

# LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter

Issue 23 - 10th March 2023



## ***'In like a lion, out like a lamb.'***

**Mr Neves**  
**Executive Headteacher**

That's the traditional folklore associated with the month of March. This description of the early part of the month was certainly evident with the reappearance of snow this week and was also experienced on Monday afternoon, when I joined the Year 11 geographers on their fieldwork in Bishop's Stortford town. The task was to build up a picture of the land use, traffic and pedestrian flows and measures of pollution over the main arterial route from the centre of town towards the east. All this was very well planned and able to be easily completed, except for the wind and the rain and the cold! However, the students were a credit to St Mary's; despite the miserable conditions they persevered, with increasingly soggy paperwork attached to their clipboards, they behaved excellently, and without complaint. At the end of the afternoon was the warm shelter of the school refectory and a chance to dry out, while they tidied up their statistical findings.



Last Sunday's Gospel reading told of an event in which Jesus took three of his disciples to the top of a mountain and in which he was transfigured: 'his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light.' Soon after, a bright cloud covered them with shadow and a voice came from within: 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' Based on this Gospel reading, theologians have often referred to 'mountain top moments' - times of joy and happiness, in which an experience of God's presence has been felt, or one could say, times when heaven has touched earth. A fellow Catholic educator I know talked about one of his mountain top moments. It was holding his first born child and experiencing for the first time the depths of a father's love. Mountain top moments will come in different forms. However, they will often involve an aspect of relationship with another person or persons: experiencing the love of a special person in one's life, meeting family members after a period of time away or celebrating a special occasion - a birthday, wedding or anniversary. For our students in school, it might mean achieving great exam grades, getting a round of applause at the conclusion of a drama or musical performance or visiting somewhere exciting on a school trip.

They don't have to be what we would describe as momentous events - just times of joy. However, our understanding in our faith tradition is that they are experiences of the power of God in our lives. Moreover, they are needed to sustain us on our journey that will undoubtedly be, more often than not, appearing ordinary and mundane. During this period of Lent, when we are encouraging our students to review their relationship with God, the message is to recognise these moments as gifts from our Father in heaven.

Hopefully, as the term continues we will approach Easter with the gentler weather of the month of March!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tuesday 14 March 2023**  
Drug Awareness Parent Workshop

**Wednesday & Thursday**  
**15 March & 16 March 2023**  
Strike Days

**Wednesday 22nd and**  
**Thursday 23 March 2023**  
Year 11 Futures Information Evenings

**Tuesday 28 March 2023**  
Spring Music Concert



St Francis of Assisi  
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

## Catenian Public Speaking Competition



On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, a group of fourteen Year 12 students were fortunate enough to attend the annual Catenian Public Speaking Competition, held at the Law Courts of the University of Hertfordshire, in Hatfield.

The competition itself drew from 12 different schools from the Province 14 area, which covers Hertfordshire and North London.

Judges included: Wing Commander Maggie Boyle, Detective Superintendent Marco Bardetti and Lucia Hodgson, a Partner at Charlesbye and former No10 adviser / speech-writer to the Prime Minister.

Our St Mary's candidate was Joseph H, who gave his speech on 'survivor's paradox and the need to prioritise community'. It was a well-researched and slickly delivered speech, showing a real zest for both academic curiosity and public speaking itself. Although he was unable to bring the title back to school this year, he performed excellently. We are all extremely proud of Joseph's efforts and the maturity he showed in what was an extremely strong field of young public speakers.



Here are some thoughts on the experience from our Sixth Formers:

### Student Report by Nyaradzo C (Y12)

*"I was able to learn public speaking techniques from the competitors and gain knowledge from the panel of judges. In addition, I got insight on what a uni campus is like and whether I'd see myself there."*

### Student Report by Irene D (Y12)

*"Visiting the faculty of law and seeing a real court gave me a real insight into a career in law and the value of public speaking as a life skill."*

### Student Report by Abigail I (Y12)

*"It was a great trip because through listening to the speeches I was educated on a range of important topics that I did not know a lot about prior to this day. We also got the chance to have a tour around the University and their facilities, which was useful because it gave me an insight into the way a university works."*

## Year 12 Trip to Cambridge

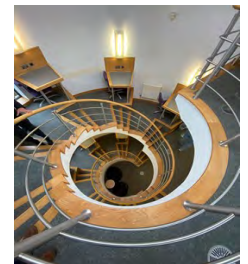


UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

**On Wednesday we took a minibus of our Year 12s to visit Cambridge University.**



We did lots of walking to get a good feel for this amazingly beautiful city, and visited less well-known colleges Fitzwilliam (where we met ex pupil Aiden Jones who is studying Psychology), and Lucy Cavendish (where one of our Year 13s has an offer to read Veterinary Medicine this autumn), as well as older colleges Magdalen College which overlooks the river and Gonville and Caius College, tucked away right in the city centre and far bigger than you would imagine from the outside. We were amazed by the beautiful libraries, one including a spiral staircase, for each college - a whole library many times bigger than our school library shared by just a couple of hundred students - along with the fact that the main university library has a copy of every book ever published in the UK!



