



Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026

# HEADLINES

St Mary's Catholic School



Sincere praise and thanksgiving for our Year 13 student Kai F, an exceptionally talented athlete, student and a role model for our school community.

A 400m sprinter, Kai realised a phenomenal personal best time of 48.25 seconds in the senior men's 400 metres semi final at the British Indoor Athletic Championships on 14<sup>th</sup> February.



## DATES FOR THE DIARY

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March**  
Book Week

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March**  
World Book Day

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March**  
Year 11 Futures Meetings (online)

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> & Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March**  
Moana performance, 7.30pm



**GO 4 Schools**

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

Dear St Mary's Community,

What a busy and joyful half term we have had, and I am delighted to share some fantastic moments from our school community with you.

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February, we had the immense honour of being selected to represent St Mary's at the Reception of Installation and Pontifical Mass of The Most Reverend Richard Moth. Henry, Lisa and Isla from Year 7 joined us for this spectacular and historic occasion. It was a truly wonderful and incredible Mass, and we felt deeply privileged to be one of only a small number of schools chosen to attend and represent the Diocese on such a significant day. This invitation really does reflect the strong faith life of our school community and the esteem in which we are held by the Diocese. We are enormously grateful for this recognition. Bishop Richard Moth has invited all students and families in the Lea Valley Deanery to attend a welcome Mass at 6.30pm on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Catholic Church, 141 Woodhall lane, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 3TP. I do hope this is a date you can put into your diary. I ask kindly for all students who are attending to wear their full school uniform as they represent St Mary's for this important event.

Our annual ski trip over the February half term break was a tremendous success. The photographs tell the story beautifully – blue skies, lovely snow, and most importantly, students returning with the most joyous memories from a week of a lifetime. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Mr Graves, Mr Lawn, Dr Bentley, Ms Hayles and Mrs Wilkinson who gave their time so generously to accompany our students on this trip. Their dedication made all the difference to making it such a special experience.

As we return to school, we are now in the exciting final stages of preparation for our school Musical, "Moana". Today marks the first of our full cast dress rehearsals, and our students are preparing exceptionally well. We have a Matinee performance for our Primary school partners and then our main school musical performances on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> and Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March. It promises to be a wonderful musical showcase, and I would encourage you to book your tickets through ParentPay if you haven't already done so. Full details of how to book are available on the ParentPay platform.

I also want to draw your attention to our annual Charity Week events, which are featured in detail in this edition of the newsletter. This is always such a meaningful time in our calendar when our community comes together to support causes that matter to us.

Finally, I need to alert you to an important national safeguarding matter which you may have seen in the national and regional newspapers. We are aware that there are posts currently circulating on social media platforms such as TikTok, Instagram and Snapchat that are identifying and dividing schools into "red" and "blue" categories. This social media trend is encouraging violence between young people from different schools. It originated in south London, has spread through London, and is now a national issue. The police are aware and are actively monitoring this situation.

Secondary schools are working collaboratively with external agencies to monitor this trend closely. We are doing the same and will continue to reinforce with our students our clear expectations around respectful conduct and responsible use of social media. Should you have any specific concerns or information, we would encourage you to contact the police directly. We would very much appreciate your support in discussing online safety with your child and speaking to them about not engaging with this issue on social media. Together, we can help keep our young people safe.

This edition has a whole host of important information for you as we enter a busy half term. I thank you for the time to read and ensure your child takes full advantage of all the opportunities on offer.

Wishing you and your families a wonderful weekend

kindest regards,  
Miss Deirdre McHugh

# Reception of Installation & Pontifical Mass

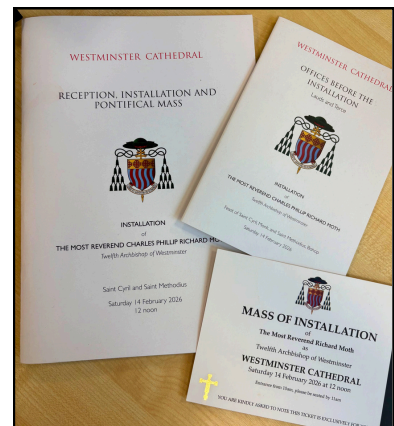
On Saturday 14th February, it was both a profound privilege and a truly prayerful occasion to be present at Westminster Cathedral with Lisa, Isla and Henry, three of our Year 7 students, for the Reception of Installation and Pontifical Mass of The Most Reverend Richard Moth.

The liturgy was nothing short of spectacular. The grandeur of the Cathedral, filled with worshippers from across the Diocese and beyond, created an atmosphere of deep reverence and joy. An extraordinary 481 priests and 100 bishops concelebrated the Mass, joined by more than 3,000 guests. It was a powerful witness to the unity and vibrancy of the Church, and a moment our students will undoubtedly remember for many years to come.

