

# LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter

Issue 2 - 16th September 2022



**"Happiness and satisfaction lie more in serving than being served"**

**HM Queen Elizabeth II**

**Mr Neves, Executive Headteacher**

This week our students have come together for different assemblies, but both can be linked. Firstly, we held the Head Pupils hustings. From a huge field of applications, 11 students were shortlisted and invited to address their peers. Each had two minutes to introduce themselves and explain what they would bring to the role of Head Pupil. The standard of presentations was excellent - all spoke with confidence and passion, and it was lovely to hear how proud they were to be members of the



Mr Neves with the Head Girl and Boy candidates at the Hustings this week

St Mary's community. These Year 13 students showed a commitment to taking a leading role in our school and being of service. The second assembly of the week offered me the opportunity to reflect on a life dedicated to serving our country - that of Queen Elizabeth II. Last Friday, the day following the death of The Queen, we prayed and held a period of silence to commemorate this significant event. This week in assemblies I led a reflection on Her life and the reaction of our nation to Her death. Of

greatest interest to me was The Queen's commitment to Her faith. In 2008 She is quoted as saying,

***"I hope that, like me, you will be comforted by the example of Jesus of Nazareth who, often in circumstances of great adversity, managed to live an outgoing, unselfish and sacrificial life...He makes it clear that genuine human happiness and satisfaction lie more in giving than receiving; more in serving than in being served."***

Here is a wonderful message for our students, as they reflect on their contribution to the St Mary's community and beyond.

Perhaps you are planning to travel to Westminster Hall to join the thousands of people paying their respects at The Queen's Lying in State? If so, I hope it goes smoothly and the wait time is manageable. However, I did urge the students to find some time to watch The



Queen's funeral ceremony, which will be televised on Monday. It is a rare event in anyone's lifetime and something that they will remember for years to come.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Monday 19th September 2022**

**Public Holiday—School Closed**

HM The Queen's State Funeral

**Wednesday 21st September 2022**

**Students Finish 1pm**

**Wednesday 21st September 2022**

**4.30-8.30pm School Open Evening**

**Thursday 22nd September 2022**

**INSET Day—School Closed to Students**

**Tuesday 27th September 2022**

**InterHouse Rugby and Hockey**

**Thursday 29th September 2022**

**Careers Carousel**

**Scholastic Book Fair Starts**



St Francis of Assisi  
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

## Introducing Our Sixth Form Mentoring Team



### Student Mentoring—Leaders in our School

These fantastic students have put themselves forward to be the first group of Key Stage 5 mentors.

They exemplify our core values of being a catholic community dedicated to excellence for all.

By considering their own experiences and showing compassion for others, they demonstrate the love we aim to instil in our school.

Through establishing targets and goals with KS3 students, they emphasise the importance of respect, for ourselves and for others. In working together, both KS3 and KS5 flourishes - our bond as a school becomes stronger.

We are thrilled to be passing wisdom between upper and lower school. I really believe that learning together is one of the most important factors of life. Students get to have a direct impact on the world around them while displaying fantastic leadership skills.

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

**Timings for School Day, Wednesday 21 September**  
**A reminder that all pupils finish at 1pm on Wednesday 21 September.**  
**There will be no school lunch available for pupils.**



## Head Pupil Candidates



Our Head Pupil hustings have been taking place in assemblies this week.

The 11 students shortlisted each presented a two-minute speech about what they have to offer.

An electronic voting system will be in place to choose who will lead the students for 2022/23.



### Leonardo M



**Primary School:** St Edmund's Prep School

**Parish:** St Joseph's and the English Martyrs, Bishops Stortford

**Hobbies/Interests:** I am a keen sportsman and play for Hertford Town FC football club, I am also a Taekwondo Champion and enjoy keeping fit.

**Aspirations:** hope to help build spiritual and academically inclined relationships whilst helping those in need outside our community by increasing awareness for different charities.

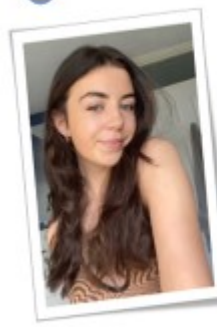
**Achievements:**

- ❖ I own and run an online business and am proud of the revenue I have achieved!
- ❖ Maths Kangaroo Challenge, I won a "Merit" award.

