

# LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter

Issue 1 - 9th September 2022



## Queen Elizabeth II RIP

Mr Neves  
Executive Headteacher

Sunday's Gospel reading was quite challenging. It recounted an occasion when Jesus was talking to the crowds, in very blunt terms about what it takes to be a follower of his:

*'Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.'*

Taken literally, the language used in the passage could be very off-putting to the reader. However, we have to understand the underlying message of Jesus' address, rather than the literal meaning of his language. What he is saying is, if you want to be one of my followers, you must show

commitment and be consistent - don't treat it as a pick and mix menu of activities – and put him at the centre of your lives. I am sure we are all affected in one way or another by the news last night of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. It will surely be seen as a momentous event in our history. Amid the different reports and testimonials presented in the media, one constant theme stands out: that the Queen's strong Christian faith was at the centre of her life. Here was someone who



did put Christ at the centre. In a similar way, here at St Mary's we aim to make the 'Catholic life of the school' a central feature of our students' daily experience. This includes making opportunities for our students to experience faith in action. One important example of that is the opportunity for prayer each day and a great tradition at St Mary's, in particular, is the Friday morning Examen: an opportunity for staff and students to become aware of God's presence, reflect on the events of the week and give thanks, and pray for the future. Today we prayed especially for the Queen and the happy repose of her soul.

**May she rest in peace.**

I extend a warm welcome to our new staff at St Mary's:

Dr Campbell – Science  
Mr Davidson – RE  
Mr Deady – Caretaker  
Mrs Diamond – English  
Mr Doherty – MFL  
Mr Hadley – History, RE. LC Y8  
Mrs Johnson – Food and Nutrition  
Miss Williams – Science Teacher  
Mrs Price - Attendance Officer  
Mr Webb – DT



St Francis of Assisi  
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wednesday 14th September**  
Whole School Photo

**Wednesday 14th September**  
Year 13 Oxbridge Meeting for Parents and Students

**Thursday—Saturday 15th-17th Sept**  
Year 12 Induction Trip to Hautbois

**Wednesday 21st September**  
Students Finish 1pm

**Wednesday 21st September 2022**  
4.30-8.30pm School Open Evening

**Thursday 22nd September 2022**  
INSET Day—School Closed to Students



A Catholic community dedicated to achieving excellence for all



# OPEN EVENING



Please note this is a ticketed event. Book tickets at [www.stmarys.net](http://www.stmarys.net)



**St Mary's Catholic School, Bishop's Stortford**

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022 - 6pm to 8:30pm

Speeches from Executive Headteacher Mr P. Neves at 6:00pm and 7:00pm



St Mary's Catholic School, Windhill, Bishop's Stortford, Herts, CM23 2NQ Email: [info@stmarys.net](mailto:info@stmarys.net) Tel: 01279 654901

**Our Open Evening is for Year 6 students and parents who are due to enter Year 7 in September 2023. We are grateful to all the current students who volunteer to assist as guides and in departments on the night.**

## Extra Curricular Sports Clubs



We are delighted to be sending you our list of PE Extra Curricular Clubs on offer this half term.



**All PE Clubs run after school from 3:15-4:45pm.**

Please note, students must organise their own transport home from school.

Club	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10
Boys Rugby	Monday	Monday	Monday	
Hockey	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday
Girls Rugby	Friday	Friday	Friday	Friday

