

LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter

Issue 4 - 30th September 2022



'Leave No-one Behind'

Mr Neves
Executive Headteacher

One important aspect of Catholic Social Teaching is the 'preferential option for the poor'. This means that priority should be given to the poor in the community and that's a key task of the Church. We have seen a renewed focus on the care for the poor in Pope Francis' papacy. His leadership style has demonstrated that, as we saw him eschewing the traditional trappings of privilege of his predecessors - choosing to live in a humble two-room residence rather than the grand papal apartment, famously hopping on a minibus rather than using a chauffeur driven car and even declining the exotic red shoes traditionally given to the Pope for ceremonial purposes and sticking with his own black work shoes. Pope Francis has strikingly moved away from tradition and demonstrated a commitment to a more simple way of life - and promoted a lifestyle not focused on materialism. Sunday's Gospel reading told a story contrasting the rich and the poor.

There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table.

Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

Unfortunately, the story didn't end well for the rich man.

The message of the story is for anyone living comfortably - that they might be aware of those in need. The rich man ignored Lazarus. Crucially, if he had recognised his dignity, he might have opened his gate to him and invited him in - to share in his comfort.

My understanding is there is not a problem with being comfortably off and enjoying a good lifestyle, but I believe we should always be mindful of those who are less fortunate than ourselves - and that is an important reminder to all in our school community. No-one is telling us to do everything, but to consider where God is encouraging us to share our good fortune with others. This reminds me of the organisation CAFOD - the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development - the organisation dedicated to supporting the dignity of all people, especially the poor. CAFOD encourages us to carry out three tasks - give, act, pray - in order to achieve their goal of 'leaving no-one behind'.



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
2021-2022



Whole School Photo

Dear Parents

The Whole School Group photograph taken at St Mary's Catholic School is available to view and order from Tempest Photography via the following weblink:

Whole School Group - <https://htmp.st/261320-52>

Sixth Form - <https://htmp.st/261320-53>

For assistance please call 01736 752411 - Option 3 to place an order or Option 5 for Customer Service.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 4th October 2022
Year 12/13 UKMT Maths Challenge
Scholastic Book Fair Ends

Thursday 6th October 2022
Year 7 Dedication Mass

Friday 7th October 2022
Harvest Fast Day

Tuesday 11th October 2022
Interhouse Cross Country



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

Calling all Year 7 students... try one of St Mary's Clubs!

Extra-curricular Clubs

Now that our extra-curricular clubs are up and running at St Marys I would like to take this opportunity to encourage our

Year 7 pupils to attend at least one extra-curricular activity a week!

We have a wide range of clubs to choose from and it is a great way to build new friendships and engage in school life here at St Marys. Attendance at extra- curricular clubs will also count towards you earning your first badge for your St Marys Award. All you need to do is come along and join in.

Just a taste of some of the clubs on offer...

AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS



Arabic Club

Come along and learn how to write your name in Arabic script, learn Arabic phrases such as greetings and discover Moroccan culture by watching some exciting video clips like snake-charming. You will even have the opportunity to taste some North African food!



IT Club

Join the IT club. Just come along with your own device or log on to a school Desktop. Play games with your peers (restrictions apply), do some homework or just surf the net. We have lots of fun!