*Dedicated to achieving excellence for all*



### Niamh H



**Primary School:** St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic School

**Parish:** Sacred Heart Church Ware

**Hobbies/Interests:**

My hobbies and interests include playing the piano, swimming, going to the gym, spending time with my friends and families, going to festivals and travelling as well as shopping and reading.

**Aspirations:**

My aspirations are to complete my A levels to the best of my ability, win a place at university, travel the world, and complete my grade 8 piano exam.

**Achievements:**

- ❖ completing grade 6 piano and now working towards grade 8. I got my first part time job at 16
- ❖ completing my Duke of Edinburgh bronze Award
- ❖ being rewarded with my St Stephens medal for after serving and serving Cardinal Vincent Hume
- ❖ Climbing Croagh Patrick and receiving a miraculous medal for this

*Dedicated to achieving excellence for all*



### Isabella N



**Parish:** St Augustine's Parish, Hoddesdon

**Hobbies/Interests:** I love learning languages, reading, dancing, creating art and reading fashion magazines. I have an interest in law and modern languages

**Aspirations:** I aspire to go to university and get a degree in law and after that, work my way towards becoming a solicitor. I'd love to work in a law firm in London and travel around the world. It's my dream to visit Asia!

**Achievements:**

- ❖ Nominated by teachers to win the Italian award in year 9.
- ❖ Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award
- ❖ Completing my 14<sup>th</sup> year at my dance school

*Dedicated to achieving excellence for all*



### Oliver B



**Primary School:** St Thomas of Canterbury Puckeridge

**Parish:** St Joseph's and the English Martyrs, Bishops Stortford

**Hobbies/Interests:** Weightlifting, Martial Arts, Rugby, Skiing, public speaking and listening to Music

**Aspirations:** I wish to get into a great university, live a dream life and always challenge myself through the journey ☺

**Achievements:**

- ❖ I hold two British Karate Champion titles
- ❖ I was awarded in the Senior Maths Challenge
- ❖ Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award winner
- ❖ Successful GCSE grades

*Dedicated to achieving excellence for all*



### Jessica M



**Primary School:** Fairfield's Primary School

**Parish:** St Joseph's

**Hobbies/Interests:** I love art, photography, hiking/going on long walks, I have a passion for Geography particularly sustainability, I am interested in the arts and traveling

**Aspirations:** To win a place at university studying geography and to travel around the world

**Achievements:**

- ❖ Winning a highly commended place in the global sustainable development competition
- ❖ Head teacher award in this school and my former school
- ❖ China exchange trip taking part in all they had to offer as well as climbing the "Great Wall of China"
- ❖ I have raised a lot of money for charity

*Dedicated to achieving excellence for all*



### Cynthia N



**Primary School:** St Mary's Catholic Primary School

**Parish:** Mary Mother of God, Ponders End

**Hobbies/Interests:**

Music, dancing, eating, singing, meditation, reading, collage making.

**Aspirations:**

I aim to graduate from a Russell group University I want to work at a top archdiocesan firm I wish to travel the world I want to open a small beauty shop

**Achievements:**

- ❖ Starting CCS YouTube Channel with my friends
- ❖ having my poem published in a book
- ❖ IT Factor/Dance Battle
- ❖ Winning a regional public speaking competition.

*Dedicated to achieving excellence for all*



## Head Pupil Candidates



### Zach W



**Primary School:** Dunmow St Mary's Primary School

**Parish:** St Anne Line, Great Dunmow

**Hobbies/Interests:** Skiing, drama, cricket, playing the guitar, Music, festivals, films and rugby.

**Aspirations:** Achieving my A Levels, winning a place at University, passing my driving test, acting, being St Mary's Head Boy!

**Achievements:**

- ❖ Being awarded the Year 9 Drama Award
- ❖ GCSE success especially with a Grade 9 for Drama
- ❖ D of E Bronze Award.

*Dedicated to achieving excellence for all*



### Caitlin H



**Primary School:** Henham and Ugley Primary School

**Parish:** St Joseph's and the English Martyrs, Bishops Stortford

**Hobbies/Interests:** I play netball for Saracens Mavericks and I am an avid football fan. I also love reading and all things fashion.

**Aspirations:** My aspiration is to be successful in my A Level studies which will hopefully allow me to go to my dream university to study English Literature. One day, I wish to travel and teach English abroad. My sporting aspiration is to be a play netball for England.