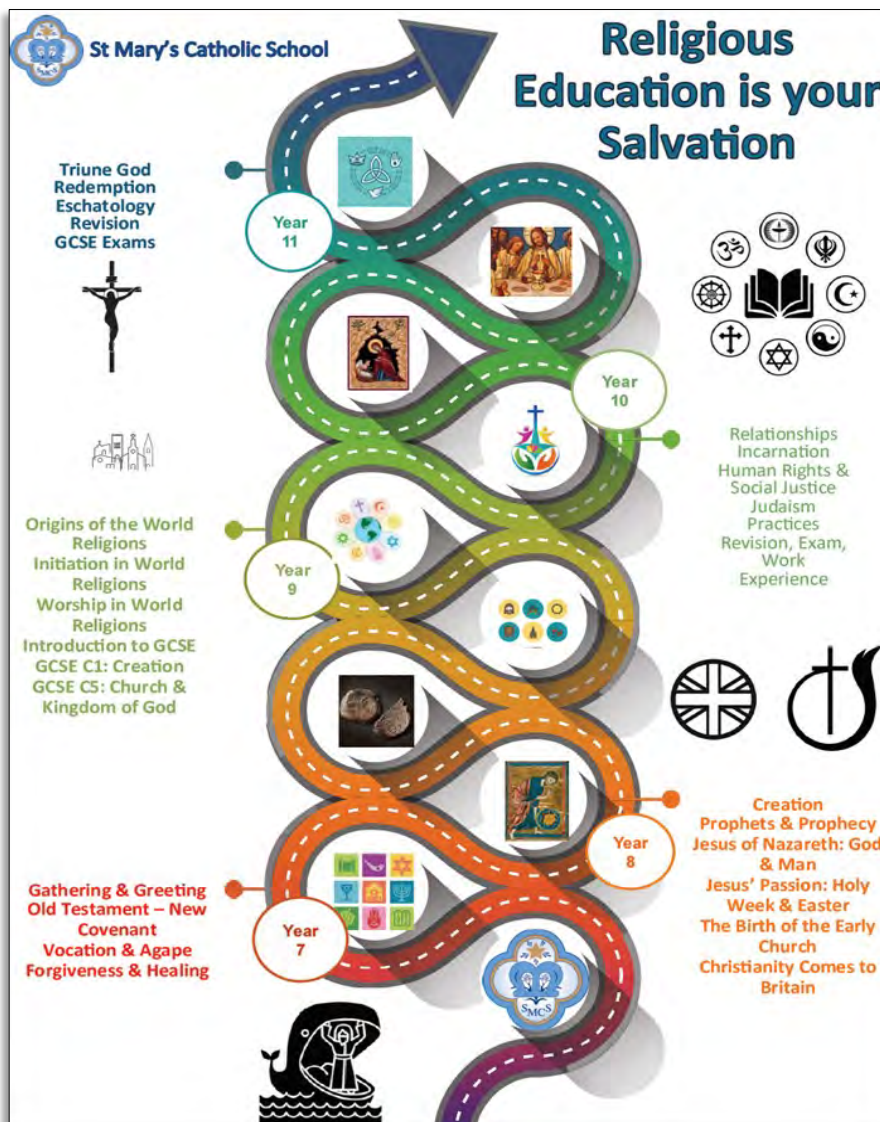


## Curriculum Update

Welcome back to lessons

I hope that the first week of lessons have been exciting and rewarding, for students in all year groups. Year 7s are getting to know new teachers and used to moving across a large site. Years 10/12 have started new and exciting GCSE or A Level courses, and Years 11 and 13 begin to settle in with familiar subjects and teachers ready for a big examination year ahead.

### Curriculum Focus: RE



Each subject area across the school has carefully planned the curriculum for the students as they travel through their 7-year St. Mary's journey. We focus this week on the RE curriculum, which all students in the school study through to GCSE and many choose in the Sixth Form as an A Level.

All Sixth Form students undertake a 'Core RE' component which helps students to think about social, global and moral, ethical issues. This develops their critical thinking and wider perspectives on the world.

### Year 7 Language Preferences

All new students in Year 7 were asked on entry for their **preference** for the language to study in KS3. We can never guarantee this preference, but have used it to guide the timetable when it was being written; wherever possible this was taken into account. We have had some correspondence regarding changing the language allocation which is, at this stage, quite difficult to do and in most cases would involve changing a number of other class groups, including English, Drama, Art, Music, History, Geography and RE.

