

# LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter

Issue 18 - 27th January 2023



## Mr Neves Executive Headteacher

Today is Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD). It is commemorated every year on 27th January - the date on which the Nazi Concentration Camp Auschwitz-Birkenau, located in Poland, was liberated in 1945. This was one of many such camps located across Europe during the Nazi regime, but this one has become synonymous with the holocaust, with its iconic entrance - a watch tower building straddling the railway line that was used to transport its prisoners crammed into cattle trucks. Six million Jews were murdered during this horrific period of history, together with many more groups of people who didn't conform to an acceptable Nazi standard in terms of their ethnic background, personal beliefs and physical abilities.

Each year there is a different theme for HMD; this year's is 'Ordinary People'. This theme highlights the fact that ordinary people were the victims of the holocaust, as were those who instigated the persecution and those who stood by and watched. As it says on the HMD website, 'In every genocide, those targeted faced limited choices but in every genocide the perpetrators have choices, ordinary people have choices.'

This week's assemblies were led by Mr Bradbury, on the theme of Holocaust Memorial Day. He presented a brief history of the holocaust, with images highlighting the scale of the persecution. Today we were very honoured to welcome a holocaust survivor to St Mary's to share his story with students in Years 11 to 13. Dr Tom Keve led a very poignant session and the students were very engaged and appreciated the significance of the visit. Last term we shared the news that two of our Sixth Form students are participating in the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' project this year. This involves an orientation seminar, a visit to the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum in Poland, a debrief seminar and a school project. Several years ago I accompanied two Sixth Form students on this project and it is something I will always remember, as informative, moving and challenging.

HMD remembers not just the horrors of Nazi Germany but also genocide that has occurred since then, in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. As always, HMD 2023 is a reminder to us all that prejudice and the language of hatred must be challenged whenever we encounter them. As Mr Bradbury explained in his assemblies, prejudice can be found closer to home, with recent reports of an increase in anti-semitism in this country. His clear message for our students was that they need to be confident to 'call out' prejudice if ever they hear it - and to remember the values that are core to our Catholic faith: love of one's neighbour, respect for each other's differences and enabling all to flourish.

### TERM DATES REMINDER

#### Spring Term

Monday-Friday 13th-17th February 2023  
HALF TERM WEEK

Students Return to School on Monday 20th February 2023

Spring Term Ends on Friday 31st March 2023

#### Summer Term

Students Return to School on Monday 17th April 2023



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Monday 30th January 2023**  
Year 8 Mass

**Wednesday 1st February 2023**  
Strike Day

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

**\*\*\*REVISED DATE**  
**Wednesday 8th February 2023**  
Year 9 Options Evening

**\*\*\*REVISED DATE**  
**Thursday 23rd February 2023**  
Year 9 Parents Evening



St Francis of Assisi  
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

## Holocaust Memorial Day Prayer



Loving God, we come to you with heavy hearts, remembering the six million Jewish souls murdered during the Holocaust.

In the horrors of that history, when so many groups were targeted because of their identity, and in genocides which followed, we recognise destructive prejudices that drive people apart.

Forgive us when we give space to fear, negativity and hatred of others, simply because they are different from us.

In the light of God, we see everyone as equally precious manifestations of the Divine, and can know the courage to face the darkness.

Through our prayers and actions, help us to stand together with those who are suffering, so that light may banish all darkness, love will prevail over hate and good will triumph over evil.

Amen

## Racial Justice Sunday



### Racial Justice Sunday

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No-one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sights of me, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven'.



### Listen (Matthew 5:13-16)

We pray for people of all races, that they will be treated justly  
Lord hear us...

We pray for those who have or are suffering because of unfairness or racial injustice.  
Lord hear us...



This year the bishops in our country said that we should ...



"Walk together, pray together and work together"



Let us pray



We pray for the leaders in our country that they will act now to bring about change for the better.  
Lord hear us...

We pray that we will follow the example of Jesus by walking, praying and working together.  
Lord hear us...

Our Father...



