



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL HEADLINES

FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2026



Welcome BACK

— TO A NEW ACADEMIC YEAR —

Dear Parents and Carers

It is with great pleasure that I write to you at the start of what promises to be an exciting and rewarding academic year here at St Mary's. We have enjoyed a terrific start, welcoming our new Year 7 cohort who have settled in remarkably well to life here at our school. They look exceptionally smart in their new uniforms and have made a wonderful first impression with their polite, well-mannered approach and engaging work ethic. I would also like to extend our warmest welcome to our Year 12 cohort as they embark on their Sixth Form journey. It is a privilege to see them begin this next chapter with us.

As a school community, we are exceptionally proud of our GCSE and A Level results from the summer. The excellent standards of attainment and progress demonstrated by our students reflect the hard work and dedication of both our young people and our staff. We begin this new academic year with determination and purpose, committed to ensuring that our school mission statement of excellence for all is achieved every lesson, every day for every child.

This week has seen the start of our Parent Information Evenings, which provide us with an invaluable opportunity to work in partnership with you to secure the very best outcomes for every student. It was lovely to meet with our Year 12 parents on Tuesday, and I was delighted to welcome our Year 10 parents last evening as they enter this new and important key stage of their studies. These evenings allow us to discuss all matters relating to curriculum, pastoral support, enrichment opportunities and safeguarding, ensuring that the high standards of excellence are established from the outset.

I would like to extend a very warm invitation to our Year 7 parents to our Year 7 Welcome Mass, which will be celebrated by Bishop Paul McAleenan on Thursday 17th September at 7.00pm. This is a very special occasion and a significant milestone in your child's seven-year journey here at St Mary's. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to welcome our Year 7 students and their families through prayer together as a school community.

I would also like to remind you that this Sunday is Education Sunday. Every student is warmly invited to represent our school by attending Parish Mass wearing their school uniform and having their photograph taken with the Priest. As teachers and educators, we recognise the profound importance of education and indeed our privilege and responsibility in educating your child here at St Mary's, as we celebrate our 131st year and the rich legacy of the founding Sisters of St Mary's of Namur. I do hope you will keep our school in your prayers as we mark this special occasion.

I wish you and your families a wonderful weekend.

With kindest regards
Deirdre McHugh,
Headteacher

Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 17th September
Year 7 Welcome Mass, 7pm

Monday 21st September
Year 9 DTPM immunisations

Thursday 24th September
Early finish for students at 1pm
Open Evening, 6pm - 8.30pm

Friday 25th September
INSET Day (Pupils not in school)



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



A Catholic Community dedicated to achieving excellence for all

The Chaplaincy Team – Living our Faith

*“In simplicity of our hearts joyfully giving all to God”
Sisters of St. Mary of Namur*

Prayer intention requests

We are a community that prays for one another. Please click [here](#) or scan the QR code to submit a prayer request.



Our Parish News

Stay connected with news from our parish, click [here](#) or scan the QR code to find latest mass times and newsletters.



Living Liturgically Together

We were delighted to welcome back our students last week. In this space every two weeks a member of the chaplaincy team will be writing about how we can live liturgically and develop our faith at home as families.

We are currently in ordinary time but also, we are focusing on care for creation, so think about what your family can do to care more for our world. Monday 14th September is the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, so perhaps say a family prayer around the cross on this day, reflecting on the sacrifice God made for us.

On the 24th September we celebrate the Feast of our Lady of Walsingham. This is a feast of particular importance in the UK. On this day you could create a family prayer corner with a picture or statue of Mary, you could walk a mile as a family, symbolising the pilgrim's mile in Walsingham and pray the rosary when you get back.

We pray that we come closer to Jesus through his blessed mother, Mary.

Key Catholic Dates

In School

- Thursday 17th September – Year 7 Welcome Mass
- Friday 2nd October – Sixth form Retreat
- September-October – Welcome Liturgies in the School Chapel
- Friday 23rd October – Year 7 retreat

In the Parish

Saturday 6th March – Flame 2027. FLAME is an event which takes place every two-three years and is the largest gathering of Catholic Young People in the country.

Tickets can be purchased for £30 by speaking to Sophie Sullivan at St. Joseph's or emailing bstortfordcatechist@rcdow.org.uk. Year 9+ you won't want to miss it.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Annual update of information for students with health care needs. It is the parents responsibility to notify the school their child's full medical needs in our shared responsibility to safeguard our children. As we are required to update our records annually, please complete the Individual Health Care Plan (IHCP) if your child still has health care needs and return it to the Student Hub by emailing info@stmarys.net by 4.00pm on Monday 14th September.

