

LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter

Issue 16 - 13th January 2023



Working Together

Mr Neves
Executive Headteacher

The school term began last week with our Trust INSET Day. Teachers from all eight schools in the St Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust came together for a day of training, hosted by St Mary's. Highly regarded educational consultant, and former Catholic school Headteacher, Gerard Durcan, was our keynote speaker. He led sessions during the morning, focusing on leadership of the school curriculum, and the afternoon involved a dozen different workshops, led by members of staff from across the eight schools. The whole day involved teachers from different schools working together and there was a real buzz of enthusiastic activity in St Mary's school hall as the 150 participants shared ideas and experiences. Feedback after the event has been overwhelmingly positive and at the end of the day it was lovely to hear expressions of thanks and praise for the event. It was a wonderful first Trust INSET Day - I am sure, the first of many successful events to come.



The day started with a liturgy, comprising scripture readings, reflections and prayers. Within that we prayed for Pope Benedict XVI, who had died just a few days earlier. His funeral at St Peter's in Rome saw a huge gathering of the clergy, religious and the laity. This was a significant event in the life of the Church, and was thus appropriate for us to acknowledge in our Catholic school communities.

A very interesting and easy to read obituary was published online by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and can be found by following this link:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/pope-benedict-xvi-requiescat-in-pace/>

One part of this account of Benedict's life struck me as particularly relevant to us at St Mary's. It recounted his visit to the UK in 2010, during which he addressed parliamentarians in Westminster Hall, including the then Prime Minister David Cameron. In his speech Pope Benedict stated his belief that the Church and the Public Authorities can work together for the good of citizens. As a Catholic school, we are at the forefront of this aim, as we work to fulfil the particular goals of Catholic education - everything that the Department for Education promotes for a well rounded education together with the Church's desire to help the young people in our care discern the person that God has created them to be. At St Mary's this is underpinned by love and respect and aims to achieve true human flourishing, modelled on the example of Christ.

Dates for the Diary *from the Chaplaincy Team*

Monday 30th January
Year 8 Mass

Wednesday 8th February
B House Feast Day – St Josephine Bakhita

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday 23rd January 2023
KS3 Enrichment Day

Wednesday 1st February 2023
Year 9 Options Evening

*Week Commencing Monday
6th February 2023*
National Apprenticeship Week

Thursday 9th February 2023
Year 9 Parents Evening



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

National Apprenticeship Week



Apprenticeships

National Apprenticeship Week
6th to 12th February 2023

National Apprenticeship Week is fast approaching!

We are busy planning activities for all year groups to participate in to expand their knowledge on apprenticeships and how their school subjects link in with their future careers.

We are asking if any Parents / Carers or past students have completed or are in the process of completing an apprenticeship and are able to help by giving some advice in a pre-recorded video or by coming into the school.

If you would like to help please contact Mrs Knight, Careers Leader at info@stmarys.net

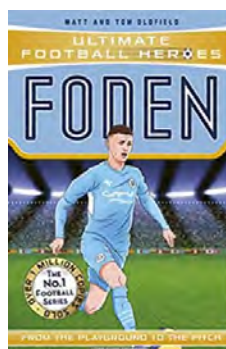
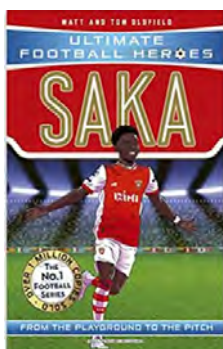
Can you help?

Matt Oldfield, Author ~ Visit to St Mary's!



Matt Oldfield is the writer of the hugely popular 'Football Heroes' series.

He will be visiting the school as part of the Enrichment Day on 23rd January, delivering workshops to Year 7 classes. Matt has visited the school before and speaks inspiringly on how to bounce back from setbacks.



If your child would like to meet Matt, please ask them to come to the Library after school on Monday 23rd January.

