

LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter

Issue 11 - 25th November 2022



Advent Begins

Mr Neves
Executive Headteacher

On Monday we dedicated the day to oracy. Each teacher was tasked with introducing an opportunity for a debate in their lessons, so that students could practise their skills in public speaking and putting forward an argument on a given topic. It was great for me to see these activities in action as I toured the school site; for example, from RE - debating issues around baptism - and maths - debating the importance of calculators. The students were very engaged and demonstrated excellent skills in what are very useful life skills.

These will certainly be important to some of our Year 13 students who have been invited to interviews for places at Oxford and Cambridge Universities. Applying to study at these universities is a particularly competitive process and being invited to interview is, in itself, a great achievement. We wish them well.

Thank you to the many parents and carers of Year 8 and Year 9 students who were able to attend the Information Evenings last Thursday. We had a busy evening and some lovely feedback on the event, which I hope everyone found useful.

As we see the school term nearing its end, we have come to the end of the Church's year. On Sunday we celebrated the feast of Christ the King - the last Sunday of the liturgical year. The Gospel reading described the end of Jesus' life on earth - his crucifixion, at which onlookers were jeering and ridiculing him - all, save one of the criminals, who was crucified next to him. This man recognised his own guilt and Jesus' innocence and asked Jesus for his compassion, which was immediately confirmed. We thus end the Church's year with a simple message central to the Catholic faith: that faith in Jesus provides the way to eternal life. Next week we begin a new Church year by turning our attention to the beginning of Jesus' life on earth as we look forward to the celebration of his birth and enter the season of Advent.



Sunday
27th November
First Sunday of
Advent



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

Chaplaincy Charity Event
Please bring Christmas Gift Appeal Donations
to the Student Hub by Friday 2nd December.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Tuesday 6th December 2022
Presentation Evening

Thursday 8th December 2022
Year 7 Parents Evening

Oxbridge Interview Candidates

Our 9 Oxbridge interview candidates spent PSHEE this morning refining their interview technique.

As well as subject-specific preparation, students have worked at general interview skills, and this morning rotated between the roles of interviewer, interviewee and observer. They found the session useful and enjoyable and I was so proud of how they all threw themselves wholeheartedly into this challenging situation.



Questions asked at Oxbridge interviews can be very academic, or completely unrelated to the candidates' subject area!



What would YOUR answers have been to these past Oxbridge questions?

1. *What is your greatest weakness?*
2. *What two books would you take with you to a desert island?*
3. *What are your favourite films and why?*
4. *If you could invite one person who has ever lived to dinner, who would it be and why?*
5. *How would you approach the task of learning 50 new words a day?*
6. *If you had to remove everything apart from one thing from your personal statement (like an application letter), what one thing would remain and why?*

Save The Date

St Mary's Catholic School

Invite you to an

Advent Carol Service

Monday 12th December 2022

at St Joseph and the Martyrs Roman Catholic Church, Windhill

Refreshments afterwards in the Parish Centre



Red Wednesday 2022

On Wednesday 23 November, students had the opportunity to **wear something Red** to support and remember those that are persecuted for their faith/religion. **Thank You** to those students, parents and staff that supported Red Wednesday, **so far we have raised £640**



#REDWEDNESDAY

BREAK THE SILENCE

23RD NOVEMBER 2022



**RED
WED
NES
DAY
2022**



Books and Biscuits Afterschool Club

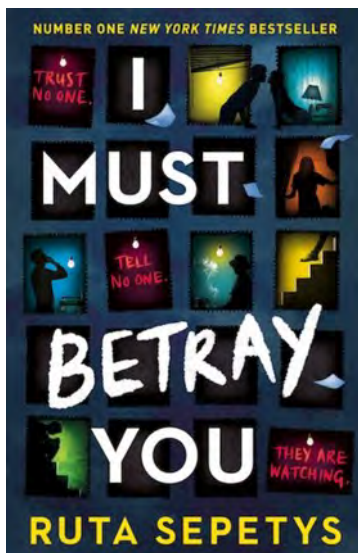


Books and Biscuits Club – Read and Reviews

Books and Biscuits meets on Fridays after school in the library. Each week we share what we are currently reading, talk about a topical or seasonal theme and play games.