**Mr Johnston, Deputy Headteacher**

## Literacy News

### KS3 Reading Challenge starting this term

The SMCS Reading Challenge Cup is a football-style reading league for all the AR groups in Years 7, 8 and 9.

The Accelerated Reader software tracks how many words each student reads when they **take and pass** a quiz. So the more books students read and quiz on, the higher their group will rise in the league. A cup is awarded to the top group at the end of the year, with incentive prizes for top readers at the end of each term. Last year's overall winners were AR group 7F, with over 11 million words quizzed on.

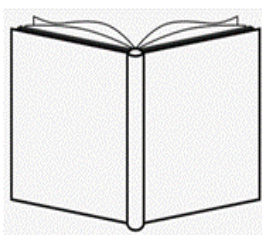
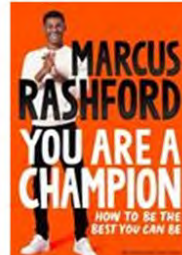
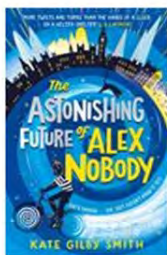


Individual readers also have the chance to earn a certificate and badge when they reach a million words.

**Please encourage your children to read for 35 minutes each day**, especially if they have got out of the habit over the summer break. It is important that they are reading material they love – fiction or non-fiction, magazine or graphic novel. Regular reading for pleasure increases students' performance across all subjects, and it's also great for their wellbeing during the busy start of term.

### Book Buzz – a free book for every Year 7 student

St Mary's is pleased to offer a free book for each new student in Year 7, supplied through the Book Trust's Book Buzz scheme. This year there are 17 books to choose from, including those shown below. Students will be asked to choose their favourite in their AR lessons, and the books will arrive later in the autumn.



### Exercise Book Covers

**Exercise book covers are available to order.**

Log in to Parentpay and select the item 'Optional payment for exercise book covers (x10): £3.50'

The covers will be supplied in packs of 10 - five large and five small. Once your payment has been processed, your child can collect the covers from the library.

Please only order enough for your child, rather than any 'spares', so that we can supply students with covers for their current books this term.

## Eligibility Criteria for Free School Meals

Dear Parents and Carers

Please can I take this opportunity to remind you of the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals.

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- \* Income Support
- \* Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- \* Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- \* Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- \* the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- \* Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- \* Working Tax Credit run-on—paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- \* Universal Credit—if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

**Free  
School  
Meals**



**Are you entitled?**



Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they will remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they are in on 31 March 2023.

Please contact me via [info@stmarys.net](mailto:info@stmarys.net) if you have any questions.

**Mrs Wilkin**  
**Assistant Headteacher**

## Unwanted revision guides, maths sets, calculators...



We would be grateful for the donation of any revision guides, unwanted maths sets and calculators that you no longer require. These will be very welcome so that we can pass them on to other students who will be very grateful to use these this year.

Any donations can be dropped off at the Library at any time!

Many thanks

**Mrs Wilkin**  
**Assistant Headteacher**





## Geography News ~ Competition ~ A Level



### A Level Global Sustainable Development Competition Winners announced

Last academic year some of our A Level Geographers entered Warwick University's Global Sustainable Development Competition.

We are delighted to announce that Georgia came 3rd Place overall, and Jessica's entry was highly commended in the creative category.

The judging panel said Georgia's essay "*differed from others in its argument, resulting in it standing out as a gripping read. Georgia creates a well-considered and strong argument through her mentions of specific industries that struggle to meet a sustainable status.*"

Additionally, Jessica's painting "*is beautiful and they are clearly artistically talented. It caused us to reflect upon our own life and consider the ways that our behaviour and relationships with sustainability and protection of the environment have been influenced by others.*"

Congratulations to Georgia and Jessica, we are extremely proud of you.