Lost Property – Lost property is in A Block student hub, anything named will be returned to student. Anything without name will be for the child to go to the Student hub during break/lunch time to locate their missing property.

Autumn weather – Please ensure your child has a water proof rain jacket with hood and/or umbrella appropriate for the Autumn weather.

ATTENDANCE – EVERY DAY COUNTS!

When reporting a child absent by email please use attendance@stmarys.net. **Please report all absences daily** by 08.30am.**

Reporting by telephone 01279 654 901 follow prompt 1 to report a student absent. Please state:

- Student's name
- Year and form group
- Reason for absence (**not feeling well is not an accepted reason**)

If your child goes home unwell from school and does not return to school the following day(s), please notify the school **daily if they remain absent due to illness giving the reason.

Mild illnesses can be treated with paracetamol or ibuprofen at home with the expectation of school attendance. Please read NHS guidance [here](#).

Important information concerning medical appointments - All appointments are to be authorised by your child's head of year.

Appointment evidence should be provided when obtaining authorisation for a student to be absent. A screen shot or letter showing proof of appointment must be emailed **48 working hours prior to the appointment date** to your child's Head of Year (initialoffirstname.surname@stmarys.net) and attendance@stmarys.net.

For all other leave requests, a Leave of Absence form can be found on the school website [here](#). It is important to allow a **two-week** lead time for any other leave of absence applications. These are reviewed by the Headteacher Miss McHugh.

If you would like to read our attendance policy it can be found on our website [here](#).

Thank you for your support.

Step into the NHS Competition

A huge well done to everyone who took part in the Step Into the NHS competition and submitted an entry. Your entries were absolutely fantastic and showcased an incredible amount of creativity, imagination and enthusiasm for the wide range of exciting careers available within the NHS.

Unfortunately, none of our entries made it through to the National Finals this year, but I was incredibly impressed by the high standard of all the submissions.

I am therefore delighted to announce our in-house competition winners:

1st Place - Lisa N-D

2nd Place - Lottie H

3rd Place - Annaliesa O-F

Congratulations to our winners!

Well done to everyone who entered – you should all be very proud of your fantastic work! Please come to Mrs Knight's office to collect your prizes!



CLUBS

ST MARY'S AUTUMN 2026/27 CLUBS SCHEDULE



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Before school		Concert Band G2 morning reg		Senior Pop Choir, MB1 (8:30-8:55)	
		JuniorPop Choir MB1 (8:30-8:55)			
Lunch time	Computing Club Week A - Early lunch Week B - Late lunch E1	Textiles Club Early lunch, C2	Lunchtime Prayer (both lunchtimes), Chapel	Y10 Worship Band (Late lunch Week B), M2	Chess, (Week B only) Library
	Quiz Club, Library	Arts Award (invite only) Late lunch Week A, G2		Music Ambassador Meeting (Week A only), M2	
		Djembe Club, Early Lunch, MB1		Beyblade Club (Week A only), Library	
After school	Drama Club Hume	Y8 Rugby, Field	Cookery Club E3	Worship Band MB1	Books & Biscuits, Library
	Y7 Rugby, Field	Y8 Girls Football, Field	Y9 Rugby, Field	Y10 Rugby, Field	Music Tech & Production, G2
	Y7 Girls Football, Field	Lego Club, Library	Y9 Girls Football, Field	Y10 Girls Football, Field	Homework Club B Block
	Boardgame Club, Library	GCSE Practical (invite only), Field	F1 Club, Library	Student Librarian, Library	
	Media & Film Production KS4/5, Week B, T23	School Musical Rehearsals, Hall	Chaplaincy Club, T13	Sixth Form Volleyball, Sports Hall	
	Art KS4/5 practical support, C6/8	Homework Club B Block	Rock and Pop MB1	Homework Club B Block	
	DT KS4/5 practical support, C4		School Musical Rehearsals, Hall		
	GCSE Music catch up G2		Art KS4/5 practical support, C6/8		
	Homework Club B Block		Homework Club B Block		

Clubs are open to all students unless otherwise stated.

After school clubs are 3.15pm-4.15pm unless otherwise stated.