



Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2026

# HEADLINES

St Mary's Catholic School



Dear St Mary's Community,

It is with great pleasure that I share this edition of our newsletter with you, as we celebrate the achievements and milestones that have defined this term. Our school community continues to demonstrate the values and spirit that make St Mary's such a special place.

Following the announcement of our Head Pupil team, I am delighted to share with you our Senior House Captains for 2026-2027. You will read more about them within this edition and in the coming few weeks their vision for strengthening further the student leadership within the school. These young people have been carefully selected and will play a vital role in supporting our school community. I am confident they will bring energy, commitment and purpose to their roles.

I must also take this opportunity to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our students who have recently represented St Mary's with such pride. The fabulous photographs from our Netball Tour to Holland and our New York trip showcase the calibre of our young people. They have led the school with maturity and distinction, and we are exceptionally proud of them. These experiences provide our students with invaluable opportunities to develop confidence, resilience and a broader understanding of the world around them.

Yesterday we welcomed our Year 5 students from St Joseph's who enjoyed a Design and Technology day, creating and making pizzas and designing bridges. It was wonderful to see our Year 9 student ambassadors so impressed by the motivation and talent shown by our visitors. These transition experiences are so important as we support our feeder school families on their journey towards secondary education. We hope our Year 5 guests had a fantastic day and look forward to welcoming many of them to St Mary's in the coming years.

I am also exceptionally proud of our Year Group representatives who participated in our annual Trust 'Speak Out Challenge'. They spoke so articulately and confidently in front of a full hall, demonstrating real skill in public speaking. This is precisely the kind of personal development we aspire to nurture at St Mary's, and their performances were truly impressive.

As we move forward into the final weeks of the academic year, there are many important dates for the diary in the next five weeks. I do ask that you keep an eye on our website for all details, as these dates will be crucial for planning ahead.

I would also like to extend a heartfelt appeal to our families. We are seeking support from parents and carers for our PTA, Friends of St Mary's (FOSM), in supporting our annual PE Sports Presentation Evening family event. If you are able to donate raffle prizes or volunteer to assist on the evening, we would be most grateful. Full details are available in this edition, and your generosity would make a real difference to this important celebration of our students' achievements.

## **Parental Survey**

At this time of the year, I would like to ask you as parents to kindly take some time to provide the school with your feedback and views. As a school, we work in partnership with you as parents to guide and support your child through their education and schooling. Your feedback is invaluable to us and helps us to continue to improve and develop our provision. I do encourage you to complete the Parental Survey through the link provided [St Mary's Catholic School- Trust Parent Survey 2025-26](#). **The closing date for the Parent Survey is Friday 27th June at 5pm.**

Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

God Bless,

Miss Deirdre McHugh  
Head Teacher

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June**

Year 10 Art trip

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June**

Gold DofE practice

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June**

Y11 Prom



**GO 4 Schools**

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

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# Introducing the Year 12 Senior House Captains 2026-27

## Samuel M

**What A Levels are you studying?** *Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics.*

**What extra-curricular clubs have you/do you participate in?** *I play the guitar, go to the gym, go on random side quests, enjoy reading and I play video games.*

**What are your aspirations for the future?** *I aspire to be a Royal Navy Doctor.*

**Name one thing you love about St Mary's.** *The support and encouragement I receive from the school community.*

**What inspired you to apply for a Sixth Form Student Leadership position?** *The support I received in the short time I have been here is humongous, and this motivated me to give back to this community and further support the students in our school.*

## Daniel W

**What A Levels are you studying?** *Politics, Geography and Art.*

**What extra-curricular clubs have you/do you participate in?** *I joined the school athletics club and frequently ran 1500/800m for district competitions which I hope to improve and expand. I am currently a member of a mountain biking club. In the past I set up a school debate team which I would like to bring back.*

**What are your aspirations for the future?** *I would like to become part of the UK political landscape, changing our country for the better.*

**Name one thing you love about St Mary's.** *I love the community and support that you get from the school.*

**What inspired you to apply for a Sixth Form Student Leadership position?** *I was inspired to apply because I want to keep this community strong and to be a prominent voice for the students, as well as progression towards my political career.*

