

LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter

Issue 8 - 4th November 2022



"Aspire not to have more, but to be more"

Mr Neves
Executive Headteacher

This week has been a particularly important time in the Church's calendar. On Tuesday we celebrated the feast of All Saints and Wednesday was the feast of All Souls.

"We are all called to be saints," Pope Francis told pilgrims at a General Audience in November 2014. "But," he said, "we must remember that holiness is a gift from God - not something we can achieve on our own ...however, the call to holiness is not just for bishops, priests or religious ... No. We are all called to become saints! So often, we are tempted to think that holiness is granted only to those who have the opportunity to break away from the ordinary tasks, to devote themselves to prayer. But it is not so! Some people think that holiness is closing your eyes and putting on a pious face... No! That is not holiness! Holiness is something greater, more profound that God gifts us. Indeed, it is by living with love and offering Christian witness in our daily tasks that we are called to become saints....Be holy by becoming a visible sign of God's love and His presence beside us...at home, on the streets, at work, at church, in the moment and with the state of life that you have, a door is opened on the road to sainthood. Do not be discouraged to travel this road. God gives you the grace to do so. And this is all that the Lord asks, that we are in communion with Him and serve others..."

On the feast of All Saints were are presented in the Gospel reading of the sermon on the mount, when Jesus gave his guidance for a good way of life, in the beatitudes:

*'How happy are the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy the gentle:*

they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn:

they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:

they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful:

they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart:

they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers:

they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:

theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

*'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you
and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account.
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'*

The language of the beatitudes can be quite difficult to understand but the essence of these blessings is summed up in a famous quote from Saint Oscar Romero: 'Aspire not to have more but to be more.' That's a simple idea for our students to understand and to use as a guide to their lives.

On the feast of All Souls we remember those near and dear to us who have died and we pray that they may rest in peace. All students were engaged in a special time of prayer in their form groups on Wednesday, and they were able to write down the names of those close to them who have died, and who we will pray for during the month of November.

Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord
And let perpetual light shine upon them
May they rest in peace
Amen

Sixth Form Open Evening
2023 Admissions
Thursday 10th November 2022

TERM DATES REMINDER

Autumn Term

End of Autumn Term

Friday 16th December 2022

Spring Term

INSET Day on Tuesday 3rd January 2023

Pupils Return to School on Wednesday 4th January 2023



UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 10th November 2022
Sixth Form Open Evening

Friday 11th November 2022
Remembrance Day



Monday 14th November 2022
GCSE and A Level Mock Exams Start

Thursday 17th November 2022
Year 8 Invite Only Parents Evening
Year 8 Information Evening

Thursday 17th November 2022
Year 9 Invite Only Parents Evening
Year 9 Information Evening



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST



Calling All Cadets!

We are planning a special ceremony to mark Remembrance Day on Friday 11th November 2022

and would like ALL students who are cadets to be involved.



Please can I ask ANY student who is part of a cadet group outside of school to email their name to Miss McHugh at d.mchugh@stmarys.net to help begin the planning and preparations.



Lost Property!

On Thursday 10th November and Friday 11th November we will be holding "Lost Property Sessions" at the Student Hub for PE Kits only.

The sessions will take place during both lunch breaks each day.

If students are missing any kit, please come to the Student Hub to claim it.

Crisis in Ukraine

Heavy fighting, shelling and air strikes across Ukraine have had devastating consequences for ordinary people. Over 5 million people have fled the country, and many more have had to leave their homes to escape the fighting. At Ukraine's borders with Poland, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and Moldova, huge numbers of people are arriving with only what they can carry. In many places there are long waits to cross and scant facilities waiting for them on the other side, with temperatures dropping below freezing overnight.



In his words following the recitation of the Angelus prayer, Pope Francis said that on Tuesday 25 October he will go to Rome's Colosseum to pray for peace in Ukraine and in the world, together with representatives of the Christian Churches and Communities and world religions. The moment of prayer will take place in conjunction with the "Cry of Peace" meeting taking place these days.

As a school some of our families are directly affected by the war in Ukraine and we keep them and their families very much in our prayers that them, their loved ones and their homeland will see peace.

One of our Year 9 students has shared her exceptionally poignant poem with us.