## Geography Competition ~ Key Stage 3 and 4



### Young Geographer of the Year Competition 2022

Where, how and why

Royal Geographical Society with IBG  
Advancing geography and geographical learning  
**Geographical**

We have received some superb entries for the Young Geographer of the Year competition from Years 8-11, well done you have completed some excellent work over the summer holidays.

**If you would still like to enter the RGS competition, please see the link here:**

<https://www.rgs.org/schools/competitions/young-geographer-of-the-year/2022-competition/>

You can submit your entry yourself directly to the RGS. **The deadline is 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022 5.00pm.** All entries must be made as an online submission using the link above.

Please also email your entry to Mrs Hughes at [c.hughes@stmarys.net](mailto:c.hughes@stmarys.net) to be entered into our internal competition.

**St Mary's Award points will be awarded for entering the competition.**

**Good Luck!**



LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

#DedicatedtoExcellence



Our Across Bishop's Stortford group are looking for a Nurse and helpers who are keen to help make the impossible possible. Across is a charity created specifically to provide transport and support to enable those with special care needs to go on pilgrimages to Lourdes.

### DATE NEEDED:

6th October - 15th October

If you are interested in travelling with Across please call the office on:

020 3542 1800

OR

Email: [johncharles.wright70@gmail.com](mailto:johncharles.wright70@gmail.com)

We are in urgent need of a nurse and helpers for our planned pilgrimage to Lourdes – 6<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> October.

If any parents, elder siblings, friends or relatives are interested - please contact via email [johncharles.wright70@gmail.com](mailto:johncharles.wright70@gmail.com) or 07739 789169.



SPOT THE ONLINE SAFETY TIPS FOR GOING  
**BACK TO SCHOOL**

 **PAUSE & THINK  
BEFORE POSTING**

SPREAD POSITIVITY  
IN YOUR POSTS



**PUT  
ABUSIVE  
CHATTERS  
ON MUTE**

**AVOID SCREENS  
LATE AT NIGHT**

GET PERMISSION BEFORE SHARING PICS



CHOOSE  
STRONG  
PASSWORDS

**PROBLEM  
TELL A  
TRUSTED  
ADULT**

**REPORT BULLIES**

**THEN  
BLOCK  
THEM**

**REPORT  
UPSETTING  
CONTENT**

**DON'T SHARE  
PERSONAL INFO  
WITH STRANGERS**

**PUT THE  
PHONE AWAY  
AT BREAK  
TIME**

Invite new  
classmates  
into chats  
& games



#WakeUpWednesday





**LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH**

*#DedicatedtoExcellence*

## Services Offered by the School Nursing Team

**Dear Parents**

**Just a reminder of the services offered by the School Nursing Team in Hertfordshire.**



### **Chathealth texting service - 07480 635050**

This service is available for young people aged **11 to 19 years old**.

Texts are responded to by a School Nurse between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday.

You can also access further information from our websites:

- Hertfordshire Family Centre Service – [www.hertsfamilycentres.org](http://www.hertsfamilycentres.org)
- Health for Kids – [www.healthforkids.co.uk/hertfordshire](http://www.healthforkids.co.uk/hertfordshire)
- Health for Teens - <https://www.healthforteens.co.uk/hertfordshire>

The service accepts referrals for children and young people requiring support for mild mental health, emotional and wellbeing concerns including anxiety, low mood, anger, behaviour, self-esteem, stress, and sleep issues. The service will also accept referrals for a range of other health issues such as healthy eating, substance misuse and sexual health. Referrals can be made by professionals, families and by young people. Referral criteria is available on the website below, or you can call the duty School Nurse to discuss any child you are concerned about on **0300 123 7572**

Referrals can be made online through the following link:

<https://www.hertsfamilycentres.org/info-and-advice/parents-and-mums-to-be/school-nurses.aspx>

**Angela McGorrell**  
**Pastoral Care and Safeguarding Lead at St. Mary's**



## We are hiring!



**CLICK HERE**  
**FOR LATEST VACANCY INFORMATION**

**WE ARE  
HIRING!**