We were immensely honoured to be one of only a small number of schools selected to attend and represent the Diocese on such a significant and historic occasion. This invitation reflects the strong faith life of our school community and the esteem in which it is held.

Our Year 7 students conducted themselves impeccably throughout the day. They participated with maturity, reverence and enthusiasm, fully embracing the solemnity and celebration of the occasion. They were a true credit to their families and a wonderful tribute to our school.

We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to have shared in such a special day and proud beyond measure of the example our students set. It was, indeed, a wonderful and prayer-filled celebration that will remain in our hearts.

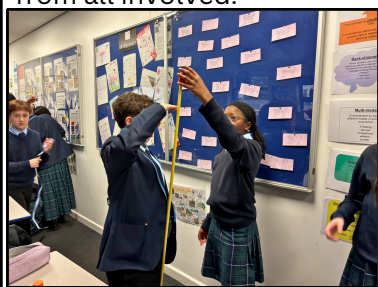


# Year 7 & 8 Oracy and Numeracy Day

Numeracy Day (Friday, 6th February) was a fantastic opportunity for our Year 7 students to celebrate and explore mathematics beyond the classroom. Throughout the day, students took part in a range of engaging and challenging activities designed to build confidence, curiosity and enjoyment in numeracy.

One of the highlights was the NSPCC Rocks: Times Tables Rock Stars competition, where students competed enthusiastically and demonstrated impressive speed and accuracy. There were some excellent individual performances, with a special mention going to Lisa N-D of 7J, who achieved outstanding results and showed real dedication and focus and earned herself a title of MOST VALUABLE PLAYER OUT OF EAST OF ENGLAND SECONDARY SCHOOLS!

Across the day, students explored a variety of mathematical ideas, including investigating Pascal's Triangle and applying it to probability activities, learning about famous mathematicians and their contributions, and discovering the fascinating patterns behind the golden ratio. Numeracy Day was an inspiring celebration of maths in action, and it was wonderful to see such high levels of engagement and enthusiasm from all involved.



## Scholars Club Graduation

On Monday 23rd February, the Year 10 Scholars Group visited Magdalen College, Cambridge as the final part of their 4-month enrichment course at the end of which they had to write a 2000 word essay on the future of vaccinations. When they agreed to participate in this Brilliant Club programme they didn't know what topic they would be studying nor quite how much work would be involved. They learnt in small groups, seminar-style, where everyone is expected to contribute. We are very proud of their achievements and willingness to rise to a challenge, and the speed with which some of them have signed up to the Oxford Discovery Programme is testament to their genuine hunger to learn.

What a brilliant bunch of students!



## The Little Princess Trust

The Little Princess Trust provides real hair wigs, free of charge, to children and young people who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment or other conditions. The charity is also one of the largest funders of childhood cancer research in the UK.

The younger brother of one of our students has been growing his hair for 7 years. He wishes to donate his hair, which is long enough for four wigs, to the Little Princess Trust. The cost of making each wig is £700.00. Please show your support by donating towards the creation of these wigs on the Just Giving page (link provided below).

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/davi-badhan-1?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/page/davi-badhan-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL)



Thank you  
Mr D'Cruz

# Ski Trip 2026



# Charity Week: 16<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Lent is a season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. We can give hope to the most vulnerable in our society through our support of charities that embody the Catholic Social Teachings of Human Dignity and the Option for the Poor. At St Mary's, we are aiming to do this during this Lenten Season through our fundraising activities for two charities: Across Paths Group and CAFOD.

Together with our Sixth Form's Mission Team, we have planned exciting activities which will take place during the Charity Week. These will involve events held during Period 5:

Monday 16th March: St Mary's Got Talent - Hall

Tuesday 17th March: Family Fortunes (students) – Hall

Wednesday 18th March: Lip Sync battle (Sixth Formers vs Teachers) - Hall

Thursday 19th March: Through the Keyhole plus The Traitors - Hall

Friday 20th March: Soak the teacher – Sports courts

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March: Community Event - The Big Quiz Night (7pm) - Hall



Tickets for these activities can be purchased via ParentPay until Thursday 12th March 2026: A VIP ticket gives access to **ALL FIVE** events and costs £20 (limited numbers), and individual events tickets cost £5 each. Other fundraising activities will take place during break and lunch times and students will be able to pay for those by cash or by card.

Advertisement for Charity Week Hoodies 2026. It features a white hoodie with a logo. Text includes: 'CHARITY WEEK HOODIES 2026', 'ONE HOODIE. ONE MISSION. ONE CAUSE.', 'ONLY £25', and 'GO TO PARENTPAY NOW TO SECURE YOURS ORDER BY FRIDAY 6TH MARCH 2026'. Logos for 'Across 50' and 'CAFOD' are also present.