I am Fine

*It started when dad asked me if I wanted to go to school,
He meant if I could.
The news was flashing across him.
It was 7:49 am,
I was fine.*

*Then I spoke to Miss
She told me it wouldn't last long,
That the adults were speaking.
I said 'I know'
I was fine.*

*Dad sat with me in the car last night,
He was fine.
But he told me he wants to go home,
to fight,
that he wasn't doing his job.
He wasn't fine.*

*I realized fine wasn't what I was,
That fine was the space between how I felt and
other people.
That I hadn't felt anything.
My mind had detached itself,
Because I didn't want to think or feel or speak.
I wanted to be home.
To be fine.*

By Yana D

Please join with us in praying...

Heavenly Father, hear our prayers for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine.
Lord we ask for peace for those who need peace, reconciliation for those who need reconciliation and comfort for all who don't know what tomorrow will bring.
Lord may your Kingdom come, and Your will be done.

Lord God, we ask for you to be with us all – especially children who are suffering as the crisis in Ukraine deteriorates. Lord for those who are anxious and fearful. For those who are bereaved, injured or who have lost their lives. And for those who have lost loved ones. Lord hear our prayers. Amen.





Piano Recital at St Mary's

**Our annual Piano Recital took place on
Tuesday 1st November**

STUDENT REPORT—Francesca W (Year 9)



The piano recital was an amazing evening with great contrasts of style and periods of music, ranging from classical (Haydn), Romantic (Brahms), a Chopin waltz, to some modern 20th Century pieces by Einaudi.

I really enjoyed listening to the wide variety of pieces played so beautifully by the talented musicians in the concert. The piano recital was a great opportunity to socialise, have fun and share your music with others. It was a fantastic night and was great to have some students from St Joseph's primary school performing with us too.



Webinar for Students ~ Managing Study Stress



Hertfordshire Partnership University
NHS Foundation Trust

Managing Study Stress

This webinar is for students who are currently studying to support wellbeing

The webinar explores why we worry about the future, how uncertainty makes things worse, and what to do about study stress. It provides guidance on cognitive and behavioural techniques which students can learn themselves to manage their own symptoms, stay in the present and prepare calmly for the future.

Exams, studying and academia have often been a source of stress for many be that day to day study or preparing for an exam. This webinar will support you in techniques to manage this.

<https://www.hpft-iapt.nhs.uk/resources-and-self-help/webinars/managing-study-stress>

Available dates are 9 November and 7 December 2022

Power Poetry Winners in Year 9

Year 9 Published Poets!

An enormous congratulations to our Year 9 students who submitted their poems to Young Writers and are now going to be published!



Ruby C, Chantelle K, Josephina J and Asantwa A were all successful applicants, writing powerful poems about the environment – the focus of this year's National Poetry Day.

Please join us in congratulating them on their achievement!



Two Roses

Two roses swaying in the wind
Their roots locked together, holding on.
Fall was approaching the ground freezing up
Harsh winds blow around the corner
Bringing a cold feeling that won't get any warmer.

Yet they both hold on root in root
Watching the earth slowly go mute.
The children's screams can't be heard no more
Silence is heard at every door.

One rose feels unstable
The winds are too harsh, the air is too cold.
It slowly let's go and it remains bury below
The remaining one stands there shivering on its own.
It withers down as well, to where we don't know,
The snow blows over and earth is left alone.

It's quiet and tranquil, not a word to be heard
Not a single tweet from any bird.
Nobody listened to the warning sign
Now there is no more time to get back in line.

Chantelle K

An Excerpt from The Sand Falls

The fresh smells of grass,
Water as rippled as ancient stained glass,
The exotic fruits would provide delightful juice,
Scenery so unreal its as if it was written by Dr Seuss,
Hear a calm bee buzz by,
The wind feels as light as the flight of a butterfly,
See the top of the waterfall with high gravitational energy,
The beautiful liquid that flows is a resource that is essential for you and me.

Clear water falls and falls, bit by bit,
The water filling what was originally just a pit,
Isn't nature so gorgeous?
It feels difficult to comprehend,
How could this world ever come to an end?

Ruby C

THE SEA

The deep blue sea is a wonderful place,
A calm relaxing and soothing space.
A beautiful sight along the beach,
And stress, worry and life are just out of reach.