## KS3 Enrichment Day



Key Stage 3 Enrichment Day, Monday 23 January

**A fabulous day was had by all, with lots of engaging variety in topics, learning styles and experiences!**

We run these special days every year to ensure that no student misses out on a wide range of activities and opportunities to learn something new and to inspire them to love learning in its broadest sense.

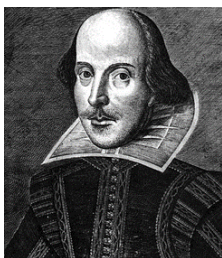


We also usually take the opportunity at this time, to fit in an extra Interhouse competition or two, and this time it was a Spelling Bee for Year 8 and a Sumdog Maths Contest for Year 7.

Last week we completed our Interhouse Chess contest, and yet to come this term are sporting events and a General Knowledge Quiz Interhouse for Years 10 and Year 12.



The photos shown give a flavour of our Science Show, DT projects, Creative Writing workshops with popular author Matt Oldfield along with activities based on Chinese New Year and Japanese culture. Students also tried Calligraphy and all of Year 9 learnt about the role of the Bank Of England as well as experiencing tasters of GCSE Drama, Business Studies and Physical Education.





## KS3 Enrichment Day

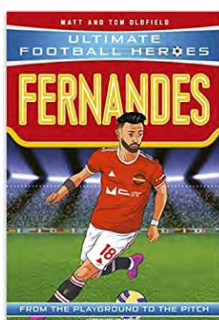


**Author Matt Oldfield, best known for the hugely successful Football Heroes books, visited St Mary's as part of the Key Stage 3 Enrichment Day.**

He spoke inspiringly about 'Bouncing Back'.

Using famous footballers as examples, he asked Year 7 students to think about how they too can recover from life's setbacks, by being resilient and dedicated.

Here are some of the stories produced by students who attended Matt's session:



*Excitement filled me. I could finally play football!  
At seven years old I had signed up for an after-school football club. I dressed up in my Everton kit, eagerly tied my football laces and ran out to the field.*

*When I arrived there were only boys. The football coach said 'Gymnastics is down there!' I responded 'No, I am at football club.'*

*He said 'Are you sure? Let me check the list.'*

*To his surprise, he found me on the list.*

*After 45 minutes the club was over.*

*My mum picked me up and then I burst into tears and told her what had happened.*

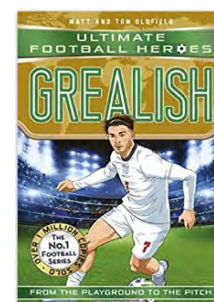
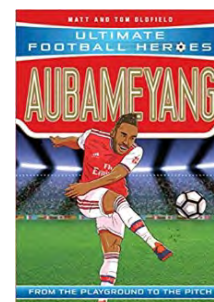
*My mum supported me and, at seven years old, I decided to stop playing and just watch the professionals play.*

*Four years passed and Everton were in the relegation battle. The crowd kept them going. I fell back in love with football and started playing for Broomfield. I scored, assisted and became captain.*

*My seven-year-old self would be so proud.*

*I never gave up.*

Ava S, Year 7



*I was around the age of eight and I was at my local basketball club.*

*I started to develop anxiety,*

*I started to get scared of what people thought about me, so I quit.*

*Three years later I re-joined my local team, still having anxiety but trying to get through it. My mum would always say 'Isaac!*

*You can get better!'*

*A couple of months later I am still training and I'm on the team, hoping to be the best post-player in basketball.*

Isaac T, Year 7

## Year 7 News...

### Dear Year 7 Parents and Year 7 Students

# Year 7

Well done on completing your first successful term at St. Mary's Catholic School. We have started the year with many amazing extra curricular events including inter-house cross country and hockey and most recently inter-house chess. I'm sure parents were very pleased to receive their child's first set of AP data results via the SIMs APP, which confirmed that students are putting in a fantastic amount of effort into their studies which we are very proud of! The top 20 students were rewarded with a Christmas cinema experience.