We are also lucky to receive sets of new books from publishers, via The Reading Agency. Earlier this month we were sent ten copies of 'I Must Betray You', by Ruta Sepetys (Hodder Children's Books).

Here are extracts from two of the reviews, which will be sent to the publisher. Note that the book has mature themes and scenes and is not suitable for younger readers.



Students Book Reviews

Set in December 1989, the story describes a 17-year-old's perspective of communist Romania. He has lived his entire life in fear and the control of the dictator Ceaușescu. His life is completely normal, until his grandfather becomes sick, and an agent offers him medicine to make him better, but he must do a job for him. Cristian has an impossible choice - should he take the offer, and inform on his family, or risk his life, his friends', and his family's lives?

Daisy C, Year 8

The book constantly made me want to read on ... My favourite characters were Bunu, for his courage, Cici, for her intelligence, and Mr Van Dorn, for his smarts. I would recommend this book for people like me, who love history and mystery.

Rozalia G, Year 8

Click the link to read more about the Reading Agency and their work to promote literacy for all ages. They are launching a campaign to donate books to support the mental health and wellbeing of homeless people this winter.

<https://readingagency.org.uk/>



Science Club Fun!



In our Afterschool Science Club we investigated the properties of polymers – we made slime!

It's gooey. It's sticky. We dyed it, stretched it, broke it apart, formed it into a ball and it bounced.

Glue is made from long, skinny, chain-like molecules called polymers. These molecules can slip and slide around each other, kind of like the noodles in a big pot of fresh-cooked spaghetti. That is why the glue is very runny and can flow easily when you squeeze it out of the bottle. When you mix a chemical with the glue, it causes links to form between the polymer chains. This process is called crosslinking. Once crosslinks form, it becomes harder for the polymers to slide over each other, making the glue thicker and creating "slime".



Why not join our club next week!

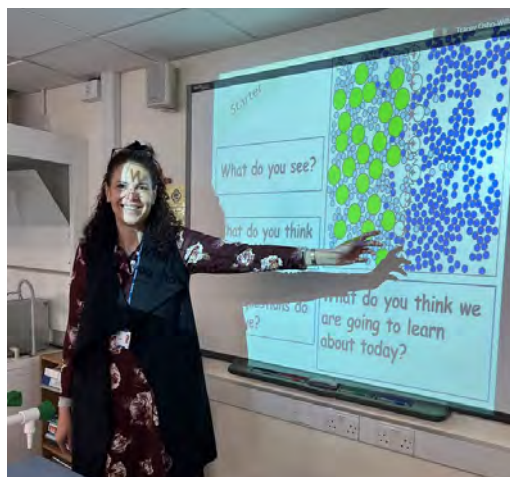
It's on every Monday, 3.15 – 4.00 pm in H7 or H9



WELCOME
TO OUR NEW STAFF!



Introducing some of our new staff!



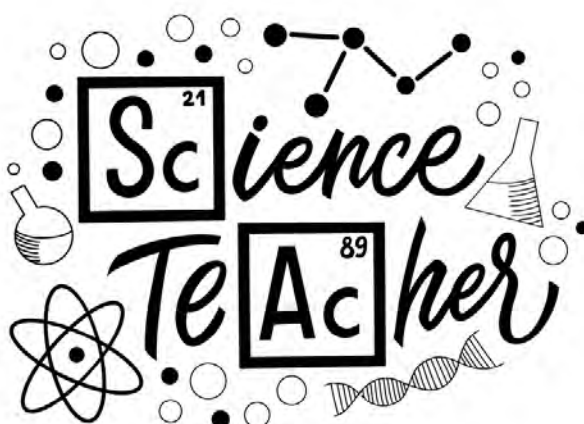
Miss Osho-Williams Teacher of Science

My name is Tracey Williams and I have recently joined St. Marys as a part-time Science teacher.

Since completing my degree in Biology and my master's at Cambridge I have enjoyed an interesting, rewarding and diverse career in a range of schools in Hertfordshire, Essex and London. First as a teacher of Science, then as a Special Needs Coordinator for many years before returning to the classroom with a fresh perspective.

St Mary's Catholic School is truly an amazing place to work. Besides the academic rigour, there is a feeling that every student can achieve no matter their starting point; a belief that sits well with my own views on education. There are so many opportunities for students and staff to develop, grow and excel in differing fields of study and extra-curricular pursuits.

