

LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter

Issue 6 - 14th October 2022



Mr Neves
Executive Headteacher

Gratitude

The theme of the Gospel from last Sunday was gratitude. It told the story of Jesus healing a group of lepers. The key part of the story is that when these people were cured they left Jesus' presence, but only one stopped to say thank you. To emphasise the point, the one who showed gratitude was the Samaritan, the 'foreigner' among the group - perhaps thought to be the least likely to be grateful to a Jewish citizen.

The theme of gratitude was on my mind last week, as I recovered, physically, from running the London Marathon and re-lived, mentally, the events of that day. There are so many lessons to be learned from my experience and that I feel are relevant to our students at St Mary's. I shared some of these during the past fortnight in assemblies. However, one overriding message stands out for me.

The obvious message that relates to study and progress in school is:

'It's a marathon, not a sprint.' Or, 'it's about finishing lines, not finishing times.' There is something true here when it comes to advising our students on their approach to study. Once they get into GCSE or A level courses, there's a lot to cover and, in order to keep up, they are best modelling themselves on the tortoise rather than the hare.

When it comes to the enormity of training for and completing a marathon, it was for me a case of stepping outside of my comfort zone and striving to achieve a substantial goal.

Here too is a good message for our young people. We are all capable of amazing things and we should take every opportunity, as it says in John's Gospel, to live life to the full.

In striving for greatness, our students should understand that achievements of real worth involve effort and there's 'no gain without pain'. The only way I felt confident to start the marathon was because of sticking to the very prescriptive training programme that demanded increased effort as the weeks passed and relied on a solid commitment - something that is a requirement of success in school.

However, the above are not the most important messages for me from my running challenge. It was an incredibly tough activity; it needed the preparation work months in advance and left me shattered at the end. But what got me through it was the truly amazing atmosphere of support generated by the spectators. These included my family and friends, but it was obviously a majority of complete strangers who were willing me on. Lots of people by the roadside held motivational placards with messages for loved ones, but many just read 'go, random stranger!'. And here is my big takeaway from the experience: the innate good in people wishing well to strangers - and for that I express my gratitude.

It reminded me of the second great commandment given by Jesus: Love your neighbour as yourself. Here is the secret to success for our school community: valuing each individual and encouraging each other to be the best - loving and respecting each other in order that all may flourish.

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

Save the Date!
Sixth Form Open Evening
2023 Admissions
Thursday 10th November 2022

TERM DATES REMINDER

Autumn Term

Half-Term

Monday 24th October—Friday 28th October

Pupils Return to School on Monday 31st October 2022

End of Autumn Term

Friday 16th December 2022

Spring Term

INSET Day on Tuesday 4th January 2023

Pupils Return to School on Wednesday 5th January 2023



UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 19th October 2022

Year 7/Year 8 Lion King Trip

Thursday 20th October 2022

Year 11/Year 13 Information Evening

Monday—Friday

24th—28th October 2022

HALF TERM

Monday 31st October 2022

School Re-Opens

Students Return to School

Tuesday 1st November 2022

St Mary's Piano Recital 7pm



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST



St Mary's Catholic School

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING 2023 ADMISSIONS

Sixth Form Open Evening from 6pm—8.30pm on
Thursday 10th November 2022



You are warmly invited to join us for our Sixth Form Open Evening where you will meet the Sixth Form team and Sixth Form students and learn about the opportunities available at Key Stage 5 and learn about our:

- Newly renovated fully equipped Sixth Form study centre.
- Purpose built and designed Sixth Form specialist classrooms.
- Excellent academic standards, achieved through bespoke and vibrant teaching.
- Range of over 30 subjects offered including both A level and Diploma courses.
- Oxbridge/Medical/Dentistry UCAS guided programme.
- Impressive record of careers guidance preparing students for their next steps.
- UCAS, University and degree apprenticeships preparation.
- A vast and diverse range of enrichment and student leadership opportunities to challenge and develop students skills.