**Achievements:**

- ❖ I have captained and been part of the Saracens Mavericks leadership team.
- ❖ I received a Jack Petchey award for my service and contribution to the wider sporting community.
- ❖ Persevering with my GCSEs through a time of Covid.

*Dedicated to achieving excellence for all*



### Francy A



**Primary School:** Bowes Primary School

**Parish:** St Paul's Catholic Church

**Hobbies/Interests:** I enjoy listening to music, watching movies, cultural debates and I love art

**Aspirations:**

I hope to continue my studies at university and work in the health sector, I would also love to travel the world!

**Achievements:**

- ❖ Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award
- ❖ GCSE success
- ❖ Attending summer school at the University of Leeds

*Dedicated to achieving excellence for all*



### Robert W



**Primary School:** St Joseph's Catholic School, Bishop Stortford

**Parish:** St Joseph's and the English Martyrs, Bishops Stortford

**Hobbies/Interests:** Football, playing the drums and travelling. I am interested in politics, true crimes and cars!

**Aspirations:**

Short term I want to pass my driving test.  
Long term – I aim to study Business and Economics at University.

**Achievements:**

- ❖ Exam success with my GCSE results after 2 years in Lockdown

*Dedicated to achieving excellence for all*



### Mary G



**Primary School:** St Mary Magdalene Primary School and St Luke's Primary School

**Parish:** Our Lady of Fatima Roman Catholic Church

**Hobbies/Interests:**

I love taking walks in my town park and smelling the crisp air. I enjoy watching Chick Flicks and Black Comfort films. I love (attempting) to dance to Ivorian and Congolese music, and I LOVE engaging in pop culture debates and discourse

**Aspirations:**

I want to help countries affected by colonialism who are unable to access adequate technology to prepare for volcanic eruptions and earthquakes and, I want to make my beloved mum proud!

**Achievements:**

- ❖ My Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award
- ❖ Success in my GCSE Examinations
- ❖ Being able to apply for Head Girl

*Dedicated to achieving excellence for all*



## Head Pupils 2022-2023

*Dedicated to achieving excellence for all*



## Curriculum Update—English Department Y7-11



St Mary's Catholic School



**GCSE Literature Paper 1A, 2B & 2C**  
**GCSE Language Paper 1A, 1B**

- Can I analyse Dickens' purpose & intention in A Christmas Carol?
- Can I draw comparisons between Power & Conflict poems?
- Can I read a literary extract for meaning & analyse authorial methods?
- Can I engage my reader in my writing using a range of linguistic & structural techniques?
- Can I analyse unseen poems & interpret layers of meaning in them?



**Myths & Legends**  
**The Tempest or**  
**Midsummer**  
**Night's Dream**  
**Sci-Fi Descriptive writing**  
**The Woman in Black**  
**Poetry through the Ages**  
**Opinion writing**

- Can I show awareness of the newspaper form in my writing?
- Can I make deliberate vocabulary choices in descriptive writing?
- Can I evaluate audience reaction to characters & events?
- Can I use a range of literary devices across extended writing?
- Can I draw upon an ambitious vocabulary?
- Can I evaluate character presentation across a whole novel?
- Can I analyse the writer's methods?
- Can I analyse poetic, literary & structural features?
- Can I draw comparisons between poems?
- Can I write convincingly & convey a clear viewpoint?
- Can I include a range of relevant ideas?



## English is your journey

**GCSE Literature Paper 1B, 2A**

**GCSE Language Paper 2A, 2B**

Year 11

Can I analyse Shakespeare's language in Macbeth?

Can I analyse Orwell's Purpose & intention in Animal Farm?

Can I select relevant information from non-fiction source & draw comparisons?

Can I shape non-fiction text for effect using a range of techniques?

**Power in Poetry**  
**Writing to persuade,**  
**Romeo & Juliet,**  
**Literary Fiction,**  
**Of Mice & Men,**  
**Writing to Describe**

Can I confidently read poems & make independent judgments?

Can I apply terminology accurately?

Can I craft texts deliberately for purpose & audience?

Can I analyse implied meanings in the play in detail?

Can I confidently write a range of non-fiction texts?

Can I explore wider themes & contexts?

Can I analyse texts in detail & engage with 19th Century context?

Can I retrieve information from a range of literary texts?

Can I evaluate authorial methods & link to writer's intention?

Can I write with technical accuracy?

