

# LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter

Issue 3 - 23rd September 2022



## Resumé and Eulogy Virtues

Mr Neves

Executive Headteacher

Last Friday's 'Thought for the Day' on Radio 4 was delivered by Liz Adekunle – who, amongst other roles, is a former Chaplain to The Queen. She quoted US journalist David Brooks, and his book, *The Road to Character*. In this book he compares two types of virtues: resumé virtues and eulogy virtues.

Resumé virtues are the things that appear on our cv; they help us compete in the world of work: they comprise qualifications and achievements, and signal our status. Eulogy virtues, on the other hand, are what people will say about you when they remember you. They are qualities that Brooks found in those who 'radiate an inner light'. Liz Adekunle spent much time with The Queen and witnessed her taking time and patience to listen to people, and, for example, offering a warm smile and a compliment to a child. These, she suggested, were - examples of eulogy virtues. Eulogy



virtues, as Adekunle goes on to say, are hard to measure but easy to witness. In particular, in the context of the Christian Church, they are what build up the body - the Church community.

Our work here at St Mary's certainly helps to develop resumé virtues in our students, as we strive for them to make the best possible academic progress, but we don't forget the responsibility we have, in the broader sense of education, to help develop eulogy virtues – and we witness them each day in school, in the way our students treat each other with kindness and respect.

It was lovely for me to describe the St Mary's community in this way at this week's Open Evening. What an evening we had! The planned two Headteacher's speeches were booked so quickly that we had to put on a third. There were over 1100 people booked in to the event which also included an opportunity to tour the school site, to experience a flavour of the curriculum offer and, most importantly, to meet members of the school community. Lots of our students were present on the evening – helping as tour guides or working in departments; they were great ambassadors for St Mary's. The visitors seemed very happy with their insight into our school, offering some extremely positive feedback.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tuesday 27th September 2022**  
InterHouse Rugby and Hockey

**Thursday 29th September 2022**  
Careers Carousel  
Scholastic Book Fair Starts

**Tuesday 4th October 2022**  
Scholastic Book Fair Ends

**Thursday 6th October 2022**  
Year 7 Information Evening

**Friday 7th October 2022**  
Harvest Fast Day (CAFOD)



St Francis of Assisi  
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST



## Introducing some of our new staff!

### Dr Campbell, Teacher of Science

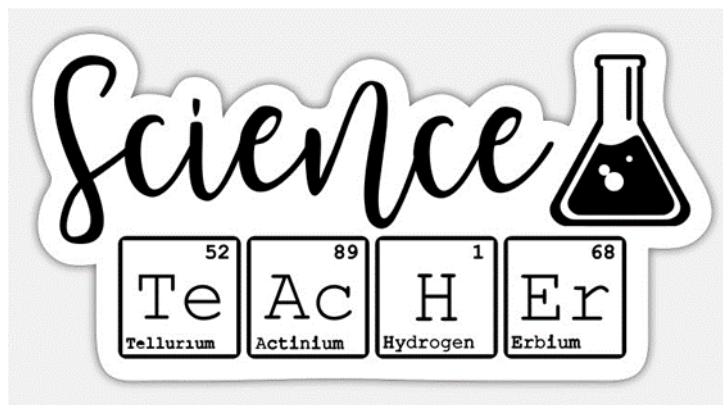


My name is Jessica Campbell and I am a Lead Teacher in the Science Department. Firstly, I wanted to say how thrilled I am to be working at St Mary's; my first few weeks have been fantastic and it is clear we have wonderful students who are kind and keen to learn.

Before becoming a teacher, I was a scientific researcher and completed a PhD in Cancer Cell Biology at The University of Bristol. I love how beautifully complex cells are and would spend many hours staring down a microscope watching them move around. My PhD was a wonderful experience, I got the opportunity to present my work at conferences around the country and meet some incredible people. However, I soon realised that I loved presenting and talking about my research more than actually carrying out the research. Thus I embarked on a career as a teacher.