Come and join one (or more!) of the many clubs that are running at St Mary's



St Mary's Clubs

St Mary's Clubs	September – October (lunchtime clubs highlighted in yellow)		
CLUB	VENUE	SUPERVISOR	YEARS
Monday			
Braille	A3	J.Nettleton	Year 9
A Level Chemistry drop-in	H6	A.Nicol	Year 12 and 13
Year 11 Music coursework catch-up	Music Block	J.Matthews	Year 11
KS3 Science Club	H7	T.William / A.Acheson	Year 7 and 8
Drama Club	Hume	C.Hayles	Year 7-9
A Level Geography (Week A)	D2	C.Hughes	Year 12 and 13
Art GCSE/A Level	C6	H.Nairn	Year 11, 12, 13
Cards and colouring	C2	G.Benvenuto	Year 7-9
Further mechanics	K5 (lessons)	M.Brewin	13FM
Choir (late lunch starts 1:40pm)	Music Block	J.Matthews	Year 8, 10, Sixth Form
Maths Booster	TO2	S.Antwi	11Ma2
Boys Rugby	PE	PE Department	Year 7-9
Tuesday			
Dance	Hume	N.Abery	Year 7-9
Polish	K5	M.Brewin	Year 8 and 9
ECO Club	F1	A.Briggs	Year 8, 9, 10
Business and Finance support	C1	E.McElhinney	Year 10-13
Craft Club (early lunch)	C2	T.Lee	Year 7 and 9
RE drop-in clinic	K7	D.Guidera	Year 11
Hockey	PE	PE Department	Year 7-10
Homework Club	B1 and B3	C.Henderson / Mrs Wilson / G.Benvenuto	All Years
A Level Maths mechanics	K2 (lessons)	S.Hutchin	Year 13
GCSE Science Booster	Science Block	J.Ryan / P.Winter / A.Nicol	Year 11
Wednesday			
Embroidery Club	C2	G.Benvenuto	All Years
A Level Geography (Week B)	D2	C.Hughes	Year 12 and 13
Homework Club	B1 and B3	C.Henderson / Mrs Wilson	All Years
Year 11 Maths	On Teams@5pm	M.Atanassova	Year 11
Debate Club	E5	T.Juliff	All Years
Arabic Lunchtime Club	H5	D.Swyers	Year 7, 9, 11
A Level Biology drop-in	H8	J.Campbell	Year 12 and 13
History GCSE / A Level	E4	P.Dolman	Year 11, 12, 13
Lego Club	F1	J.Knight	Year 7-9
Design Club	C4	T.Webb	Year 8-10
Orchestra	Music Block	J.Matthews	All Years
GCSE Geography Booster (lunchtime)	D2/D3	S.Riddler	Year 11
GCSE Geography Booster (after school)	D2/D3	C.Hughes	Year 11
Maths Booster	K3	J.Mason	11Ma1
Maths Booster	K1	C.Palmer	11Ma3
Maths Booster	K5	M.Brewin	11Ma6
Maths Booster	K2	S.Hutchin	11Ma7
Maths Booster	K4	D.Velani	11Ma4
Choir (early lunch starts 12:35pm)	Music Block	J.Matthews / K.Salter	Year 7, 9, 11
Thursday			
Photography Club	Library	L.Frino	Year 7, 8, 9
Lexia	E2	G.Benvenuto	Year 7, 8, 9
Craft Club (early lunch)	Week A C2 Week B C6	T.Lee	Year 8 and 10
Friday			
Girls Rugby	PE	PE Department	Year 7-10
Chess Club	Sixth Form Block	G.Benvenuto	All Years
GCSE and A Level DT Club	C4	M.Hunt	Year 11-13
Games Club (early lunch)	Library	C.Henderson	Year 7 and 9
Rock and Pop	Music Block	J.Matthews	All Years
Books and Biscuits Club	Library	L.Frino	All Years
Geography Changemakers (Week A lunchtime)	D2	C.Hughes	Year 7 and 9



Music Department News...



Live Music at St Mary's

Below are a selection of photos of some of our music lessons that have happened this week in the department. Year 12 have been doing some enrichment sessions and students have been learning how to play the bass guitar, electric guitar or drums. We are hoping to have them performing in a concert next year!



Year 8 students are also featured playing the 12 bar blues on the keyboard. They have been rehearsing this in lessons and trying out whole class performances. They have learnt how to play chords and are now working on learning the walking bass.