We look forward to welcoming you on Thursday 10th November for a talk by our Executive Headteacher, Head of Sixth Form and a tour of the school to visit the subject areas of interest for your KS5 choices.



Information packs and applications forms are available on the school website:
www.stmarys.net



ST MARY'S SIXTH FORM

Windhill, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire. CM23 2NQ

Tel: 01279 654901 Fax: 01279 653889 Email: info@stmarys.net

www.stmarys.net/sixth-form @StMarysPost16 @StMarysPost16



Prayer for Black History Month



Lord God

*We thank you for the strength and wisdom that this month provides.
We lift up and thank you for the Black Leaders who have shaped our history.*

*We thank you for the opportunity to learn and reflect
particularly at this time, here and now.*

*We pray that the learning happening in schools, homes
and workplaces will be meaningful.*

*Allow us to be inspired by people who have become figures for change
and examples of courage.*

*We pray for open hearts and minds,
And spirits willing to learn and be transformed by you.*

*May this month be a time of curiosity and sharing,
Conversations and celebrations,
Challenge and encouragement.*

*Heavenly Father, help us to look past ourselves,
and consider the lives of others.*

Let us look closer, and think bigger,

In Jesus' name

Amen



Thursday 20th October 2022

**Year 11 Information Evening
7.00pm in School Hall**

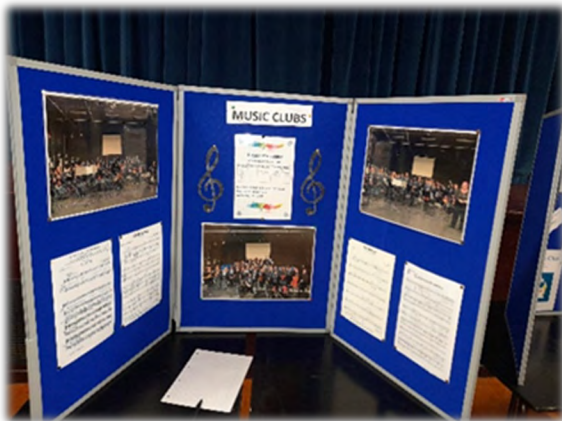
**Year 13 Information Evening
7.00pm in Hume Theatre**

Clubs Fair 2022

We had a very successful Clubs Fair on Friday 7th October at St Marys.

Pupils had the opportunity to have a look at all the clubs on offer and have a chat with the teachers/pupils running the clubs.
If you have not yet had a chance to join a club please come along and take part.
Joining a club/s is a great way to make friends with similar interests and also to take part in life outside the classroom here at St Marys.

A selection of the clubs on offer at St Marys this half term.



Clubs Fair 2022



Eco Club



Lego Club



Books & Biscuits Club



Science Club



Games Club



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

Extra-Curricular
Activities
GET INVOLVED!

Beautiful Minds at St Mary's

Beautiful Minds is a programme for group mentoring that we are developing here at St Mary's which offers bespoke support for the needs of our students.



We currently have a Year 7 Beautiful Minds Group where the aim is to assist with the transition to secondary school. Mrs Morgan-Wren runs the group and they have been busy talking through any worries they have whilst participating in activities. These include playing board games, decorating biscuits and most recently learning all about Lasagne Planting!

(For those like me, who had no idea what this is: Lasagne planting involves planting layers of bulbs in pots, just like making lasagne. The latest-flowering bulbs are planted at the bottom of the pot, with layers of earlier-flowering bulbs above them. The result is a pot crammed with wave after wave of spring flowers, giving colour right through Spring).

Our Year 7's have been planting up the flowerbeds and topping them off with winter flowers. This will be a beautiful splash of colour in the school grounds and a project for the Year 7's to be proud of.



We also have a Year 11 Beautiful Minds Group where we focus on the challenges of Year 11. So far we have covered how to revise essay based subjects, how to decide where to study in Year 12/13, and how to choose what to study. We will move on to how to cope with exam pressures, different revision techniques and looking further forward to choosing university courses and employment options post 18. The topics covered are quite fluid and are driven by the needs of the students who have input in what is covered.