After completing my training, I worked for several years in London and was able to use my passion for Biology to help students develop their own love for science. As Head of Biology I used my background to develop a challenging and inspiring curriculum for my students, many of whom continued on to study science at university.

Last year I moved out of London (to find a bit more countryside) and was lucky enough to get a job here as a Lead Practitioner, working with the amazing Science Department. I aim to use my experience as a researcher and as a teacher to ensure students leave St Mary's with an outstanding scientific education.





## Curriculum Update





## Mr Palmer's Year 12 Induction Trip

Our new Year 12 students braved the elements last week on their Sixth Form Induction trip, this year to Norfolk! This is an annual event in which the students can get to know their fellow sixth formers and bond as a group of students they will be with as they complete their 7 year St. Mary's journey!

Mr Palmer, Mr Doherty, and Miss Gilchrest accompanied the students and joined in (some!) of the activities.

Despite the rain, a great time was had by all! Here are some pictures of the event.

To find out more about our Sixth Form, go to:

[www.StMarys.net/SixthForm](http://www.StMarys.net/SixthForm)





## Drama Department News...



### Melodramatic Mayhem!

This week, Year 8 students have been focussed on learning the skills needed when performing in the genre of Melodrama.

In groups, the students worked towards creating a scene wherein they had to present the stock characters of Melodrama – a hero, villain, faithful servant, damsel in distress and aged parent.



To measure their success, we as an audience needed to understand their characters clearly through their facial expressions and body language. All students in Year 8 have been pushing themselves to the best of their capabilities, and I hope they are as proud of themselves as we are!



## Visit to Oxford Colleges



My time at Oxford was absolutely phenomenal and so enriching, I didn't want to leave! The architecture was so picturesque it was almost as if I'd stepped into a scene of a renaissance painting, it was the type of atmosphere that I'd dreamt of living in. During my trip, I visited Balliol, Brasenose, Hertford, Wadham, Trinity and Jesus colleges, all of which had me in absolute awe after being greeted by exceptionally warm and helpful students and staff, then followed by being toured round the breath-taking grounds of each college. This made it so difficult to choose which to apply for, but Brasenose, named as the "happiest college", won my preference by the slightest amount.

I enjoyed the whole day greatly, but a part that particularly stuck in my memory was walking out of Jesus College to a violin player in the street, and strolling through the streets of Oxford with angelic, classical music in the background was so surreal. Speaking to the students and having their passion, determination and love for their university shine out to me inspired me so much. I aspire to be in their position one day and I've been so greatly motivated to challenge and push myself in my studies to achieve my goals.

**Isabella N, Year 13**

## Summer School Cambridge



Some of our current Year 12 students were invited as top achieving GCSE candidates, to apply for a highly competitive online summer school run by Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge. Applicants had to be on track for at least 5 GCSEs at grades 8 or 9 and write a letter of application explaining why they wanted to take the course and what they could bring to it if selected. These amazing young people completed their applications whilst right in the middle of their GCSE exams and it was fantastic to have 5 of them gain a place.

One of these students, Raul, has written a summary below:

*"My summer course with Cambridge was astoundingly interesting and informative, I would seriously recommend considering this course. The course consisted of 3/4 30-60 minute sessions per week which spanned all the way from talking about subjects specifically: such as chemistry, biology and maths; to talking about core skills such as critical thinking, essay writing and importance of sources when taking into account different viewpoints. Finally, it also was very useful for making my A-level subject choices; what skills and experiences I need to possess in preparation for university and also automatically enrolled me into the academic enrichment programme which will further help me to apply to top universities by providing: subject specific courses; university readiness session and subject exploration workshops.*