Interhouse Rugby and Hockey Results

Rugby

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
7	J	M	B	A	T	K	
8	M	J	K	T	B	A	R
9	A	K	B	M	J	T	
10	A	B	J	K	M	T	
11	A	B	M	T	K	J	

Hockey

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
7	B	A	J	K	M	T	
8	B	M	R	A	K	J	T
9	B	J	T	M	A	K	
10	K	M	J	B	T	A	
11	K	J	T	B	A	M	

Overall combined results

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
7	B	J	A	M	K	T	
8	B	M	R	J	K	A	T
9	B	T	A	J	M	K	
10	K	J	M	B	T	A	
11	K	A	B	T	M	J	



Interhouse Rugby and Hockey



Well Done
to everyone who
took part in the
Interhouse Rugby
and Hockey events



Curriculum Update



St Mary's Catholic School



Similarity
Developing Algebra
Geometry
Proportions & Proportional Change
Delving into data
Using number Expressions

Congruence, similarity & enlargement, Trigonometry, Representing solutions of equations & inequalities, Simultaneous equations.

Angles & bearings, Working with circles, vectors, Ratios & fractions, Percentages & Interest, Probability.

Collecting, representing & interpreting data, Non-calculator methods, Types of number & sequences, Indices & Roots, Manipulating expressions.



Proportional Reasoning
Representations
Algebraic Techniques
Developing Number & Geometry
Reasoning with Data

Ratio & scale, Multiplicative change, Multiplying & dividing fractions, Working in the Cartesian plane, Representing data, Tables & Probability.

Brackets, equations & inequalities, Sequences, Indices, Fractions & Percentages, Standard index form, Number sense.

Angles in parallel lines & polygons, Area of trapezia & circles, Lines symmetry & reflection, The data handling Cycle, Measures of location.



Maths is your Solution

Year 11



Graphs
Algebra
Reasoning
Revision & Communication

Gradients & lines, Non-linear graphs, Using graphs, Expanding & factorising, Changing the subject, Functions.

Multiplicative, Geometric, Algebraic, Transforming & constructing, Listing & describing, Show that...

Revision & Examinations

Year 10



Reasoning with Algebra
Constructing in 2 & 3 Dimensions
Reasoning with Number, Geometry, Proportion Representations

Straight line graphs, Forming & solving equations, Testing conjectures, Three-dimensional shapes, Constructions & congruency

Numbers, Using percentages, Maths & money, Deduction, Rotation & translation, Pythagoras' Theorem

Enlargement & similarity, Solving ratio & proportion problems, Rates, probability, Algebraic representation, Revision

$ax+bx$

Year 8



Algebraic Thinking
Place Value & Proportion
Application of Number
Directed Number
Fractional Thinking
Lines & Angles
Reasoning with Number

Sequences, Understanding & use algebraic notation, Equality & Equivalence, Place value & ordering integers & decimals, Fraction, Decimal & Percentage equivalence.

Solving problems with addition & subtraction, Solving problems with multiplication & division, Fractions & percentages of amounts, Operations & equations with directed number, Addition & subtraction of fractions.

Constructing, measuring & using geometric notation, Developing geometric reasoning, Developing number sense, Sets & probability, Prime numbers & proof.

Year 7



Calling all Year 11-13 Students!



The Future Leaders of the Year Competition

Entries are now open for The Future Leaders of the Year Competition
(closing date 31st October)

<https://www.ivyhouse.co.uk/future-leaders/competition/>

We're on the hunt for 5 Future Leaders of the Year – students aged 15-18 with a great story.

- Have you done something you're proud of?
- Led a team to victory?
- Launched a project, business or come up with a new idea?
- Are you doing something cool in a particular subject?
- Have you overcome challenges in your personal life?
- Helped your siblings your family, your neighbour or your community?
- Are you part of a project supporting people in your school?
- Do you have big dreams, plans or ambitions for the future?

Prizes for top 5 entries:

5 x £1000 investment • Work Experience • 1:1 Mentoring Free Online CV • Network of Coaches and Young Leaders

We would love for some of you to enter!

If you would like support with your entry please consult your Learning Coordinator or Mrs Wilkin.

Please be sure to tell us if you enter!





Year 12 ~ Free Webinar for Medical Hopefuls...!