In December, parents and students experienced their first St. Mary's Parents Evening, and teachers were able to voice the progress that is happening in their lessons as well as setting students challenging targets to make further improvement. Parents also had the opportunity to give feedback to us on their child's experience of their first term. We were overwhelmed with the positive response that we received and a few highlights from the survey feedback is as follows:

**100%** of parents felt their child was safe at school

**99%** said their child was happy at St. Marys

**100%** of parents believe their child is doing well at our school



Thank you for continued feedback and support which we very much appreciate as a school. As a reminder, if any issues arise please email info mail addressing the email to the member of staff you would like it sent to.

Please do also visit our updated easy to use website <https://www.stmarys.net/> to find out about the **subject curriculums** which provides an overview of what your child is learning in each subject area as well as key information regarding school rules and policies.

School Curriculum



I look forward to working with both students and parents to have another successful term.

Miss Conquest  
Learning Co-ordinator Year 7



## Year 11 News...

### Year 11

#### Year 11 Parents

Year 11 students have made an extremely positive start to this academic year. In my opening assembly to the students, I encouraged them to engage with three values that will enable them to experience greatest success in the build up to their summer exams:

**Commitment** to their studies

**Clarity** of their mission

**Care** of themselves and others

**CLARITY**

**COMMITMENT**

**CARE**

Here are just a few of the wonderful examples of the values that we've observed the pupils demonstrate:

Excellent attendance to booster revision sessions;

High standards of uniform and behaviour;

Exemplary mock exam conduct;



I want to thank parents for the excellent responses we had to the recent parent survey.

Here are just a few positive standout headlines.

**100%** of parents felt their child can take part in clubs and activities at school

**94%** of parents feel that their child feels safe at this school

**92%** of parents feel their child feels safe at school and that the school has high expectations of their child.

A further point raised from the survey is parents knowing what their child learns. To help with this please can I encourage you to visit our new look, easy to use website [St Mary's Catholic School - Curriculum Content \(stmarys.net\)](http://St Mary's Catholic School - Curriculum Content (stmarys.net))

If any parent should have a concern or wish to raise something with the school, please email info mail and staff will respond within a 48 hour window.



Mr Eddleston  
Learning Co-ordinator Year 11

## Inter House Chess Competition



The Year 7, Year 9 and Year 11 competition took place on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January

Winners from each group year were

**Year 7: Lucyan**

**Year 8: Dominic K**

**Year 9: Michael**

**Year 10: Dominic S**

**Year 11: Cristiano B**

**Sixth Form: Joseph H**



Dominic K was crowned the overall champion of the lower school, while Joseph H beat Cristiano B on Wednesday to become the upper school winner.

Congratulations to all the winners and well done to everyone who took part in this year's competition, which was played with great fairness as well as amazing skill.

**Mrs Wilkin will be repeating the event next year, so keep practising!**



### Chess Club

**Why not join our Chess Club?**

Chess Club takes place on Tuesdays at 3.15pm in H10



## ICT/Computing News...

### Computer Science Department

#### Former Student delivers a computing master class!

As a department we continue to maintain links with former students who have studied A Level Computer Science at St Mary's and we celebrate their successes as they progress through their computer science careers.

Last week we had a visit from Micheal Nestor, a former pupil and one of many former St Mary's students who gone on to study Computer Science at university. Micheal is in his 2<sup>nd</sup> year Degree at Leeds University, and soon to start his internship with Bank of America.

During his visit to St Mary's last week, Micheal delivered a masterclass, to year 12 Computer Science students, on the use of "GIT" technology for version control as well as the use of Pyscript to embed python code in HTML pages. Some students have already decided to use some of these concepts in their up coming coursework projects.

The department overall has and continues to have a track record of churning out successful computer scientists and it is good to see some of them giving up their time to support our students. We have already lined up another ex-student to deliver a master class in Artificial Intelligence.