**Biographical & Autobiographical writing, poetry, Gothic writing, Shakespeare shorts, Oliver Twist, Wonder**

Can I craft my non-fiction writing for purpose?

Can I develop technical accuracy in my own writing?

Can I select quotes to support points?

Can I identify key features of the Gothic genre?

Can I organise ideas in extended writing deliberately?

Can I draw links between texts & contexts?

Can I understand character development in a drama text?

Can I identify explicit & implied meanings in a text?

Can I understand writer's intention?

Can I write with accuracy & variety?

Can I make deliberate language choices to convey character perspective?

**Poetry**

**Sci-Fi**

**Opinion writing**

**Shakespeare shorts**

**Oliver Twist**

**Wonder**

**Biographical & Autobiographical writing**

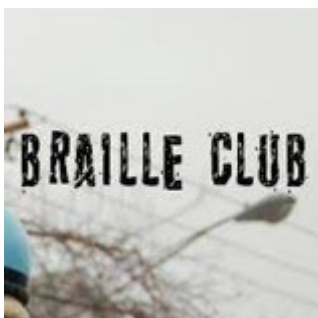
**Gothic writing**

## Extra Curricular Clubs

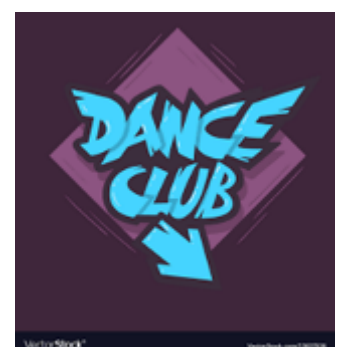
Welcome to this half term's extra-curricular clubs.

Come along and join in a club - they all start from Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022

For a full list of new and exciting clubs please see the school's website.



**St Mary's Extra-Curricular Clubs  
(September to October 2022)**





## All Britain Gaelic Football Championships



Three of our St Mary's students competed in and performed very well at the All Britain Gaelic Football Championships last weekend.

All boys represented their team St Kieran's at the competition in London.

All boy's made it to at least the semi-final of their respective competitions.



The team that Michael (Year 9) represents, won their U13 competition!

Congratulations to all involved!

*Mr Eddleston*

**WELL DONE**



## Student Health Care Plan ~ Is it Up To Date?



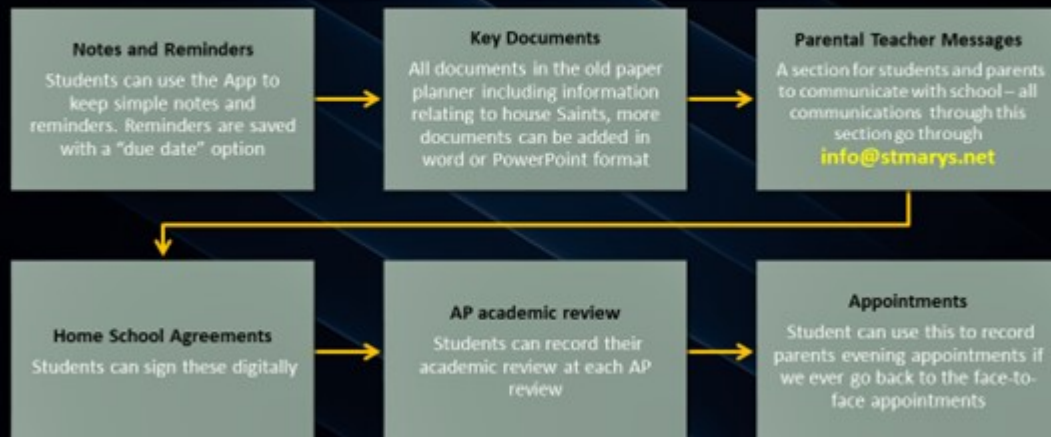
It is essential that any student identified as having a health care need has an up to date and accurate health care plan in place.

Individual Health Care Plans must be updated and returned to school before **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September** for any student that has a medical need.