By popular demand, we're going to be running a **free webinar for Medicine hopefuls** who are currently in **Year 12, and their parents**, in just over a week's time.

"Getting Started with Medicine"

Date: Sunday 9th October 2022

Time: 10:00am (UK Time)

Training pathways

5/6 year degree

2 foundation years rotating around 6 department placements

- Paediatrics
- GP
- cardiology

Speciality and general practice training

- Run through training 3-7 years
- Core medical or core surgical training 2-3 years
- Acute care common stem training 3 years

Consultancy

Private practice

Education and training throughout career, for yourself and to help others

Non-Oxbridge [Learn more in our courses](#)

Alternative entry to medicine

- Transfer course
 - Can transfer from Science-based degree to medicine
 - E.g. biomedical science, biochemistry, human biology
 - Only offered at some universities and can be **very** competitive
- Foundation courses
 - 6 year course: First year is taught as general science material, after which you join the regular 5 year medicine course
 - Targeted at people who may have missed the standard entry requirements
- Graduate courses
 - Some universities offer a reduced, 4 year course for those who already have a degree
 - Very competitive, very intense as the same amount of content is squeezed into a shorter time period

[Reserve my space for the free Year 12 Medicine webinar now!](#)

Art Department News...

A Fantastic Week in the Art Department for KS3 and KS4 Students

Art department staff would like to thank the hard work and efforts of our fantastic Key Stage Three volunteers on Open Evening. Our students led prospective Year 5 and 6 students on our 'St Mary's Big Draw' which all visiting families enjoyed.

Our students were helpful, welcoming and creative with younger students and the work produced was vibrant and lively and provided a great talking point for everyone.



Thank you and well done!

From Miss Nairn, Mrs Skinner and Mrs Morgan-Wren





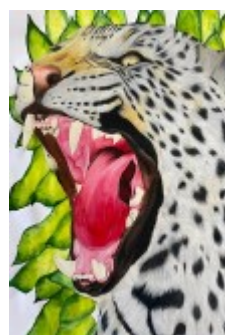
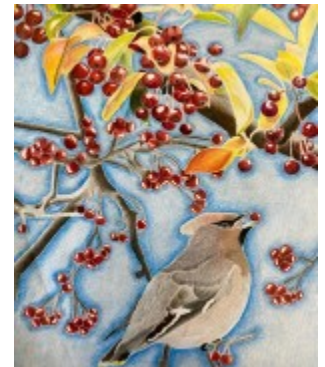
A Celebration of Year 11 Art work!

Well done Year 11 – your final pieces for this year's coursework module 'Amazonian' are wonderful and really show case your individual interests, skills and project development. Keep up the fantastic work towards your outstanding personal portfolios of work.

Miss Nairn

Art work by Students in Year 11:

Amy B, Neve C, Veronica D, Raymond-Kennedy E, Sofia G, Tamzin G, Sophie G, Emilia G, Olivia L, Bernadette M, Elizabeth N, Ava N, Angelina P, Christina P, Patrycja R, Giorgia S, Caroline W



School Attendance

At St Mary's we believe in the fundamental right of the student to be educated to his or her full potential and to participate fully in the life of the school community. High attendance rates have been highlighted as a significant factor in maintaining the quality of education provided in schools and parents must work with the school to ensure their child attends every day the school is open.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

every school day counts.

Absence:

Please do notify the school using the Absence telephone line 01279 654 901 or by contacting the following email address: Attendance@stmarys.net



When reporting your child absent please state:

Your name
Your child's name and year group
The reason for absence
A contact number

