

LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter

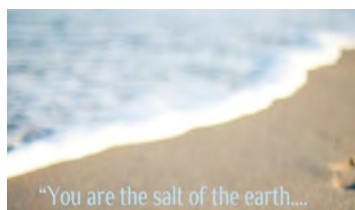
Issue 20 - 10th February 2023



Be the 'Salt of the Earth'

Mr Neves
Executive Headteacher

On Tuesday I had the pleasure of listening to eight Year 12 students demonstrating their public speaking skills. Each spoke for approximately two minutes on a topic of their choice. I also had the daunting task of assessing the speeches, using various criteria and deciding on a winner. The standard of presentations was excellent and I congratulated all eight students on their superb performances, which included engaging delivery, interesting content and great use of humour. What struck me, particularly, was the range of topics they had chosen to speak about - including the pressures experienced by young people, the amount of money involved in professional football and feminism. Our students always impress me with their interest in, and passion for, issues of social justice, and this event demonstrated an ongoing commitment to such topics. One theme was racism, and this followed last Sunday's Racial Justice Sunday. The Diocese of Westminster website signalled this special day with the following statement:



'All are included in the mission of Christ and his Church. Let us walk together, pray together and work together.'

I felt there was a natural link with the Gospel reading of the day, in which Jesus tells his followers, 'You are the salt of the earth.' This metaphor suggests a big responsibility of Christians. We know that salt is a basic item of seasoning in the kitchen - it has a way of enhancing the taste of food that might otherwise be a bit bland. In the past it was also an essential product for preserving food. We do know, however, that too much salt is not only bad for us, but it can ruin the flavour of our food. There is a fine balance at the chip shop counter between too little salt and too much! Being a follower of Christ means bringing your own 'seasoning' to life's events, which ideally means, in the right measure, adding your voice, challenging things that are unjust and actively seeking change where it is needed. An important task for us in the education of our young people is to encourage them to be alert to those who are in need - the poor, the vulnerable, the marginalised, and situations involving injustice. In addition, however, we want our students to add their voices to challenge injustice - to be active in their response. As this week's Year 12 public speakers proved, our students are certainly up to the challenge.



May we wish you and your families
a very restful and relaxing
half term break



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Students Return to School
Monday 20th February 2023

Week Commencing
Monday 20th February 2023
A Level Mocks Start

Wednesday 22nd February 2023
ASH WEDNESDAY

Thursday 23rd February 2023

National Apprenticeship Week

**National
Apprenticeship
Week**
#NAW2023

This week, Monday 6th February – Sunday 12th February is National Apprenticeship Week.

A week to spread knowledge of apprenticeships and a celebration of the positive impact that apprenticeships have on individuals, businesses and the wider community.

Students have taken part in form time activities including quizzes on apprenticeships and learning more about what they are. They have had a dedicated PSHE lesson on apprenticeships, the levels you can do and how to find them. And they have had subject specific lesson starters and most students have had an assembly aiming to expand their knowledge on apprenticeships. I hope they are now more confident with their understanding on this popular career choice.

It is an exciting time, particularly for our Year 11 and Year 13 students who may be in the process of applying for an apprenticeship when they leave school this year.



Parents and carers!

I wanted to share with you a **Parent Pack resource** to support conversation with your child about apprenticeships. Research has suggested parents and carers are not overly confident in discussing this career route with their children and we hope this resource will help you. It's available on our Website, here's the link:

<https://www.stmarys.net/attachments/download.asp?file=586&type=pdf>



Hertfordshire Schools Cross-Country Championships

On Saturday 4th February, some of our students competed in the Hertfordshire Schools Cross-Country Championships.

This annual event gives an opportunity to those students who performed well at the District Cross-Country and want to challenge themselves at the next level.

All of the students ran really well and should be proud of their efforts. A special mention goes to Maximillian who came 10th in his age category and subsequently was selected to represent Hertfordshire at the National competition.



Well Done to the following students:

Chiara L, Kai F, Maximillian S, Theodore L, and Mya M



Accelerated Reader Results

Well done and keep on reading!

Students in Key Stage 3 have read and quizzed on nearly **84 million** words since the beginning of the academic year.

Here are the top ten Accelerated Reader classes with their word count totals (on 8th February).
The numbers show total words from books which have been quizzed on with a pass.

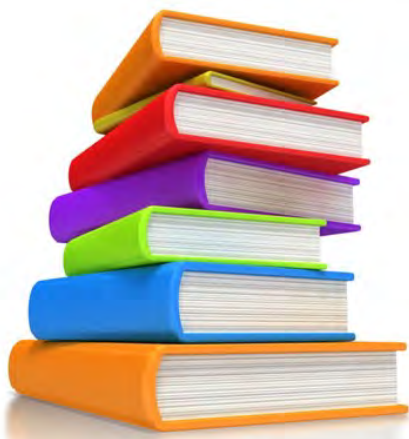
1	7D	11,087,940
2	7E	8,859,406
3	7F	6,518,103
4	7B	6,481,524
5	8G	5,927,054
6	7C	5,223,528
7	7A	5,076,079
8	8F	4,638,781
9	8B	4,746,668
10	8C	3,878,406



There are thirteen students who have already read over half a million words this year, so we're looking forward to awarding more Word Millionaire certificates and badges before Easter.