He will sign students' own books and will also bring some books to sell, for **£5 a copy in cash only**. **Students of all year groups are welcome to meet Matt at the end of the day.**

Science Books Review

ROYAL SOCIETY YOUNG PEOPLE'S BOOK PRIZE 2022

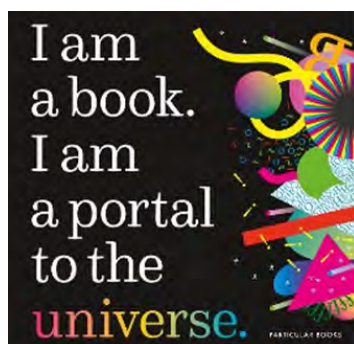
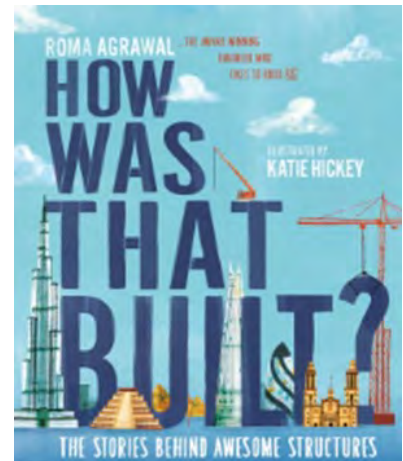
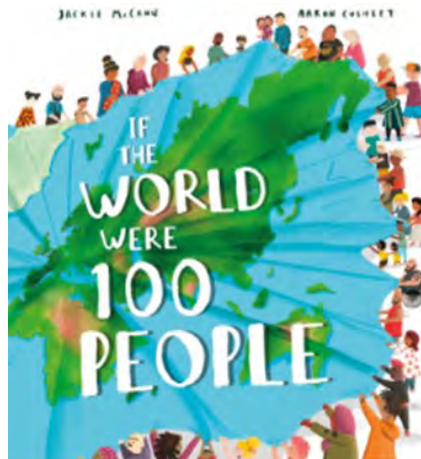
120 students in Key Stage 3 have been reviewing the books nominated for the Royal Society Young People's Book Prize.

The shortlist features a range of Science books published last year, but the prize will be awarded in March 2023.

Our students have been rating the books using criteria such as 'ease of reading', 'inspiration' and 'look and feel', during Accelerated Reader lessons. All students' votes will be counted to find the school's overall favourite.

If your child is aged 14 or below and would like to take part, please ask them to visit Mrs Frino in the Library to review the books. St Mary's vote needs to be cast by 24th January, so there is just over a week to go.

This year's shortlisted books are:



Last Year's Winner!

The book which won last year's prize (*I am a book. I am a portal to the universe.*) was also the favourite of St Mary's students.

Copies are available to borrow in the Library.



Design & Technology Department

Excellence in KS3 Design & Technology!

Key Stage 3 Design and Technology students have just completed their first rotation of study in Term one. In this first rotation, students have excelled at designing and manufacturing and have developed their practical skills. See some of our outcomes below:

Year 7 Block Head Project

A popular project takes students through basic shaping and forming with timbers where they learn about the working properties of this material area. Students also design and develop their ideas to produce a highly creative outcome.



Year 7 Eco Keyring Project

A new project where students study the impact of plastic usage on our environment and then do some recycling of their own to produce keyrings to raise awareness. Students are also introduced to computer aided design to help them design their keyrings.



Year 8 Book Stand Project

A project where students are challenged in multiple DT disciplines; they produce a fabric book rest and experiment with dyeing techniques as well as learning some new woodwork skills to manufacture a frame.

Year 8 Programmable Money Box Project

A project where students learn all about electronic systems and how to solder a printed circuit board. Students also learn how to program and input songs into an integrated circuit. Students also designed and manufactured a moneybox casing to house their circuit boards and their money!



Year 9 Angry Bird & Catapults Project

A project where students refine their textiles skills that they have developed in Year 7 and Year 8 to manufacture an Angry Bird Projectile Cushion! Students are then challenged in teams to apply their understanding on timbers and mechanisms to produce a catapult for their Angry Bird.



Year 9 Skyline Aluminium Project

A project where students study the field of architecture and work with metals to design a recognisable city skyline out of sheet aluminium. Students also work with computer-aided design programs to design and develop a storage tray for the base of their skyline.



World Town Planning Day ~ Competition



In November, to celebrate World Town Planning Day Year 10 and Year 12 Geographers designed their own sustainable settlements.

Students were able to utilise their knowledge from the Changing Cities and Changing Spaces topics to create some excellent plans incorporating energy efficiency, public transport and very importantly local communities.