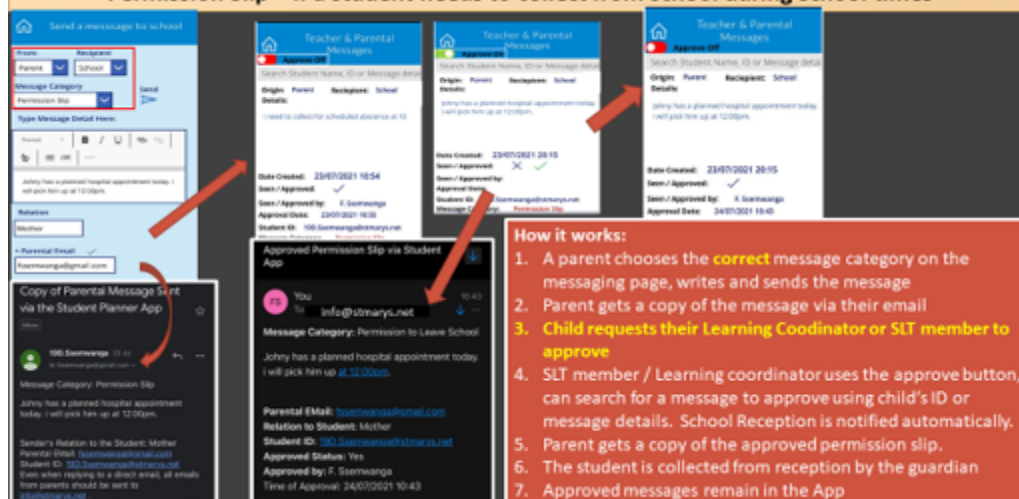
Requesting leave of absence:

We ask parents to only request leave of absence in exceptional circumstances and do so in advance **via the Student App**. Please book any medical appointments around the school day where possible. Parents must notify the school in advance of any pre-arranged absence or treatment.

This should be within 48 hours of the appointment made and a copy of the appointment record should also be shared with the school when requesting absence so that this can be authorised.

In the event that a student's attendance is below the critical level of 90% without valid reasons, letter 1 will be sent home to highlight concerns. Should the child's attendance continue to fall and show no sign of improvement, letter 2 will be sent and the parents invited to school to complete a "Parenting Contract" with the school Attendance Officer. Your case will be referred to the Attendance Improvement Officer at County. Please note that the Government guidance notes that if a parent does not engage with the support the school is offering to help the child attend school and access an education, and severe absence for unauthorised reasons continues, it is likely to constitute neglect.

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



How it works:

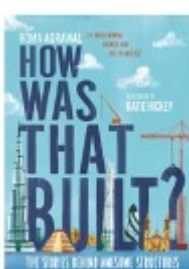
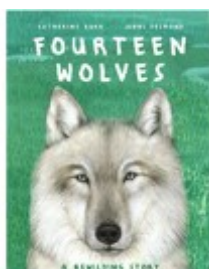
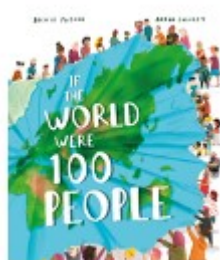
1. A parent chooses the **correct** message category on the messaging page, writes and sends the message
2. Parent gets a copy of the message via their email
3. **Child requests their Learning Coordinator or SLT member to approve**
4. SLT member / Learning coordinator uses the approve button, can search 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

Royal Society Young People's Book Prize

**ROYAL SOCIETY
YOUNG PEOPLE'S
BOOK
PRIZE 2022**

This year our school has again been chosen to take part in this prestigious prize scheme.

Panels of students in KS3 will read and review the six books shortlisted for the Royal Society Young People's Book Prize. They will discuss the books and mark them for ease of reading, interest, look/feel and inspiration. This is a fantastic way to get students talking about non-fiction books and how writers, designers and publishers work together.



**Watch this space for news of this year's winner !
(The awards ceremony takes place in March 2023)**

Scholastic Book Fair

The fair is still taking place in the Library on Monday 3rd October. Students can come and choose books at lunchtime or after school.

All orders must be placed by midday on Tuesday 4th October.

Please don't send students to school with cash as we can't accept it.
There are two ways to buy:

Pay for a voucher online here: <https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers>
Your child brings the voucher to school on Monday 3rd October and exchanges it for a book (no change given).