Please encourage your children to keep on reading over the half term break – house points are given for quizzes passed, and regular reading is the key.

AR Teachers



Visits to Bishop's Stortford College Literary Festival

Bishop's Stortford College kindly hosted three groups of St Mary's Students this week as part of their Literary Festival.



On Tuesday Miss Nairn's Year 7 Art group attended a 'drawalong' led by cartoonist James Parsons.



On Wednesday Miss Rose's Year 8 English group listened to a very entertaining talk by the author Ben Davis (and asked some great questions).



Thursday's event involved Mr Adams' Year 8 English class: they took part in a session with the author and screenwriter Simon James Green.





Art Department



Artist in Focus..... Michelle W, Year 13 student

Why do you study/love Art?

Tell us about your journey and who you are...

I have always had artistic and creative desires as well as being fundamentally interested in the work other people produce. I have always wanted to 'become' an artist and one day perhaps even inspire someone else.

Who inspires you?

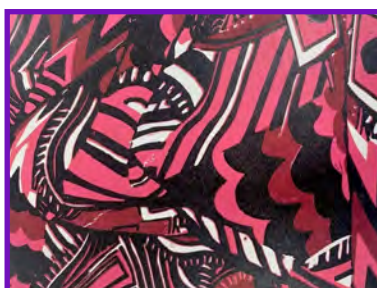
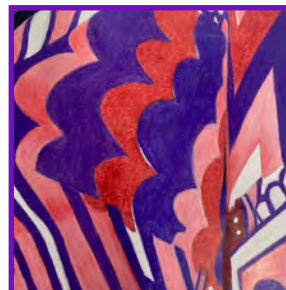
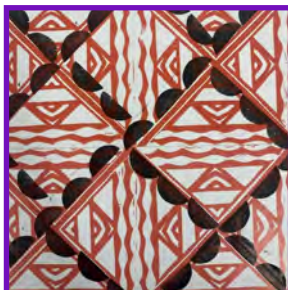
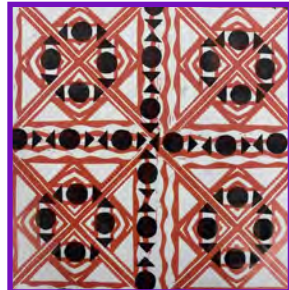
I do find the experiences I have had inspire me the most. Experiences that cannot be shared. I do gain inspiration and motivation from a myriad of talented people, this year I have been working with African wax print designs and this has formed a core to the development of my visual work.

Where do you want to go and what do you want to do when you leave St Mary's?

I want to gain a Bachelor Degree in Architectural Design at the University of Northampton.

What advice would you give aspiring artists here at St Mary's?

Put any and all your ideas on paper! Keep practising all mediums what you are most comfortable with and then run with it! Have fun.



Year 9 Science ~ Enrichment Activity

Flood Management Activity by Year 9 Students



How can we reduce flooding in a town?



A Year 9 class were challenged to create a model natural flood management system for a town. The ramp represents a hillside. The marbles represent water.

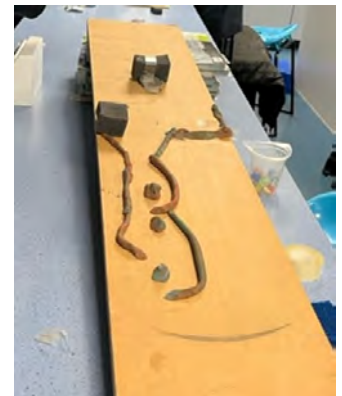
Rules

- The winning team must have
- Half of the marbles fall to the bottom whilst the other half must remain somewhere on the ramp.
- The marbles travelling to the bottom of the ramp travel down in the longest possible time (so are the slowest).



What equipment can I use:

- Modelling clay / Plasticine / Blutak
- Newspaper
- Straws
- Tin foil
- Scissors
- Sellotape
- Cocktail sticks

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award



Student Report by Kyan P

As part of my Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award I will be undertaking 6 months of doing physical activity, with my other two (volunteering and skills) activities taking 3 months respectively.



My physical activity comes in the form of weight training at my local gym, although my training is more than the one hour once a week required for the award. I'm fortunate enough to have other friends who are also going to the gym for their physical activity so I'm not alone!