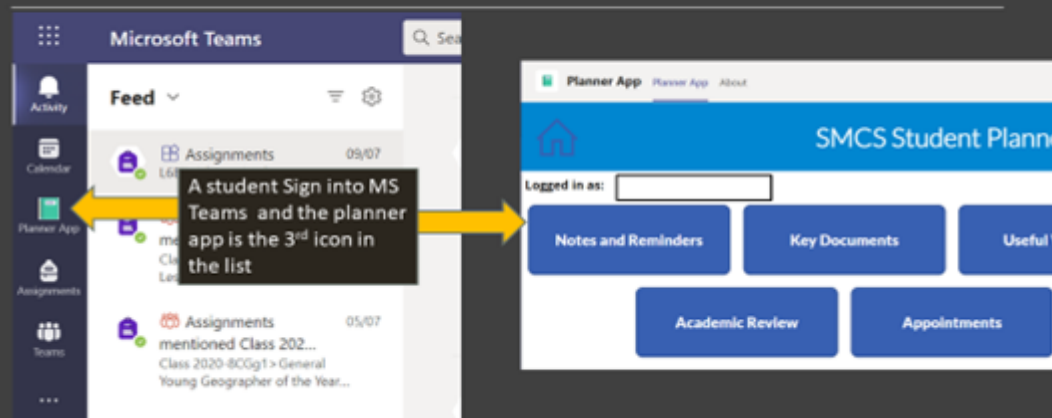
Please return this to Mrs L Woskett in the Student Hub.

## Students Digital Planner ~ A Guide for Parents

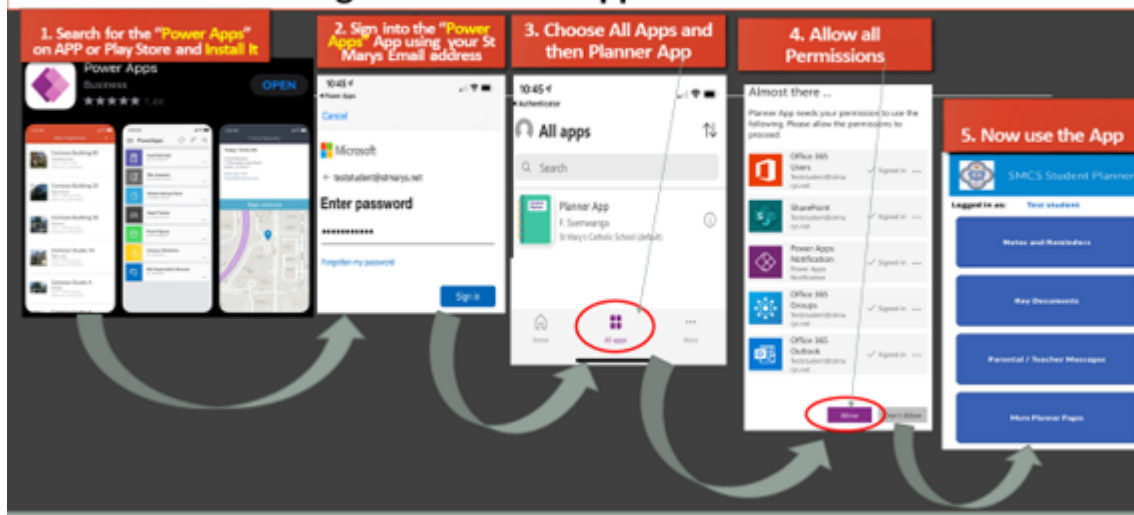
### Features of the Student Digital Planner