Your child fills in an order form after looking around the fair and brings it home – you pay online on the Scholastic website. Click on the link so that you pay towards the school book fair directly:
<https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay/1226712>

Then your child collects the book from the library (they need to bring the order form back to school to claim the book).



Remember that for every book you buy, the school receives discounts on books for the Library!





Introducing some of our new staff!

Mr Davidson, Teacher of RE



My name is Ellis Davidson. I started teaching in 2021 and have worked in Manchester during my training before moving back to my hometown of Bishop's Stortford, to start my first full time teaching position at St Mary's Catholic School.

I am excited to be the new member of an already incredible Religious Education Department here. I intend to provide the students with the spiritual and educational understanding of their faith, so they can flourish into excellent members of the Catholic and local communities.

Religious Education has an enormous role to play in Catholic education, it is a subject that not only provides a clear link to the student's faith but also provides an opportunity to understand their faith on a deeper level. The more you understand something, the closer you feel to it also.

While I am excited to teach the Catholic side of Religious Education, my degree is in Philosophy, and so I can't wait to take every opportunity I can to bring a philosophical perspective into an already expansive subject. Core RE, for the Sixth Form students, is the greatest opportunity to have serious discussions about present day issues, where the students can practise their critical thinking and also independent study skills as preparation for their next big step in life: university.

Thank you to staff and students for showing how lovely and supportive St Mary's is. I look forward to settling in and getting involved in the wider school events and activities.





Family Fast Day—Friday 7th October



CAFOD Family Fast Day – Harvest World Food Crisis Appeal

Millions of families are facing a food crisis that could be the worst in living memory. Climate change, coronavirus, and conflict in Ukraine, mean food prices are skyrocketing—creating a global food crisis for many, many people—including here in the UK.

CAFOD's local experts in East Africa have been working to help families there to survive food shortages and severe drought. Your donations can help CAFOD's local experts to provide emergency food and water supplies to families in the worst affected countries in East Africa and support communities around the world working hard to put food on the table.

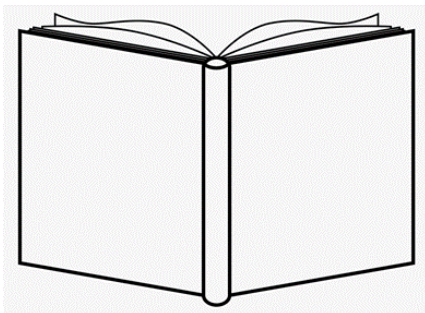


CAFOD Family Fast Day on Friday 7th October



**The school will be doing a Soup and Bread
lunchtime menu on that day
to support the event.**

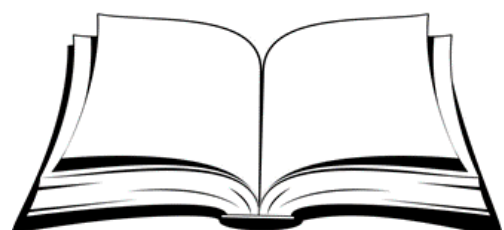
Exercise Book Covers



A Reminder...

If you have ordered book covers via Parentpay, please remind your child to come to the Library to collect them.