Science for me never gets boring; it's always changing; I'm always learning new things. I never tire of finding new ways of teaching a topic that I have taught so many times before; nor the wonder and excitement of students as they investigate a new theory or phenomenon.



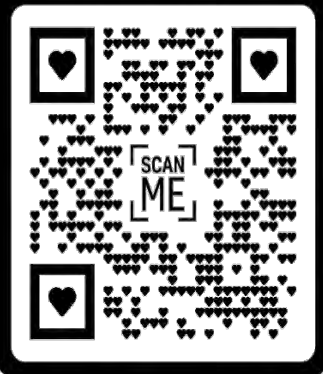


Friends of St Mary's

FoSM East Herts Lottery



FoSM LOTTERY



<https://www.easthertslottery.co.uk/support/friends-of-st-marys-catholic-school>

Fancy a chance to win £25,000 whilst supporting St. Mary's Catholic School?

Tickets are £1 a week, and you can buy one or as many as you would like in time for the weekly draws. Sign up to purchase tickets using these links. Thank you! <https://qr.link/>

We are very grateful for the support from parents to the school, especially at this time. The links in this letter are some new ways in which FoSM are looking to support the school, to enrich the experience for the current students. Please do support FoSM in this way if you are able to. The Amazon Smile donations are given automatically to FoSM based on your purchases (if you browse through the link below) so there is no outlay!



FoSM Amazon Smile

AMAZON SMILE



<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1050230-0>

<https://qr.link/leUXR2>

Just by shopping on Amazon – though these links – will grant FoSM 0.5% of each eligible purchase! Easy!

You must make sure that you click on this link FIRST before you browse – please bookmark this link!

Christmas Gift Appeal 2022

Christmas Appeal Donations for Catholic Children's Society

Please can students bring in any of the items on the list below and give them to their Form Tutor or hand them in at the Student Hub by Friday 2 December.



The poster features a dark blue background with white snowflakes. At the top, a Santa hat is positioned over a white oval containing the text 'Catholic Children's Society'. Below this, the title 'CHRISTMAS GIFT APPEAL' is written in large, bold, white capital letters. Underneath the title, the text 'WE WOULD BE SO GRATEFUL IF YOU CAN DONATE NEW:' is displayed in smaller white capital letters. The poster lists eight categories of items to donate, each accompanied by a small illustration: 1. Clothes, socks, hats, gloves, hot water bottles (illustration of folded clothes). 2. Tea sets, dolls, dressing up costumes (illustration of a tea set). 3. Art sets, crafts, stationery, science sets, magic sets, books (illustration of art supplies). 4. Sports equipment (particularly footballs) (illustration of a soccer ball). 5. Lego, building sets, Play-Doh, train sets (illustration of Lego bricks). 6. Cuddly toys, blankets, baby dolls (illustration of a teddy bear). 7. Toiletries, jewellery, technology, board games (illustration of a board game). 8. Gift vouchers e.g. (One4all, Love2Shop, Amazon, Argos, supermarkets etc.) (illustration of gift vouchers).

CHRISTMAS GIFT APPEAL

WE WOULD BE SO GRATEFUL IF YOU CAN DONATE NEW:

- Clothes, socks, hats, gloves, hot water bottles
- Tea sets, dolls, dressing up costumes
- Art sets, crafts, stationery, science sets, magic sets, books
- Sports equipment (particularly footballs)
- Lego, building sets, Play-Doh, train sets
- Cuddly toys, blankets, baby dolls
- Toiletries, jewellery, technology, board games
- Gift vouchers e.g. (One4all, Love2Shop, Amazon, Argos, supermarkets etc.)

Telephone: 020 4518 5305
Email: emilym@cathchild.org.uk
Address: 73 St Charles Sq, London, W10 6EJ
www.cathchild.org.uk
Registered charity number: 210920



LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

#DedicatedtoExcellence

STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO THE ST MARY'S

Christmas Dinner

DECEMBER 14, 2022

Prepay £3.75

Please pay via Parentpay.
Payment cannot be made on the day

Vegetarian option available

No other food is available
from the Refectory on the day,
packed lunch only.

We are hiring!



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

Click Here For Latest Vacancy Information

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

**WE ARE
HIRING!**