## Efua W

**What A Levels are you studying?** *Biology, Chemistry and Sociology.*

**What extra-curricular clubs have you/do you participate in?** *Outside of school I sing in my church choir. I used to play the piano and guitar. I love sports and especially playing badminton.*

**What are your aspirations for the future?** *I am an aspiring Paediatrician.*

**Name one thing you love about St Mary's.** *The community aspect of school life.*

**What inspired you to apply for a Sixth Form Student Leadership position?** *I've always wanted to aim for leadership positions since primary school, and I saw it as an opportunity to put myself forward to help my peers and support students in the lower school.*

## Jonathan B

**What A Levels are you studying?** *RE, History and Politics*

**What extra-curricular clubs have you/do you participate in?** *Flying, Air Cadets and a beginner in Astronomy.*

**What are your aspirations for the future?** *Commercial pilot for British Airways.*

**Name one thing you love about St Mary's.** *The Catholic Mission.*

**What inspired you to apply for a Sixth Form Student Leadership position?** *To develop my Leadership and public speaking skills, and to help other students have even better opportunities to become leaders themselves in the future.*



## Christabel E

**What A Levels are you studying?** *Politics, English Literature and Sociology*

**What extra-curricular clubs have you/do you participate in?** *Currently, I participate in faith-based services such as administration at my local church. I am also part of the Maria Youth radio programme. In the past, I have attended hockey and rounders clubs.*

**What are your aspirations for the future?** *I want to work in the media.*

**Name one thing you love about St Mary's.** *The commitment and care of school leaders for us students.*

**What inspired you to apply for a Sixth Form Student Leadership position?** *It's a role I've always wanted. I enjoy leading and interacting with my peers.*

## William D

**What A Levels are you studying?** *Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Chemistry.*

**What extra-curricular clubs have you/do you participate in?** *Rugby Union, Army Cadets and podcasting.*

**What are your aspirations for the future?** *To become an engineer.*

**What inspired you to apply for a Sixth Form Student Leadership position?** *To develop my Public Speaking and leadership skills.*

# St Francis Assisi Academy Trust 'Speak Out' Challenge

On Wednesday 3rd June, we were delighted to welcome a number of students from across our academy trust to compete and spectate in our annual 'Speak Out' challenge. In this challenge, students from year 4-9 were asked to write and perform a speech on a range of topics from exploring the meaning of kindness to what superpower they would like to have and why.

Congratulations to the St Mary's student for their passionate and courageous speeches which inspired the younger year groups: Shantelle, Henry W and Leo K (Year 7); Noah S, Harriet S and Emilia C (Year 8), and Chibueze C and Carter F (Year 9).



## Paralympian Gold medallist visit

Last Friday, three time Paralympic medallist Liz Johnson visited St Mary's and shared her story with Year 8. Every child was gripped as she told how, when she won her Paralympic Gold, she had just heard that her mother had died. Her courage, resilience and determination were truly inspirational, and she urged every child to find something they were passionate about and that suited their skill-set. She shared how she chose swimming because it was an individual sport, but came to realise that it was the team that got her through the difficult times in her life.



## Thank A Teacher Day 2026

National Thank a Teacher Day is back on 17th June 2026!

The UK-wide celebration of all teaching and support staff is back again! National Thank a Teacher Day will be celebrated on Wednesday 17th June 2026, and this year there is more to get involved with than ever.

Send a Free Limited Edition Card to a special teacher, support staff member or even a whole school team before National Thank a Teacher Day. Just visit the [Thank a Teacher website](#) to send yours. It is free, only takes a moment and can mean so much.



### **Competitions and Prizes for students**

There are also two exciting competitions open to children, with brilliant prizes up for grabs.

**Writing Competition** - Children are invited to write a short story or poem of up to 600 words about a teacher or member of school staff who has made a difference to them. The top three winners will receive a £50 gift voucher.

**Drawing Competition** - Children are invited to get creative and draw what they imagine their teacher gets up to on their summer holidays. Entries can be hand-drawn or digital, and the top three winners receive a £50 gift voucher.