**It was a brilliant day and students are already looking forward to visiting Oxford University next month!**

### Student Report by Kyan:



*On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March, a small group of us embarked on a trip to the University of Cambridge. We were lucky enough to tour around four of the 31 colleges within the university; Gonville and Caius College, Lucy Cavendish College, Fitzwilliam College, and Magdalene College. It was such an enriching experience that really heightened mine and my fellow students' understanding of university life at Cambridge, as well as a few bits of advice surrounding the application process.*

*Upon arriving in Cambridge, our first tour began in Gonville and Caius, which like all the colleges we saw, had stunning architecture that made us all feel as if we were in an ethereal setting (despite the horrible weather). While we weren't able to view much of the college due to time constraints, we were able to see the beautiful chapel which had an array of stained glass windows around it and made for some great photos! After a relatively brisk walk outside of the city centre, we arrived at Lucy Cavendish where we were met by the admissions advisor who kindly showed us the dining hall, library, music and spiritual area as well as a common room used by the students. There was a much more modern feel within Lucy Cavendish as opposed to Gonville and Caius, given Lucy Cavendish was established in 1965 – the second newest college in*



*Cambridge! Once our tour was over, we walked again to Fitzwilliam College, where we were met by a former Alumni of St Mary's, Aiden Jones, who is currently studying psychology. Once again, Fitzwilliam College exhibited the same modern feel as Lucy Cavendish despite being much older, we were able to view the halls of residence, as well as a huge three-storey library! Finally, we ended our day at Magdalene College, another central oriented College. similarly, to Gonville and Caius, it's chapel was just as decorative. We were able to see the dining hall too, but again our tour was limited given the time constraints.*



*Overall, I believe this trip has definitely aided me in making up my mind on where to aim for university, and Cambridge might just be one of them. I'm also so grateful to the school for taking the time to organise these tours for us, since there's only so much you can see on a virtual tour!*





## **Bishops Stortford Rotary Interschool Quiz**



**Four students represented St Mary's in the Bishops Stortford Rotary Interschool Quiz at Bishops Stortford College.**

**They did very well to come 4th and were literally pipped to the post in their semi final match.**

Questions were so diverse, there was definitely a bit of luck involved!

Millie (Year 13), Joe (Year 12), Angus and Ryan (Year 9), all did themselves proud.

**How would you have done with these questions?**

**Here are some of the questions our team got the correct answer to:**



How many noses do slugs have?

Which Beethoven Symphony is known as the Eroica?

Which King founded the Royal Greenwich Observatory?



**And some which stumped both teams!**



In which county is Swanage?

In Marketing, what do the initials BR stand for?

What is the highest recorded kangaroo jump?

How many legs does a Bombay Duck have?

Who is Huwey, Dewey and Louis' uncle?

In Cockney rhyming slang, what is a Barnaby Rudge?



## National Careers Week

#NCW2023 06-11  
MAR 23

**National Careers Week has been a huge success.**

A week dedicated to getting the young minds of our students seriously thinking about their future, their career and the pathway that they take when they leave us either in Year 11 or in Year 13.

The focus of Careers Week this year has been about Labour Market Information and we have had lots of external organisations in to talk to our students about STEM careers, entrepreneurs, employability and Apprenticeships. Our aim is that all students have thought about how labour market information can affect their career making decisions and what skills and competencies they need.

Students have taken part in form time activities in the morning focussing on Labour Market Information. All year groups have had a dedicated careers PSHE lesson focusing on researching their dream career, to looking at jobs in demand in the future and getting ready for the working world. Students will also have received lesson starters at the beginning of their lessons dedicated to careers and skills in their lesson subjects.

## The ASK Programme

**THE  
ASK  
PROGRAMME**  
APPRENTICESHIPS  
TRAINEESHIPS  
T LEVELS

During National Careers Week this week, we have had The ASK Programme in to deliver a talk to our Year 10, Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 students on Apprenticeships and how to find them.

The ASK programme is fully funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, part of the Department for Education, whose aim is to help schools and colleges across the country deliver activities on apprenticeships, traineeships and T Levels.



We look forward to welcoming ASK back to school in July to deliver a Mock Assessment Centre to our students.

For more information on ASK, see this video <https://youtu.be/CCs7O3ltZvk>

Or visit their website:

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/influencers/ask-programme-resources>

Additional Information can be found here: <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/about-ask/>

## Science Week at St Mary's

British  
Science  
Week  
2023

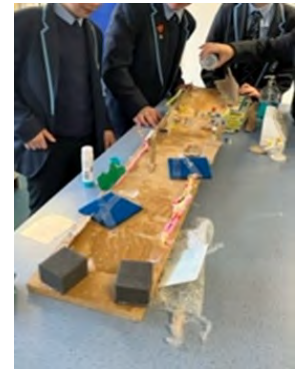


The 2023 theme is connections

**Year 7** classes were challenged to create a model natural flood management system for a town. The ramp represents a hillside. The marbles represent water.