Thank you





PSHEE Programme – Tuesday 4 October Period 1

Form	Teacher	Topic	Room
7A	Ms C McGrath	Learning for Impact	T03
7B	Mrs T Williams	Oral Hygiene	H7
7J	Miss N Conquest	Personal Health & Hygiene	D3
7K	Mrs L Massey	Positive Body Image	C8
7M	Miss E Gilchrist	Goal setting & personal development	T11
7T	Mr P Dolman	Cultural History of Food	E4
8A	Mr J McHugh	Articulating Emotions Appropriately	Hume
8B	Mrs C Hughes	Cultural Expectations in Britain	D2
8J	Mr S Hadley	Peer Pressure	T21
8K	Mr E McElhinney	Social/Moral Use of Money	C1
8M	Mr M Hunt	Enterprise	C2
8R	Miss F Nattress	Racism	T13
8T	Miss C Hayles	Bullying & Abuse	B1
9A	Ms M Atanassova	Positive Online Reputation	T02
9B	Mrs A Acheson	Safe use of prescription drugs	H9
9J	Dr J Campbell	Mental Health	H8
9K	Mrs G Heslop	Food for thought	A1
9M	Mr T Juliff	Apartheid / BLM	E5
9T	Miss R Rose	Challenging Stereotypes	B6
10A	Mr R Graves	Interview Techniques	B2
10B	Mr R Adams	Fake News	B5
10J	Miss J Matthews	Body Image and the Media	M1
10K	Mr S Eddleston	Strategies for work/leisure balance	B3
10M	Mr F Ssemwanga	Alcohol	E1
10T	Mrs P Winter	Risks of Smoking	H2
11A	Ms A Creus	Pornography	K8
11B	Mr A Nicol	Risks of Illegal Substance Abuse	H6
11J	Mr E Bonich	Cults	D4
11K	Mrs J Lewer	Adoption & Fostering	K9
11M	Mr J Mason	The Dark Web	K3
11T	Mrs J Ryan	STI's and Fertility	H3
12A	Mrs G Wilkinson	First Aid	F1/D1
12J	Mrs D Guidera	Coercive Control	K7
12M	Mr J Gitau	Financial Services	F6
12T	Miss L Harris	Body Issues and the Media	T24
13A	Mr G Nocher	Financial Services	E2
13J	Mrs E Vermaak	Dealing with Stress	K1
13M	Mr C Palmer	Buying a car	B4
13T	Mrs K Mallen	Mental Health Conditions	T23



SAINT BERNADETTE RELIC TOUR 2022

"I shall do everything for heaven, my true home." – St Bernadette

St Joseph's Church, Bedwell Crescent, STEVENAGE SG1 1NJ

17-18 OCTOBER 2022

MONDAY 17 OCTOBER

- 1pm **Welcoming Ceremony**
Relics arrive in Bedwell
- 2pm **Rosary**
Joyful Mysteries led by the Syro-Malabar community
- 3pm **Liturgy of Water & Prayers for Healing**
- 5pm **Mass:** Fr Andrew Gallagher
Assistant Director for the Westminster Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes
- 5.45pm **Angelus & Rosary**
Luminous Mysteries led by the Filipino community
- 7pm **Solemn Mass:**
Bishop Paul McAleenan
Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster
- then **Outdoor procession**

- 9pm **Meditation**
Words of St Bernadette & quiet music
- 10pm **Mass:** Fr Nigel Woollen
Assistant Priest, Stevenage
- 10.45pm **Rosary**
Glorious Mysteries
- 12 midnight **Church closes**

TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER

- 6am **Church opens**
- 6.30 **Angelus & Rosary**
Sorrowful Mysteries
- 7am **Closing Mass:**
Fr Norbert Fernandes
Dean of Stevenage
- 7.45am **Pilgrim blessing**
- 8.15am **Relics depart from Bedwell**



LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

#DedicatedtoExcellence

Success Beyond School

Careers Evenings for Parents



How to coach teenagers towards a successful career

We are delighted to announce the first events in our *Success Beyond School* series for this academic year. **These are live online seminars featuring career experts, designed to help parents amplify their children's career potential.** The events are for parents of students aged 12-18 and are free to attend.

12th October: Making it in Medicine

Expert advice on how to get into medical school

16th November: Future-Proofing Students

Preparing students for the jobs of the future

30th November: Finding a Future in Finance

Gaining the skills for a career in Finance



Career Experience For Ages 12-18

Explore our life-changing, immersive career opportunities for ages 12-18, which take place at UCL and live online. Weekend programmes are available throughout November and December. Our flagship Summer Experiences take place in July and August, and there is currently a 15% discount available for those.

[View & Register Now](#)

We are hiring!



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

[CLICK HERE](#)
[FOR LATEST VACANCY INFORMATION](#)

**WE ARE
HIRING!**