### How to get the Planner App via MS Teams

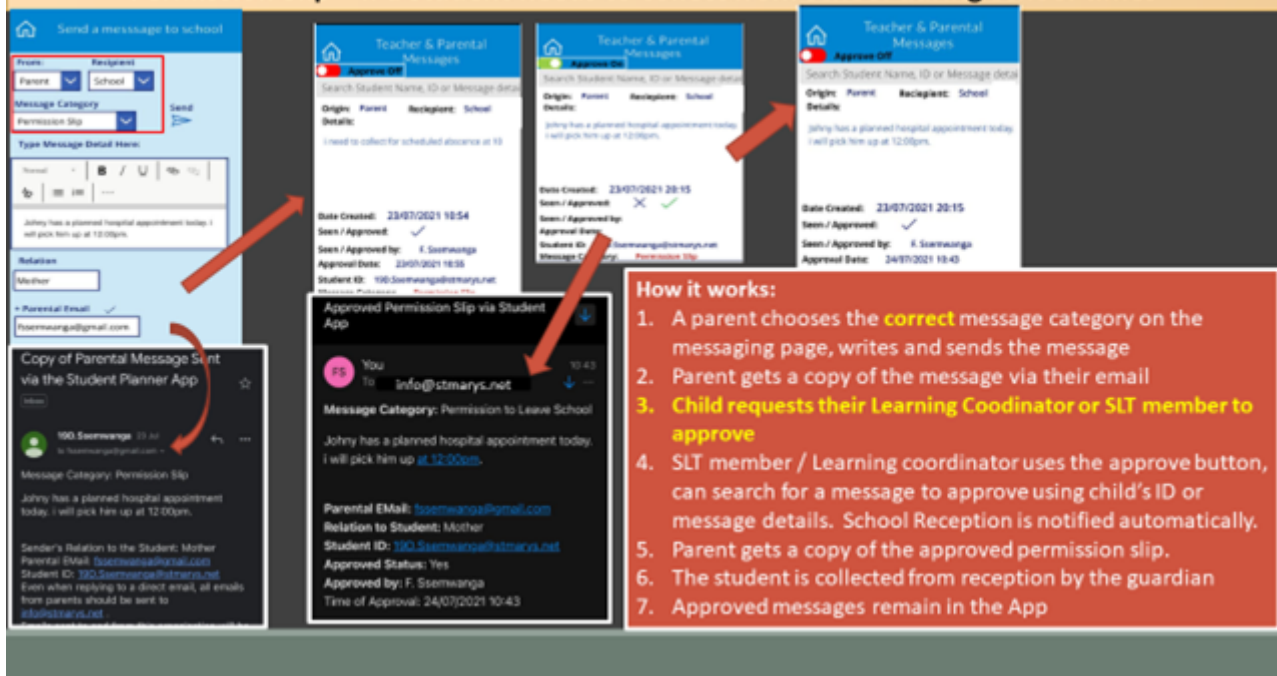


### How to get the Planner App on a Mobile Device





## Permission Slip – if a student needs to collect from school during school times

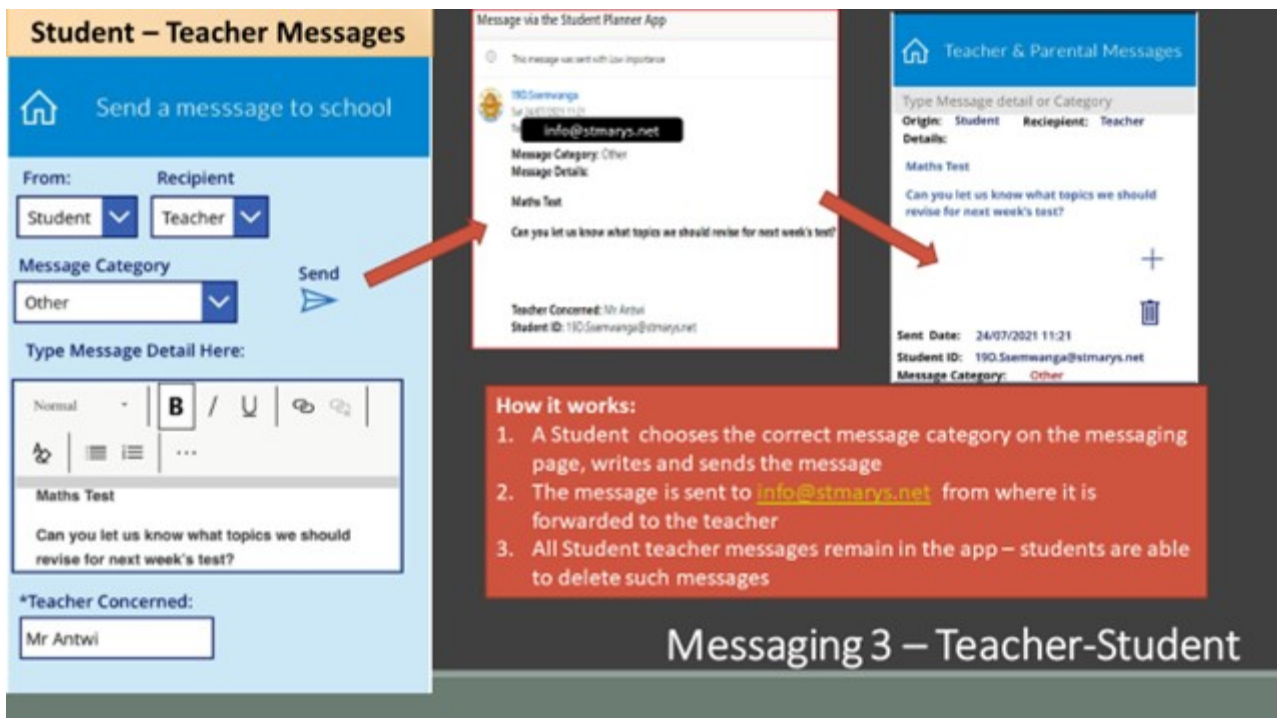


The screenshots show the process of sending a permission slip from a parent's perspective and how it is approved by a teacher or SLT member. The parent selects 'Permission Slip' as the message category, writes the message, and sends it. The app then shows the message in the 'Teacher & Parental Messages' section, where it can be approved by a teacher or SLT member. The approved message is then sent back to the parent via email.

**How it works:**

1. A parent chooses the **correct** message category on the messaging page, writes and sends the message
2. Parent gets a copy of the message via their email
3. **Child requests their Learning Coordinator or SLT member to approve**
4. SLT member / Learning coordinator uses the approve button, can search for a message to approve using child's ID or message details. School Reception is notified automatically.
5. Parent gets a copy of the approved permission slip.
6. The student is collected from reception by the guardian
7. Approved messages remain in the App

## Student – Teacher Messages



The screenshots show a student sending a message to a teacher via the app. The student selects 'Other' as the message category, writes the message, and sends it. The message is then received by the teacher in the 'Teacher & Parental Messages' section. The app also shows the message being sent to the teacher's email.

**How it works:**

1. A Student chooses the correct message category on the messaging page, writes and sends the message
2. The message is sent to [info@stmarys.net](mailto:info@stmarys.net) from where it is forwarded to the teacher
3. All Student teacher messages remain in the app – students are able to delete such messages

## Messaging 3 – Teacher-Student

**The Students Digital Planner should be used for sending messages to the school office or to a teacher.**

A parent chooses the correct message category on the messaging page. Students who have any appointments (medical or otherwise) need to be made via this app by their parents. Choose the 'Permission Slip' option if you need to collect your child during school time. For all other forms of communication with the school, choose the 'Other Communication' option.