**GIT**  
VERSION CONTROL



## Year 9 ~ Revised Dates for your Diary

**Please note the revised dates for these very important Year 9 events in the coming weeks:**

**REVISED DATE: Year 9 Options Evening**

Wednesday 8th February 2023

7pm start

**REVISED DATE: Year 9 Parents Evening**

Thursday 23rd February 2023



## Young Writer's 'Power of Poetry' competition

**Congratulations to Ruby C, Year 9, who entered the Young Writer's 'Power of Poetry' competition and is a published poet!**

The competition is open to students all around the UK and encourages young people to express themselves through the poetic form by choosing a topic they are passionate about. Ruby's poem demonstrates her enthusiasm for the environment and her message about care for our common home is one we should all be reminded of.



### The Sand Falls

*The fresh smell of grass,  
Water as rippled as ancient stained glass,  
The exotic fruits would produce delightful juice,  
Scenery so unreal it's 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?*

*Familiar faces greet with friendly gestures down the street,  
One carrying fresh wheat, the other holding sweet treats,  
"Just been to the shop on the corner, have you?"  
"Oh of course!" The conversation felt like déjà vu,  
The blissful music floods the streets, the saxophone paired with the guitar,  
With no roof and rolled down windows, people pass by in washed cars,  
Newly trimmed curls and crisp shined shoes,  
The concerns for the puffs of grey in the sky were put on snooze,*

*The smell of smoke so thick it feels like its choking,  
Hear the deafening explosion, the crashing in the ocean,  
With a humungous gust of wind, the buildings crash to pieces,  
The pleasant atmosphere, the friendly shop on the corner, it all ceases,  
Grainy tears stick and cling to your lifeless cheeks,  
Boom! Followed by another. Boom! People scream and shriek,  
The harsh, toxic air will soon make all asthmatic,  
When did this joyful landscape become so chaotic, so macabre, so frantic?*

*The ash falls and falls, bit by bit,  
Obscuring the once peaceful surroundings, it's heart breaking, isn't it?  
Why didn't we just stop for a moment to comprehend  
The impacts that would lead our world to end?  
The glass shines and refracts the light,  
That is until it turns to night,  
Then it would be too late,  
To stop this quickly approaching fate,*

*The sand falls and falls, bit by bit,  
Can't we acknowledge and admit  
How our world is unique and fascinating. It's time to mend,  
before this beauty comes to an end.*



## The Duke of Edinburgh's Award



### Student Report by Georgia L

Before the Year 12 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh group embark on a three day and two night expedition in June we must practice a skill, partake in some sort of physical activity and volunteer in our free time. We must spend three months doing two of these options and six months on the other.

I have chosen to volunteer and learn a new skill for three months and spend six months playing a sport. For my skill I am learning to drive which allows me to have more freedom and gives my mum a rest from being my taxi!



For my volunteering I help every week for an hour in two KS3 PE classes. So far, they have spent their lessons doing rugby, fitness, gymnastics, and trampolining. Within my volunteering, I help set up the equipment and ensure the girls perform the exercises and skills correctly.

Finally, I play netball outside of school, so doing this for six months. I train for at least two hours a week with my club and with a Super League team called London Pulse where I am a part of the Under 19's Player Development Programme. I also play two netball games a week.



Completing our Duke of Edinburgh Award allows us to gain essential skills that will be needed when we leave St Mary's, such as resilience, communication, responsibility, and the ability to overcome challenges.

Georgia L



## Introducing some of our new staff!

### Special Educational Needs Disabilities

#### Mrs Johnston SENDCo



My name is Helen Johnston; I graduated from my PGCE in 2000 and started off my career teaching English in London. I have since worked in a few other schools in both Hertfordshire and Essex and I spent two years as a Literacy Advisor across a network of schools in the East of England.

In more recent years, I became a qualified SENDCo and joined St Mary's in this role in January 2023. I chose to specialise in SEND for a couple of reasons: as a teacher, I wanted to learn more about how I could help students with 'Special Educational Needs and Disabilities' and then to have the opportunity to directly contribute to the support these pupils receive in school.

