined in fun activities, braving the cold winds, to show their support. A special mention goes to all the staff who wore red on the day, setting a fantastic example for our community.



Rotary Club 'Youth Speaks' Competition

St Mary's Catholic School attended the recent Rotary Club's Youth Speaks public speaking competition and gave an impressive account of themselves in a very strong field.

The team of three Year 7 students was comprised of Chairperson Lisa N-D, Vote of Thanks Olivia T and Main Speaker Taylor S, and delivered a thought-provoking and often humorous talk titled, "Are we the most connected, yet lonely generation ever?". The talk focused on the impact of factors such as technology, social media, lockdowns, working from home and the loss of shops and pubs on human interactions.



The Intermediate age group competition took place at Bishop's Stortford College and was attended by a total of seven teams, with every other team made up of Year 8 or Year 9 students.

English Teacher Mr Ockendon prepared the team at his weekly Debate Club and took them along to the event. He said: "The girls really did us proud at the competition. They showed such courage, being the youngest team and having to follow some exceptionally strong performances.

"Many people from the Rotary Club and from other local schools came to me afterwards to say how impressed they were by their talk and by the charming and polite way they conducted themselves all evening.

"I was also proud that in a night of well-written speeches, many with a touch of humour, I think Taylor raised the biggest laugh with one of her jokes!"

The pupils' proud parents and siblings were in attendance to offer support and enjoy the talks given on the night.

Each team's talk comprised a two-minute introduction by the Chairperson, a six-minute talk by the Main Speaker, a question from the audience to be answered by the Main Speaker, and finally a closing speech of two-minutes by the Vote of Thanks. Other teams' speeches were on such varied topics as 'Smell - the Forgotten Sense' and 'What is success?' and were all well-researched, well-written and engagingly-delivered.

The team are already looking forward to next year's competition when hopefully they can secure a winning position.

Attendance - Late Arrivals

More frequently we are aware of students using 'Train Delays' as a reason for lateness.

The school monitors Greater Anglia Service Disruption map daily.

Please ask your child to not use this as a reason especially when they have missed their train or overslept.

If they have evidence of a delay, they should show this on their phone to Mrs Davies in A1.

Students will continue to obtain minus house points and detentions for lateness on days when there are no visible delays.

The school will only authorise lateness's if we see phone evidence or if it is visible on the Greater Anglia site.

Students are also not permitted to sign in ill for AM Registration – Only Parents/Carers can notify the school for a late arrival to school due to ill health.

Thank you for your attention and support.



Scholastic Book Fair, 3rd-16th December

Next week we will be holding our annual Scholastic Book Fair, with hundreds of new Children's and Young Adult books to browse and buy.

The Book Fair will be open before & after school and lunchtimes from the 3rd-16th December in the Library.

With a wide variety of titles to choose from, and book prices starting from only £2.99, there's a book for everyone!

When visiting the fair, students can pay for books via card, ParentPay or through this link:

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay/1460861>.

Students need to fill in a 'wish list' of books and their cost whether paying via ParentPay or the Scholastic website. Payment must be made before students can collect their book! After making payment online, you will receive a payment code which the pupil must bring into school in order to collect their books, along with their wish list indicating which book/books were paid for.

As well as providing an opportunity for students to take home a quality book to enjoy, every book bought will help us to get some NEW BOOKS for our school library for free!

Consultation on the Proposal to close Albury C of E Primary School, SG11 2JQ on 31 August 2026

Hertfordshire County Council are inviting views on the proposal to close Albury C of E Primary School on 31 August 2026. The link by which you can submit your views can be found [here](#).