The winner for Year 10 is Oseiwe, and for Year 12 Tobias, with Oliver and Gabby as very close runner ups.

This is a great link to find out more about what it is like to be a town planner
<https://www.rtpi.org.uk/become-a-planner/about-planning/what-a-town-planner-does/> .

Plastic Pollution

The government recently announced that they will bring into force a ban on single use cutlery and plates in England.



Year 9 students are already proving to be sustainable global citizens who understand the issues around single use plastic through their current topic of Ocean Plastics. Many have been awarded housepoints for remembering their reusable water bottles and thereby reducing consumption of single use plastic bottles.
Well done Year 9!

Recommended fiction reading for this topic 'Song of the Dolphin Boy' by Elizabeth Laird - write a book review and show your Geography Teacher for a SMA point!



Youth Conference ~ Flame 2023

Flame 2023 – Catholic Youth Ministry event – Saturday 4 March
If you would be interested in attending please speak with Mr Wright



flame CYMFED 2023

SATURDAY
4TH
MARCH '23

"MARY AROSE AND WENT WITH HASTE" (LK 1:39)

RISE UP

THE UK'S LARGEST CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE

GUYNAB
ARCHBISHOP
OF PERTH TIM
COSTELLOE SDB
ADENIKÉ
ONE HOPE
PROJECT
FAITH
CHILD
ROBERT
BILOTT

**OVO ARENA
WEMBLEY**

Passes on sale at cymfed.org.uk/flame
Book your group* passes now for as little as £5 per person and pay the rest later! Discounted price available until 31st October 2022. Programme subject to change. *minimum 10 people per booking

flame CYMFED

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OVG ARENA WEMBLEY



Youth Work Projects

Services for
Young People



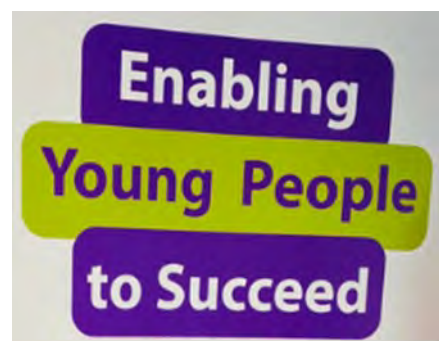
Hertfordshire County Council Services for Young People have organised projects in Bishops Stortford and surrounding areas giving young people the opportunity to meet other likeminded people, voice their opinion in a safe space, get involved in interactive workshops and learn new skills!

The projects are aimed at young people between the age of 11 and 17, and are running this January to April 2023. Full details can be found at www.servicesforyoungpeople.org and if you wish to join in, please do contact them.

Projects include:

- ♦ Sawbridgeworth Project - meeting new people and learning new skills through workshops
- ♦ M&M Project for meeting people with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities
- ♦ Bishops Stortford Young People's Project, aimed at those who want to make a difference in their community
- ♦ Bishops Stortford Positive Alternatives Project, to participate in workshops learning about identity, belonging, gangs, stereotypes and other important matters
- ♦ Migrant and Care Experiences Young Peoples Project, aimed for migrant and care experienced young people to come and learn new skills to help build confidence
- ♦ Bishops Stortford Friday Night Project, to join in with new projects, learn new skills or just relax with your friends
- ♦ Bishops Stortford LGBT+ Project, for young people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans or questioning their sexuality or gender, this enables you to meet other people in a safe space

Scan the QR Code for more info!



Christmas Gift Appeal 2022 ~ Thank You



Thank you for supporting the Catholic Children's Society Christmas Gift Appeal 2022

The Catholic Children's Society has expressed their sincere thanks to St Mary's Catholic School for the wonderful gifts donated over Christmas to help disadvantaged families.

The Catholic Children's Society received tremendous support this year and has been able to help over 1,200 children who would otherwise have gone without at Christmas.