The waves below, gently crashing,
Against small rocks and create a tiny splashing.
Fish and starfish moving at their pace.
But then, here comes the human race.

Coming along in their long great ships.
And their right hand, a fishing rod it grips.
Polluting the sea, dumping tons of oil
Everything that humanity touches, it does spoil.

Plastic, glass bottles and general waste.
They all leave a bad taste.
The human race,
What a disgrace.

Destroying everything in their way.
One day, humanity will pay.
But until the wretched humans fall,
We must stay here and bear it all.

Asantwa A



Motherland

This is my motherland,
You don't know where your standing,
This is my earthly home,
But people keep misunderstanding.

This is my motherland,
It's what people abuse,
They say "recycle plastic",
But they still misuse.

This is my motherland,
My house, my car, my shoes,
All washed away around me,
When water comes in to diffuse.

This is my motherland,
Where volcanoes erupt and pour,
Where tornadoes create destruction,
Where famines fall upon the poor.

This is my motherland,
Where acid rains,
People cry for help,
Built upon the pain.

This is my motherland,
Where humans cause pollution,
Animals are mistreated,
We pray on superstition.

This is my motherland,
The sea is full of dirt,
It's disgusting,
How people don't see it's getting worse.

This is my motherland,
And we should take more care,
Cus it's all fun and games,
Till we can't breathe air.

Josephina J



MFL Department ~ French Film Afternoon

THE MFL DEPARTMENT FRENCH FILM AFTERNOON



Film: Le Petit Nicolas
Date: Friday 11th November
Time: 3:20 – 5:00pm
Location: T11

**Maximum of 30 people
so get your tickets booked ASAP!**

Pizza will be offered! We would appreciate a £1 donation prior to the event to help with refreshments.
Please pay this on ParentPay before Monday 7th November.



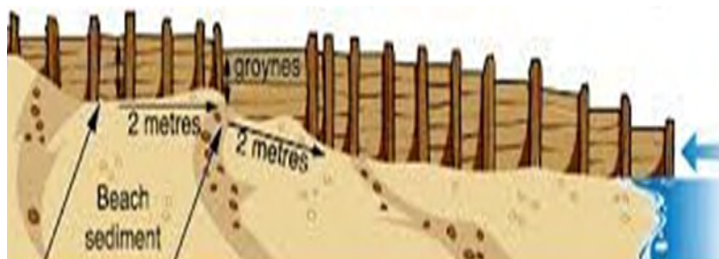
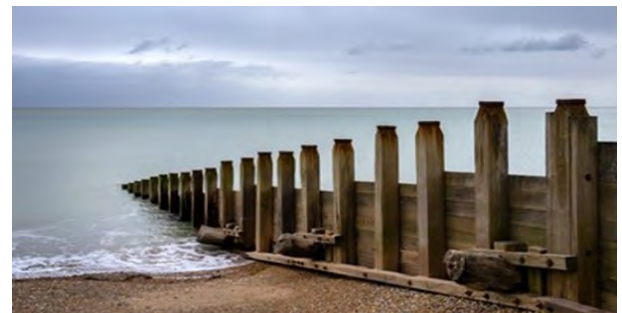
If your child would like to attend the MFL French Film afternoon, please email Miss Gilchrist at e.gilchrist@stmarys.net to confirm your place by Monday 7th November at the latest.

Geography A Level Sixth Form Trip to Southend on Sea

The wind and rain did not deter the dedicated Sixth Form Geographers from a day at the beach to complete some fieldwork.



Students investigated the different beach profiles, the impact of groynes on longshore drift and the types of waves. They even got to enjoy some free time for lunch. Great work everyone!



Christmas Card Competition

Calling all Year 7, 8 and 9 Students



DESIGN A CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Theme: 'The shepherds found Mary, Joseph and the baby' (Luke 2:15-20)

Closing Date is 25th November 2022

Submit your entry to your RE Teacher by the closing date



RE Department News...

Year 8 students have been studying the topic of creation with a focus on stewardship.



Using St Francis of Assisi as our inspiration, students created their own environmental campaigns. Their campaigns included original merchandise, examples of how to look after the planet and a slogan.