## The Big Summit ~ 21 October



**On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022, the Catholic Parish of Bishop's Stortford is going to the "Big Summit" - a diocesan-wide event for young people of secondary age at Westminster Cathedral.** The event starts at 6pm until 8.30pm. It will be an evening of prayer, adoration, music and speakers. This year, the main speaker is the brilliant Max Ford, and One Hope Project will be providing top-notch music to aid us in our prayer time. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available throughout the evening.

This event is for any of you who may be seeking to reignite their faith or spend time sharing in an experience of God's presence with other young Catholics. As the name "Summit" suggests - this promises to be a high point experience, showing you another aspect to our Catholic faith, that we may not see in our local settings.

We plan to travel together to London for the evening, leaving St Joseph's church at 4.15pm. The event is free, but we will ask for a contribution towards transport - costs TBC (though any financial difficulties should not prevent you from attending). **For any queries or to confirm you'd like to come, please email [bstortfordcatechist@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:bstortfordcatechist@rcdow.org.uk) or call the office on 01279 654 063**





## Confirmations 2023

### Catholic Parish of Bishop's Stortford

#### *St Joseph and the English Martyrs*

1. **Confirmations 2023** - A note for anyone in Year 10 and above this academic year - applications for preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation are now open and forms can be collected after any of our weekend Masses (St Joseph's - 6pm Sat, 9am, 11am and 6pm Sunday, Much Hadham - 11.30am Sunday, Sawbridgeworth - 9am Sunday)
2. Forms should be collected and signed for in person, in the sacristy, after Mass. Please don't come and collect a form for a friend - they should come and collect their own.

**The closing date for applications is 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022.** Completed forms can be delivered to 3 Windhill, CM23 2ND (Clearly labelled "Confirmation 2023"). Please direct any specific queries to [bstortfordcatechist@rcow.org.uk](mailto:bstortfordcatechist@rcow.org.uk) or call the office on 01279 654 063

Please note: Any student at St Mary's who wishes to be confirmed this year, but is not a parishioner at the parish of Bishop's Stortford, should make arrangements to contact their local parish, who will most likely have their own Confirmation programme planned for the coming year.



## We are hiring!



**CLICK HERE  
FOR LATEST VACANCY INFORMATION**

**WE ARE  
HIRING!**