Below are just two examples of the difference this support has made:

Supporting a family who fled domestic abuse: A mother and her three young children had fled domestic abuse with only the clothes on their backs and were staying together in one room in a hostel. The father had been the main bread winner and they relied on food banks to get by. At a time when many children were looking forward to Christmas, this mother knew she would have nothing to give her children. **Thanks to your support, we were able to ensure that all three children could open presents on Christmas day.**

Supporting a bereaved family during the cost-of-living crisis: A mother lost her husband to cancer six months ago. In addition to coping with this traumatic bereavement, she had to face the challenge of bringing up her two young children alone. With no family nearby, she was extremely isolated. Her youngest was just two years old and the cost-of-living crisis meant that their flat was often cold as they struggled with rising energy and food costs. The family faced a bleak Christmas, with no money to help make this a special occasion. **Thanks to your generosity, we were able to provide gifts and food for each child. This included toys as well as warm clothes and blankets, hot water bottles and an energy efficient/low-cost electric heater to help keep their home warm.**



Catholic Children's Society

St Mary's Catholic School

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR SUPPORTING THE CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY'S CHRISTMAS GIFT APPEAL. YOUR DONATIONS HELPED SPREAD JOY TO LOCAL DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN NEED.

Head Office: 73 St Charles Square, London, W10 6EJ. Tel. 020 8969 5305. President: Cardinal Vincent Nichols.
Vice President: Archbishop John Wilson. Chief Executive: Greg Brister.
Registered Charity No. 210920



Winter health update - January 2023

For parents/carers and education and childcare settings

From Geraldine Bruce, Head of Health Protection, Hertfordshire Public Health

As children return to schools and childcare settings, we expect to see many more cases of flu, COVID-19 and other infections that affect children's breathing (known as 'respiratory infections'). There also continue to be high numbers of scarlet fever cases, which can spread quickly, but can be easily treated with antibiotics. To help us through this term, this leaflet has five simple steps we can take to protect children, minimise the spread of illness in schools and childcare settings and protect others.

1	<p>Stay home if unwell Infections can spread quickly in schools and other childcare settings. If your child is unwell and has a fever they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better and their fever has gone.</p> <p>Adults should try to stay home when unwell and consider wearing a face covering to protect others if you do have to go out. Don't visit people in hospitals or care homes if you have a fever, a cold or symptoms of a stomach upset.</p>
2	<p>Keep hands clean It is important to help children understand that keeping hands clean can stop bugs from spreading. Help your child wash their hands regularly at home with soap and warm water. More information here.</p>
3	<p>Catch coughs and sneezes Catching coughs and sneezes in tissues then binning them is a simple way to help stop illness from spreading. Keeping rooms well ventilated will also help prevent the spread of winter illness.</p>
4	<p>Get vaccinated if you're eligible Now is a good time to check your you and your family's vaccinations are all up to date. If you are unsure your child has had all their routine vaccinations, you can check their personal health record (Red Book) or ask your GP. You can also check the childhood immunisation schedule online.</p> <p>And it's not too late to get the free NHS flu jab or nasal spray this year if anyone in your family is eligible. The NHS will be contacting parents of children who have not yet had their flu immunisation. Flu nasal spray clinics are still taking place in some schools this month, or for children aged 2-3, please contact your GP to arrange an appointment.</p>
5	<p>Be scarlet fever aware Call your GP for advice if you think your child has scarlet fever. More information about scarlet fever can be found on the NHS website. If you are concerned about a rash that your child has, advice is available here: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/rashes-babies-and-children/</p>

Further updates and resources can be found here:

www.hwehealthiertogether.nhs.uk

www.gov.uk/government/news/back-to-school-advice-issued-amid-high-levels-of-flu-covid-19-and-scarlet-fever

www.e-bug.eu

www.gov.uk/government/publications/infectious-diseases-schools-and-other-childcare-settings



LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

#DedicatedtoExcellence

Cambridge Applicants ~ Year 13 Students



Congratulations to Millie E, Year 13, who has been offered a place at Wadham College, Oxford, to read Biology.



**WADHAM
COLLEGE**
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



Our Cambridge applicants eagerly await their offers which will be sent out towards the end of the month!

How to Request Student Leave of Absence

In order to request leave of absence for your child, please complete the Leave Of Absence Form for Students which can be found here <https://www.stmarys.net/page/?title=Attendance&pid=61>

and return it to headspa@stmarys.net or by hand to the Head PA's office which is located in the Student Hub.

If you are unable to access this electronic version of the form, please ask your child to collect a hard copy from the Heads PA's office.

Once the completed form has been received, it will be passed to Mr Neves for his authorisation and you will receive notification of the outcome of the request.

We are hiring!



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

Click Here For Latest Vacancy Information

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