We have plans for other Year Group Beautiful Minds later in the year.



Beautiful Minds

Science Club Fun!

After school Science Club was full of colourful foam this week, or as we call it, Elephant Toothpaste!

Pupils had lots of fun completing a couple of experiments, mixing different concentrations of Hydrogen Peroxide, washing liquid, food colouring and Potassium Iodide! Pupils produced some impressive displays in conical flasks and on sponges.

Finally, we all watched a bigger demonstration with large quantities of foam and heat erupting from the flask! We all decided that a bigger one was needed... so in the future, maybe it will need to be big enough to be taken outside! That would be cool!



Why not join our club next week!

**It's on every Monday, 3:15 - 4:00 pm
in H7 or H9.**



Overdue Books!!



**Don't forget
to return your
library books!**

Bring back your books!

Please remind your child to bring back or renew their book before half term.

There are plenty of new books in the library to borrow over the holidays.

Minus house points for overdue library books will be issued on Friday 21st October.



FREE Books for Year 7

Year 7 students have all received their free books this week.
This is a gift from the school in partnership with BookTrust.

For more information see <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/>



AR group 7E with their free books



BookTrust has useful booklists for finding your next read. See these links for spooky suggestions, now that Halloween is approaching (each has an age rating too) ...

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/booklists/h/horror-older-children/>



St Mary's Piano Recital



**Our annual Piano Recital is coming up on
Tuesday 1st November at 7pm**

**There are still some spaces available if you would like to
perform a piece in the Recital.**

Please let Miss Matthews or Mrs Salter-Kay know if you
would like to take part in it.

**Tickets for the Piano Recital are now available
to purchase:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/431535463187>



Maths Department News...



Algorithms can be fun!

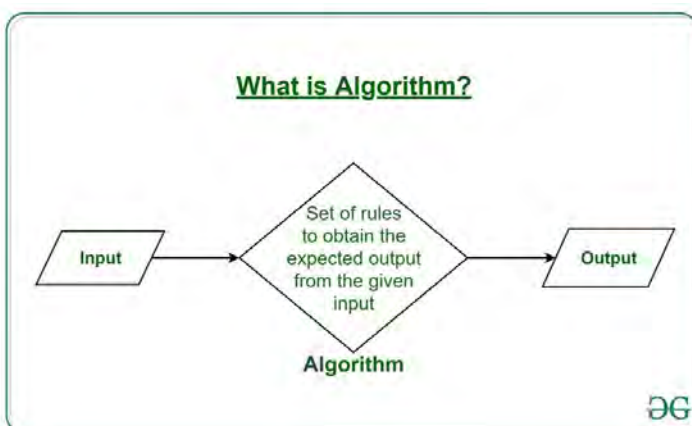
Further Mathematicians having fun learning new algorithms!

If it is bubble sort or a quick sort algorithm, there is just one way to learn the process - sorting out height and shoe sizes.

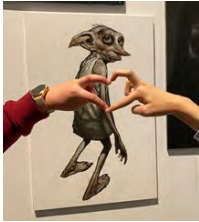


Maps of New York for network planning and the London Underground are definitely giving the inside of what maths is about.

Decision course brings algorithms to life and we love every minute of it!



Year 8 students explore maths



The making of Harry Potter

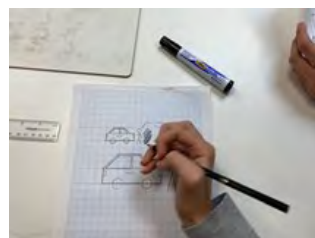


Wizards, Death Eaters and very brave students of St Mary's for sure! None of them were faced by the parade of scary Death Eaters looking for their victims. Perhaps as our students got a great inside of how the movie is made during the workshop? Or, perhaps because they learnt through the books and movies the best ways of dealing with the creatures! Who knows?