It is a very rewarding, and sometimes complex role, but it is also a privilege to work alongside professionals, and with families and young people, in order to explore the best support available.

In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with family and friends and like to get involved in creative projects, like glass art and trying to throw the occasional bowl on a pottery wheel.

In my first year at St. Mary's I would like to get to know the students and to visit them in their classroom settings. I have already had the opportunity to see some outstanding teaching and learning and to meet a number of young people and their families.

I have been made very welcome by everyone at St Mary's and I am looking forward to getting to know the students, parents and staff over the coming weeks.





## ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL CAREERS BULLETIN



**Apprenticeships**  
National Apprenticeship Week  
6th to 12th February 2023

**GO EXPLORE**



Stansted Airport Jobs Fair has some fantastic opportunities, from apprenticeships, entry level starter positions to experienced industry experts.



Weston Homes Plc are hosting a Careers Open Day on Saturday 28th January 2023, offering a range of apprenticeship opportunities for people of all ages. Do visit them at Takeley, 9am – 1pm. For more details and to register, <https://www.weston-homes.com/careers/open-day/>

**Upcoming College Open Evenings**

HRC Tuesday 7th February 5.30 - 8pm

Haringey Sixth Form College –  
contact 020 8376 6000



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nves-NsR4ZY&list=PLVEwa7uIDT769WGUTC-10ca4d1RlPat2&index=1>

Watch the Job of Week Video here!

National Apprenticeship week is 6-12<sup>th</sup> February 2023. During this week pupils will be learning all about apprenticeships; what they are, how their subjects link with their future career choices, how to find an apprenticeship and how to apply. Pupils will have an Apprenticeship assembly, a dedicated PSHE lesson on apprenticeships and engage in form time interactive tasks.

**UCAS UCAS UCAS**

UCAS Deadline was 25<sup>th</sup> January! A large majority of the Year 13 students have applied for University and some students are already receiving offers and having interviews with their chosen universities! It is a very exciting time for our Year 13's laying the pathway for their future!

## THE NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP SHOW

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 09:30-18:00. The National Apprenticeship Show – London & South East is the perfect event for School and College leavers, as well as young adults, to discover more about Apprenticeships across the region.

Taking place at Sandown Park Racecourse in Surrey, this event welcomes visitors and Exhibitors from all London Boroughs, Surrey, Brent, Croydon, Sussex, Hertfordshire, Hampshire and Kent.



## JOB OF THE WEEK

### Actuary

Actuaries are problem solvers and strategic thinkers, who use their mathematical skills to help measure the probability and risk of future events. They use these skills to predict the financial impact of these events on a business and their clients.

Skills: Maths  
Do you need a degree? Yes  
Average Salary: £75,426

## ON DEMAND

[www.unitasterdays.com](http://www.unitasterdays.com)



Year 12/13. This website details all universities subject taster events and it even has an On Demand Webinar Library where you can explore subjects and enrich your knowledge.



Have you been thinking about what you would like to do when you leave school?

Why not log into Unifrog at home and explore the Careers Library! Have a look through all the different types of jobs available under every sector! It really is quite fascinating! You may be inspired.





## Youth Conference ~ Flame 2023



### Flame 2023 Catholic Youth Ministry event Saturday 4 March 2023

We would like to take a group of  
St Mary students to Flame 2023.

This is an amazing event where  
thousands of Young Catholics gather.

It is open to those students in Year 9 and above,  
so if you are interested or want more information  
then please speak with Mr Wright.



### Parent School Governor Election

Owing to current parent governors  
coming to the end of their fixed terms  
of appointment, we have a vacancy for  
a Parent Governor on the school's  
governing body.

If you would like to stand for election  
please complete and return the  
nomination form (*which was sent by  
email to all parents last week*) by the  
end of the school day on  
**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023.**

Your completed nomination must be  
returned to the school office or emailed  
to [headspa@stmarys.net](mailto:headspa@stmarys.net) by the end  
of the school day on  
**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023.**



## We are hiring!



St Francis of Assisi  
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

**Click Here For Latest Vacancy Information**

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