**Raul, Year 12**



Lucy Cavendish College  
University of Cambridge

## Year 11 & Year 13 ~ after school maths

**Year 11 and Year 13 Maths sessions not to be missed!**



### Mondays

**Year 11Ma2** 15:20—16:20 Maths with Mr Antwi in T02

**Year 13FM** 15:15—16:00 Further Mechanics with Mrs Brewin in K5

### Tuesdays

**Year 13** 15:15—16:15 A level Maths Mechanics with Mrs Hutchin in K2

### Wednesdays

**Year 11Ma1** 15:15—16:00 Maths with Mrs Mason in K3

**Year 11Ma3** 15:15—16:15 Maths with Mr Palmer in K1

**Year 11Ma4** 15:15—16:00 Maths with Ms Velani in K4

**Year 11Ma5** 17:30—18:30 on TEAMS Maths with Mrs Atanassova

**Year 11Ma6** 15:15—16:00 Maths with Mrs Brewin in K5

**Year 11Ma7** 15:15—16:15 Maths with Mrs Hutchin in K2



## Inter-house Rugby and Hockey



**Interhouse Rugby and Hockey  
Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**Yr.'s 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11**



The Interhouse Rugby and Hockey Competition takes place on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September.  
Rugby (for boys) and Hockey (for girls) will be 7 a-side and substitutes for all years.

**Everyone will be involved, so students should come to school wearing their PE kit. Bring uniform as students will change into their full school uniform after their interhouse competition.**

### Kit Required:

**GIRLS:** House top, skort, shinpads, navy socks, gum shield and boots.

**BOYS:** Rugby top, navy shorts, navy socks, gum shield and boots. No Hoodies or tracksuit bottoms for rugby.



## Scholastic Book Fair at St Mary's



**St Mary's will be holding a Scholastic Book Fair from 29<sup>th</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October.** Students will be able to come to the fair in the library at lunchtime or after school.

The book fair is a fantastic way to encourage your child to read for pleasure and also raise money for the school library (we receive a discount according to how many books are sold). If your child would like to choose their book at school, there are two ways to pay.

You can purchase a voucher for them to spend on the Scholastic website using this link:

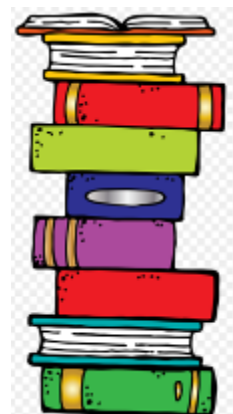
<https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers>

**Print the voucher for your child to bring to school from 29<sup>th</sup> September** (we won't be taking cash). Change will not be given, so any unspent money on the voucher goes towards buying books for the school.



**Alternatively** you can order books directly from the Scholastic website, by clicking on the link below, entering the school postcode (CM23 2NQ) and choosing 'I am not at the book fair and would like to pay.'

[www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay](http://www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay)







## Taking the Bus to School



With the start of a new academic year, some helpful bus travel information in Hertfordshire for the school, its pupils and their families is available at <https://www.intalink.org.uk/>

There are some items which may be of interest:

Hertfordshire SaverCard for ages 11 to 25 years old allows single and return bus tickets to be purchased with a discount of 50% off the regular adult fares for travel at all times on all local bus services, more info at <https://www.intalink.org.uk/hertfordshire-savercard>

General principles for using buses in Hertfordshire can be found at <https://www.intalink.org.uk/general-principles-catching-bus>

There is a section for using passenger transport which helps people to understand timetables, QR codes etc at <https://www.intalink.org.uk/using-public-transport>

Journey planning on the bus network with maps, timetables and a journey planner is available at <https://www.intalink.org.uk/plan-your-journey>

Ticket information and information on various promotions is available at <https://www.intalink.org.uk/fares-and-tickets>

Information on discounted tickets such as 'Intalink Explorer' which offers a day's unlimited travel on the Hertfordshire bus network and to certain points beyond for groups of up to four people can be found at <https://www.intalink.org.uk/explorer>



## We are hiring!



**CLICK HERE  
FOR LATEST VACANCY INFORMATION**

**WE ARE  
HIRING!**