We all had a great time exploring the studios and learning about how maths is used in making the magic. And there is so much of it in the movies. An endless list of careers that involve maths, from the set engineers to the producers. We have inspired the students. It was great to see them working on scaling within movies after they had just learnt about enlargement in maths lessons. A brilliant experience and such a great application of what they learn at school.

The magic of Harry Potter to be continued...



A Level Geography Field Trip to Hatfield Forest

On Tuesday this week the **Year 13 Geographers** were able to enjoy a sunny day in the great outdoors immersed in nature.

Whilst completing a day of Physical Geography fieldwork they mastered new primary data collection techniques investigating the carbon content of different areas of Hatfield Forest.





Introducing some of our new staff!

Mr Doherty, Teacher of MFL

Hola! Ciao! Bonjour!

My name is Caolán Doherty, and I have just joined the MFL Department here at St. Mary's. Originally from Derry, in Northern Ireland, I lived across Ireland, Spain and Italy, before moving to England. I started teaching in 2021, completing my training in Bath and Somerset before moving across the country to start my first full-time teaching job.

I'm excited to be the newest member of the small but determined MFL Department here in the school. My specialisms are Spanish and Italian, and I was particularly excited when I found this school, because Italian is taught here, from KS3 all the way to A-Level – not the easiest thing to find in a school!

Aside from the obvious goal of learning a language, what MFL teaches our students is invaluable. They are taught to communicate effectively in unfamiliar situations, which in turn really helps to build self-confidence and resilience. Languages also offer a unique opportunity to learn and explore different cultures around the world, especially at GCSE and A-Level, and can open doors, windows and eyes.

Finally I'd like to say a big thank you to all of the staff and students at St. Mary's. The atmosphere you have all created and the welcome and support I have received have been second to none. I look forward to getting involved with school life even more as I settle in, and to sharing my love of languages with all students.

Merci, gracias, e grazie.



Inter-house Cross Country Competition Results



Well Done
to everyone who
took part in the
Inter-house Cross
Country Competition



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

Chaplaincy News...

October Rosary at St. Mary's



Next week, there will be a dedicated time for our students to pray together the rosary within the morning form time.

It will happen on **Friday 21st October**, so please bring in your rosary beads/necklaces that you own from home, as it would be wonderful to see the variety of rosary beads/necklaces that our school community has.

The rosary is an opportunity for our school community to share a whole school moment of prayer that is both sacred and uplifting. It will enable us to have a moment to pause in our busy lives, whilst helping to nourish our faith and focus our attention onto prayer.



Year 7 Faith Journeys

Please could all Year 7's hand in their completed Faith Journey's to their Form Tutors by Friday 21st October.

All completed Faith Journeys will receive a house point, and handing it in will also count towards your St. Mary's Award.

Further house points will also be allocated for exceptional pieces of work. Myself, Miss Conquest and your Form Tutors are looking forward to seeing them completed.



Mr Wright – Chaplaincy Lead



LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

#DedicatedtoExcellence



Black History Month Menu for next week: African & Caribbean Menu

Monday



East African Braised Chicken Thigh and Potatoes
Pork & Black Bean Stew with Potatoes
Moroccan Cous Cous with Roasted Vegetables & Chick Peas

Tuesday

Ethiopian Chicken Curry & Rice
Beef Tagine & Cous Cous
Chakalaka & Rice



Wednesday



Jerk Chicken Wings, Paprika Potatoes and Banana Salsa
Chicken Jollof
Jerk Sweet Potato Curry & Rice

Thursday

Piri Piri Chicken Wings, Rice & Peas
Caribbean Frita Burger with Paprika Wedges
Reggae Reggae Bean Burger with Paprika Wedges



Friday



West African Fish Stew with Steamed Potatoes
Mac Cheese & Sweet Potato Bake
Jamaican Vegetable Casserole with Steamed Potatoes

We are hiring!



St. Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

Click Here For Latest Vacancy Information

<https://www.stmarys.net/vacancies>

WE ARE
HIRING!



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**