My volunteering comes in the form of helping within school as a teaching assistant, though the classes I help in are for KS3 Music. My class are currently learning how to play 'Walking in the Air' from the Snowman and are progressing very quickly! Within these classes I'll usually be walking around from student to student to help them better their piece.

Last but not least, I'm attempting to polish my basketball skills, which are in dire need of improvement, I've been playing since the age of 11 but haven't been playing properly for a very long while. This should help me get back into the swing of things in no time.



Completing our Duke of Edinburgh Award really enables us with many skills and virtues we'll use in the future.



Film & Media Department



BTEC Level 3 Creative Digital Media Production and OCR A Level Film Studies are subjects that can be studied at Sixth Form.

Both courses are very popular amongst our Sixth Form as they are innovative, contemporary and 'new' topics to St.Mary's curriculum. The two pathways are designed so that students gain experience and an understanding of the professional environment if they were to go on and study at tertiary level or work in the media and film industries after Year 13.

Our current Year 13's have just submitted their coursework NEA portfolios for this year. Media and Film students had the option to create a digital Magazine or a short 4-5 minute film. Here are some examples of their finished productions.



The numbers for these creative courses are growing every year and the department is becoming more and more established. With extra funding we have been able to purchase DSLR cameras, tripods, lighting and sound equipment which has significantly benefited the students productions.



Spanish Film Afternoon



THE MFL DEPARTMENT

Spanish Film Afternoon



Film: Ferdinand

Date: Friday 24th February

Time: 3:20 – 5:15pm

Location: T11



Pizza will be offered!

We would appreciate a
£3 donation prior to the event to
help with pizza and refreshments.
Please pay this on ParentPay
before Wednesday 22nd February



If your child would like to attend the MFL Spanish Film afternoon, **please**
email Miss Gilchrist at e.gilchrist@stmarys.net to confirm your place
by Monday 20th February at the latest.

KS3 Poetry Recital Tournament Launch!



KS3 Poetry Recital Tournament

Find a poem you'd like to share and learn it off by heart, ready to recite to your forms in the week beginning 20th February!

Win hearts, win minds, win... a shiny prize in the end of term celebration assembly!

Ask your teachers for advice on choosing a poem.

TERM DATES REMINDER

Spring Term

Monday-Friday 13th-17th February 2023

HALF TERM WEEK

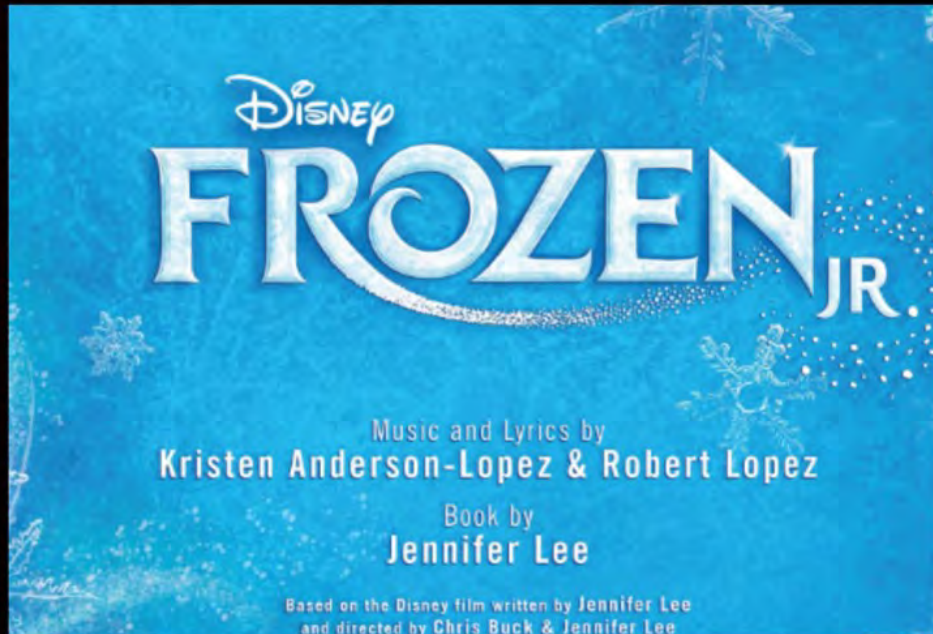
Students Return to School on Monday 20th February 2023