For full details on how to enter both competitions, visit the [competitions page](#) on the Thank a Teacher website.

# Inter-House Public Speaking Competition

Congratulations to Year 7 to Year 10 students who proudly represented their Houses in this year's Inter-House Public Speaking Competition.

The event began with an introductory session exploring the question, "What is debating?". Students were introduced to the key skills required to become effective debaters, including constructing persuasive arguments, listening carefully to opposing viewpoints, and communicating ideas with confidence and clarity. The session concluded with the draw for the competition, where students discovered their debate opponents and the topics they would be discussing.

The students were divided into two groups and researched their subjects, gathering evidence, and developing well-structured arguments. The students showcased excellent teamwork, critical thinking, and independent learning as they worked to build their cases and anticipate potential counterarguments.

During the debates the students demonstrated confidence and maturity as they presented their arguments and responded to challenging questions. The standard of debating throughout the event was extremely high, with competitors showing respect for one another while communicating their viewpoints.

Following the final debate, the judges met to review each performance and calculate the overall scores. Competitors were assessed on a range of criteria, with scores combined to give each team a mark out of 50. Congratulations to 'A' House who came first, followed by 'K' House in second place with 'J' and 'M' Houses in joint third.

Individual prizes were also awarded:

Most Powerful Delivery Award: Lisa N-D (7J)

Teamwork Award: Emily N (10K)

Listening and Responding Award: Ben O (10A)

Year 7 Award: Leo K (7M)

The success of this event was reflected in the commitment, preparation, and enthusiasm shown by every one of the students who took part.



## Are you a former St Ignatius College pupil?

Join the Old Ignatians' Summer Barbecue on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June, 6pm - 9pm, at the Quad, St Ignatius College, Enfield. Live music, cold beer, grilled burgers, and a chance to reconnect with old friends.

Tickets are £15 per person. Book at [www.ticketsource.com/st-ignatius-college/](http://www.ticketsource.com/st-ignatius-college/)



# Holland Netball tour

This year's netball tour to Holland can only be described as iconic. The Masterclass coaches praised the engagement and listening skills of the St Mary's squad, who gave 100% the entire trip. Some amazing netball was played: the Year 8 girls came second in the U13 tournament, while the Year 9 team came third in the U15 tournament...however we will gloss over the fact that the students beat the coaches and staff all-star team quite convincingly.

Alongside representing the school so magnificently in an international tournament, the group's relaxation time included visits to a water park, tobogganing trips and karaoke. We are exceptionally proud of the girls who were praised for their politeness and good behaviour throughout the trip.



# Maths in New York

The Year 9 Maths tour to New York was an unforgettable experience that combined learning and exploration in one of the world's most vibrant cities. Highlights included a visit to the National Museum of Mathematics (MoMath) with hands-on exhibits that brought mathematical concepts to life and a visit to the 9/11 Memorial Hall, where students had the opportunity to reflect on this important moment in history.

Cultural experiences included experiencing the magic of a Broadway show, taking in the stunning views from the top of the Empire State Building, and simply soaking up the sights and sounds of this magnificent city. A truly memorable trip of a lifetime representing our school community so proudly.



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JUNE 2026

## CAN YOU HELP WITH OUR SUMMER RAFFLE?

The Friends of St Mary's (FOSM) is a group of parents, guided by two school Governors, dedicated to raising vital funds for projects that benefit our school community.

**We are holding a "Grand Summer Raffle" and are seeking donations of prizes to help raise funds to support the work of FOSM.**

**Monies raised from the raffle of the donations will be used to fund vital projects that benefit the school community.**

**We would greatly appreciate donations of prizes, large or small. In return, your Company's logo and prize will appear in our newsletter, "Headlines", which is circulated to all parents.**

The raffle will take place during the PE Presentation Evening on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

We do hope that you will feel able to support this cause that will benefit the children of St Mary's and their ongoing educational needs.

Thank you in advance for your kind and generous support.

Yours faithfully  
FOSM

Email: [info@stmarys.net](mailto:info@stmarys.net)

On behalf of The Friends of St Mary's.