The winning group were Carlos C, Aaron W, Sophie S and Liam K. Their slogan was, "We need to save God's creation for the next generation".

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Genesis 1:28.



Year 7 and 8 students are invited to join the **Greek Mythology and Philosophy Club** on Wednesdays in K7 with Mrs Guidera, learning all about the ancient Greeks and the philosophy's which emerged and shaped life and virtues today.

Chaplaincy News ~ Month of November

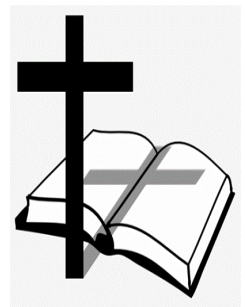
Prayer for the Souls of the Faithful Departed

During the month of November, we remember those who have gone before us on the journey of life.

Prayer for the Deceased

*Remember, Lord,
those who have died
and have gone before us
marked with the sign of faith,
especially those for whom
we now pray. May these,
and all who sleep in Christ,
find in Your presence light,
happiness and peace.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen*

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them
Amen*



WELCOME
TO OUR NEW STAFF!



Introducing some of our new staff!

Mrs Johnson **Teacher of Food & Nutrition**



My name is Caron Johnson and I am a new member of the DT Department, teaching Food Preparation and Nutrition.



I started teaching back in my mid-20s as a Primary School Teacher and continued this on a part-time basis while also studying Nutritional Therapy, and later working as a Nutritional Therapist for a few years until I had my first child.

Having spent some years at home with my children while they were young, working as a childminder, I returned to working in a local primary school when my eldest child started secondary school. When my youngest child finished their primary education I was keen to take on a new challenge for myself and so am very excited to now be part of the St Mary's team teaching a subject that I feel very passionate about.

I have always had a love of cooking with a special interest in healthy eating and lifestyles and as such am really excited to now be working with young people, helping them to not only cook healthy foods from scratch for themselves but to also understand the science behind the food.

St Mary's has been a lovely place to start a new challenge, with staff being very supportive and welcoming. I am thoroughly enjoying my new role and getting to know the pupils here at St Mary's and very much look forward to continuing my journey here.





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.



School success starts
with attendance

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.

St Mary's Clubs		November – December (lunchtime clubs are 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 7,8,9
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 7,8,9
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 7,8,9
Tuesday			
Dance	Hume	N.Abery	Year 7,8,9
NEW Spiritual Life Club	K8	A.Creus	Year 7
ECO Club	F1	A.Briggs	Year 8,9,10
Business and Finance Support	C1	E.McElhinney	Year 10,11,12,13
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-Year10
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
NEW Drama Games Club	Hume	P.Bamlett	Year 7,8,9
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 7,8,9
Design Club	C4	T.Webb	Year 8,9,10
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 at 12:35pm)	Music Block	J.Matthews/K.Salter	Year 7,9,11
Thursday			
Photography Club	Library	L.Frino	Year 7,8,9
Homework Club	B1 and B3	C.Henderson/Mrs Wilson	All Years
IT Club (early lunch)	H5	G.Benvenuto	Year 7 and 9
Lexia	E2	G.Benvenuto	Year 7,8,9
Craft Club (early lunch)	WkA C2 /WkB C6	T.Lee	Year 8 and 10
Friday			
Girls Rugby	PE	PE Department	Year 7-Year 10
Chess Club	Sixth Form	G.Benvenuto	All Years
GCSE and A Level DT Club	C4	M.Hunt	Year 11,12,13
Games Club (early lunch)	B4	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)	D2	C.Hughes	Year 7 and 9



LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

#DedicatedtoExcellence



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

We are hiring!



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

Click Here For Latest Vacancy Information

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

WE ARE
HIRING!



LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

#DedicatedtoExcellence



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

Please park SAFELY

We need everyone to play their part in
keeping the roads near schools safe.

DRIVERS SHOULD NOT:

- park on yellow zig zag markings.
- park on double yellow lines at any time, or on single yellows during restricted hours.
- park or drive on footpaths.
- park within 10 metres of a junction, as this decreases visibility.
- block driveways or dropped kerbs.

You may be issued with a fixed penalty notice.
Thank you for your cooperation.