Spring Term Ends on Friday 31st March 2023

Summer Term

Students Return to School on Monday 17th April 2023

AUDITIONS

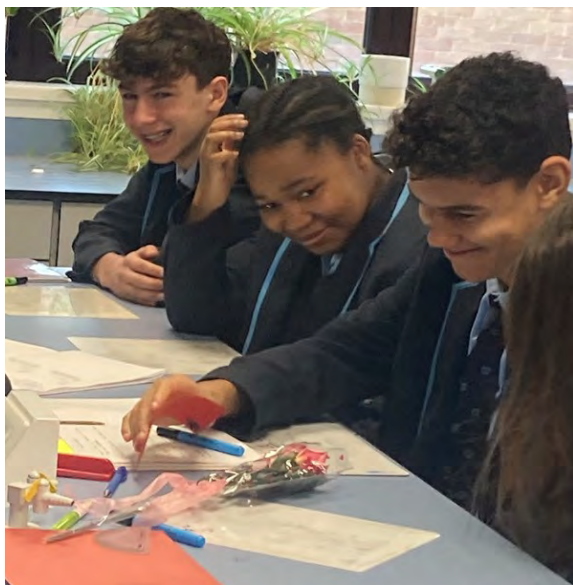


**Use the QR Code for info &
Sign up**



Roses for Charity

Our students sending roses and love for charity today!



FREE Half Term Activities

BISHOP'S STORTFORD
LARK IN THE
PARK **FREE**
No need to book

FOR 11 TO 19 YEAR OLDS
FEBRUARY HALF TERM

The sessions are fully supervised and include a varied mix of sporting activities and team games, designed for all abilities.

SWORDER'S FIELD, CM23 2AY
TUESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY, 1:30-3:30PM

If you have any questions, please contact
community.safety@eastherts.gov.uk EastHertsDC eastherts easthertscouncil

We are thankful to the following organisations who have contributed towards these activities:
Hertford Town Council, Ware Town Council, Buntingford Town Council, Bishop's Stortford Town Council, Network Homes, Sporting Inspirations CIC, Hertfordshire County Council's Services for Young People & East Herts Council.

HERTFORD
LARK IN THE
PARK **FREE**
No need to book

FOR 11 TO 19 YEAR OLDS
FEBRUARY HALF TERM

The sessions are fully supervised and include a varied mix of sporting activities and team games, designed for all abilities.

HARTHAM COMMON, HERTFORD SG14 1QR
FRIDAY 17TH FEBRUARY, 1:30-3:30PM

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FREE
No need to book
Half Term Activities
11-19 Year Olds

Sworder's Field,
Bishop's Stortford

Hartham Common,
Hertford

Buryfield Park,
Ware

WARE
LARK IN THE
PARK **FREE**
No need to book

FOR 11 TO 19 YEAR OLDS
FEBRUARY HALF TERM

The sessions are fully supervised and include a varied mix of sporting activities and team games, designed for all abilities.

BURYFIELD PARK, PARK ROAD SG12 0AG
MONDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 1:00-3:00PM
KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELDS, KING GEORGE ROAD, SG12 7DP
MONDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 3:30-5:30PM

If you have any questions, please contact
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Ideas for
Half Term



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL CAREERS BULLETIN



National Apprenticeship Week #NAW2023

Apprenticeships
National Apprenticeship Week
6th to 12th February 2023



It's National Apprenticeship Week! This week our focus is on enlightening all students how apprenticeships can help individuals to develop the skills and knowledge required for a rewarding career. Pupils will have taken part in apprenticeship themed form time activities, a PSHE lesson on apprenticeship levels and how to apply for one. In lessons, students have been spoken to about apprenticeships available in their subjects and a general careers buzz is in the air as students look to their futures. #NAW2023

Higher and Degree Listing

Explore 350+ Higher and Degree apprenticeship vacancies in the February edition of the Higher and Degree listing 2023.

Discover vacancy details from over 65 employers, including locations, salary information and direct application links.

The Higher & Degree Listing is a bi-annual publication, with the next release planned for November 2023.

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resource/higher-and-degree-listing/>

GO EXPLORE THE NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP SHOW

Wednesday 1st 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. Check out their website for more info...
<https://nationalapprenticeshipshow.org/>

"I really don't know what I want to do when I leave"

Sound familiar? Log on to Unifrog and start exploring the careers library. Do the Interests and Personality Tests to find out what careers best suit you!

unifrog



JOB OF THE WEEK

Cardiologist

Cardiologists diagnose, assess and treat patients with defects and diseases of the heart and the blood vessels, known as the cardiovascular system.

Skills: communication skills, emotional resilience, teamwork, problem solving.

Do you need a degree? Medical School or a degree followed by a 4 year post-graduate degree in medicine.

Average Salary: £88,364

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-CnvP8ITci&list=PLVFWa7uIDT769WGVTC-J0caddJ8IPat78&index=4>

Watch the Job of Week Video here!

INVESTIN

Summer Placements / Weekend Work experience for ages 12-18.

Invest IN offer teenagers the chance to test drive their dream career through a range of immersive experiences.

Their programmes enables students to gain hands-on experience alongside top industry professions, enabling them to make the right career decisions and maximise their potential.

Check out their website for opportunities:

www.investin.org

We are hiring!



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

Click Here For Latest Vacancy Information

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