We are also excited to introduce the St Mary's Charity Week Hoodie which can be purchased at price of £25 via ParentPay by Friday 6th March 2026. Size and colour option choices can be made while ordering on ParentPay.

Students will be able to wear the hoodies instead of their school blazer for the duration of the Charity Week.

## Raising money for:

**CAFOD** A better world needs all of us

**Across Paths**

**Jumbulance**  
making accessible travel possible

## The BIG QUIZ NIGHT Friday 20th March, 7pm

Join us for a fun-filled Family Quiz Night – an evening of laughter, teamwork, and friendly competition, all in support of a great cause. Bring the whole family and friends and help us raise vital funds for charity while making wonderful memories together! Gather your quiz team of eight (or join another team/table), choose a name and test your knowledge with the quizmaster's fiendish questions!

Please bring your own nibbles (no nuts); there will be a licenced bar to purchase drinks. Raffle tickets will also be available to purchase on the night! Payment can be made by either cash or card.

Doors open at 7pm and the quiz starts at 7:30pm. Tickets cost £9 for an adult, £4.50 for a child. Family tickets (2 adults and 2 children) are £22. All tickets are available to purchase on ParentPay from Monday. If you are not a ParentPay account holder, please email Mrs Brewin on [info@stmarys.net](mailto:info@stmarys.net) to secure the tickets!

See you there!



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL PRESENTS

Disney  
**MOANA JR.**

Book now  
with  
ParentPay!

£8 for adults  
£4.50 for children

**Thursday 12th & Friday 13th March**  
**Showtime: 7 PM**  
**St Mary's Catholic School Hall**



## Pupils Signing in

Dear Parents/Carers

We are noticing an increasing number of students arriving to school late and not signing in at student hub in A Block.

Please remind your child that this is a **safeguarding concern**. St Mary's requires a clear indication what time your child arrived on site due to:

- Safeguarding in the event of a fire alarm and able to confirm your child is safe.
- Enabling the school to authorise late codes due to travel disruption.

**Please note if your child does not use the student hub to sign in, these AM register absences can result in 'U codes' (arriving after registration is closed) which can incur Penalty Fines from the Local Authority.**

Thank you for your support.

### Navigating Smartphones & Tech as a Family

A free event from **SFC Stortford** for parents and educators, featuring candid stories and practical tools



Book here:  
[tinyurl.com/SMARSFC](https://tinyurl.com/SMARSFC)

- Presentations
- Panel discussion
- Alternative phone display

The Bishop's Stortford High School

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March  
6.30 - 9pm



Kindly sponsored by:



### Delivering Special Provision Locally

### Spring 1 Newsletter for Parents/Carers

#### DSPL3 Website and Facebook page

- The DSPL3 Website and Facebook page are now live.
- Please click here to view the [website](#)
- Please click here to view the [Facebook page](#)

#### Workshops, Courses and Training

Please click here to view [workshops, courses and training](#) available for this academic year.

#### DSPL3 Feedback Survey

- Please complete a short survey to help the Local Authority understand the impact of the work and support of DSPL3 in your area (you may need to copy/paste this into your browser <https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/58773M/>)

#### DSPL3 SEND Coffee Mornings

- 18th March 10-11:30am—St Catherines School, Ware
- 20th May 10-11:30am—St Michaels School, Bishops Stortford
- 15th July 10-11:30am—Buntingford First School, Buntingford

#### Beezee Healthy Families Programme

- Beezee has developed a unique programme supporting parents and carers of children aged 0-5 to build skills, explore healthy meals and create family routines that support a balanced, happy lifestyle.
- To find out more details and book your free place, [click here](#)



#### Angels Autism and ADHD Support: Weekly online workshop

- Angels are offering a weekly online workshop 10am-12pm every Tuesday during term time.
- [Click here](#) to join
- Angels are also offering one-to-one support. [Click here](#) to book



Delivering Special Provision Locally (DSPL3)  
Bishop's Stortford, Sawbridgeworth, Buntingford, Watton-at-Stone, Hertford, and Ware

DSPL3 Area Manager: Katie Algate  
[dsp3manager@amwell.herts.sch.uk](mailto:dsp3manager@amwell.herts.sch.uk)

DSPL3 SEND Lead: Lisa Lee  
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Lead School:  
Amwell Vine School  
& Specialist Sports College

Website:  
[dsp3.org.uk](http://dsp3.org.uk)

Facebook: [DSPL3](#)

Useful Links:  
[The Hertfordshire SEND Local Offer](#)

[SENDIASS Hertfordshire](#)

[IPSEA \(Independent Provider of Special Education Advice\)](#)

[SOS SEN](#)

[Herts Parent Carer Involvement](#)

[EHCP Support](#)

[Children and Young People's Speech & Language Therapy Service](#)

Advice line for parents:  
01923 470 680, choose option 3, then option 1 and leave a message.