Students excitedly created a wide range of designs to ensure that:

*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.*



If you look at the moon you will see that it is covered in Craters made by many different sized rocks hitting it at many different speeds.

**Year 8** investigated which variable – the height, type or size of the meteorite made the largest crater in the earth.

Students carefully measured the height the ball was dropped, the diameter of the resulting crater in a tray of flour and sand and analysed their results.





## Science Week at St Mary's

*Science Week, March 2023, has been a real triumph and we certainly believe that we have succeeded in imbuing our pupils with an even greater passion for the subject.*

**Year 9** looked into DNA modelling, became forensic scientists and mapped their own fingerprints.

**Year 10** enjoyed the competitive fun that came with our Chemistry Escape Room where they had to escape out of school by finding keys with codes from solving puzzles.

Winning teams were rewarded with certificates and sweets. They also went into outer space and built their own rocket balloons and hovercrafts.



The week was rounded off with a talk by our STEM ambassador, looking at careers in science and the different pathways that can be taken.



Our **Year 12** scientists were very lucky to have six external speakers from different scientific backgrounds to talk to them about their career paths.

The speakers ranged from Polymer Chemist, Biologist, Medical Editor and an IT consultant covering a wide range of STEM topics.



## **Youth Conference - Flame 2023**

**Some of our St Mary's students attended Flame 2023,  
the Catholic Youth Ministry event on Saturday 4 March.**

The students involved were:

Emily W, Isabella F, Imogen S, Cristiana D, Keannan B, Nicole C, Mya C and Makena M  
and Mrs C Wright, of course!





## Music Department News...



### GCSE Music Concert

A wonderful evening showcasing our GCSE Music class talent!



It is always a pleasure to see the talents of our pupils, and this week our GCSE Music students took centre stage in a Spring Chamber Concert of their own.

Performance is an important part of the subject, and the programme, which was a mixture of solo and duet items, certainly displayed the high ability of our musicians.



From the advanced piano playing of Arthur, Ethan, Wiktor, Janey, Marie, Skye and Jayden, to the drumming of Aston and Osahon, the guitar playing of Micah, trumpet playing of Anice and saxophone playing of Patricia, plus piano duets with Mr Chapman, Mrs Salter-Kay and Francesca W, it was a well-balanced and enjoyable event.



Well Done and Thank you students!





## National Reading Champions Quiz



**On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March a team from St Mary's took part in the National Reading Champions Quiz.**

Organised by the National Literacy Trust, the competition pits readers from different schools in their area against each other in online regional heats.

There were 23 teams in our heat, and although St Mary's didn't get through to the final this year, the students did very well, answered some tricky questions and had fun!

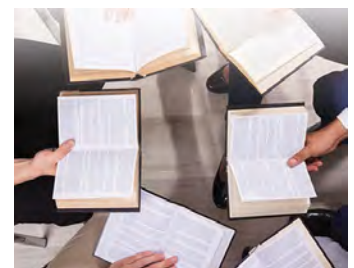
*For more information about the work of the National Literacy Trust, visit their website:  
<https://literacytrust.org.uk/>*

## Carnegie Shadowing Club



**The Carnegie Prize is awarded every year to the best children's/young adult fiction title in the UK. St Mary's will be taking part in the shadowing scheme again this year.**

Students read at least three of the eight shortlisted titles between March and the end of May. They meet together to take part in special activities, watch videos by the authors and share opinions about the books. They can also write reviews and submit opinions on a special website. All books are provided by the school. In June our group meets students taking part from different schools in Bishop's Stortford at a live event (last year this was held at Herts and Essex High School).



**Students should see Ms Rose or Mrs Frino to sign up, or come to the first meeting for more information. We will meet on Thursdays after school in the library, starting on 23rd March.**

There will also be meetings fortnightly on Wednesdays if your child can't attend on Thursdays.



*Last year's winning book was 'October, October' by Katya*





## Art Department

### Artist in Focus... Jessica M, Year 13 Student



#### Why do you study/love Art?

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

I originally chose Art as I wanted to go into Architecture however the course of sixth form has changed this. However when picking my subjects for A level I knew I was not going to give up Art. I have always loved Art and have a real passion for the subject – I love being creative and exploring different mediums and materials.

#### Who inspires you?

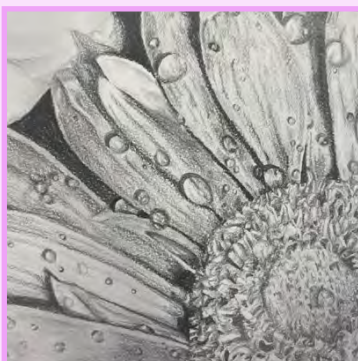
During GCSE I was always inspired by the Renaissance artists, such great names as Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo, however a huge inspiration during my A level course has been the contemporary artist CJ Hendry – ever since I first saw her realistic drawings of flowers. The Natural world is a constant and huge source of inspiration to me – I have explored flower petals in close detail for much of my A level project.

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

I am currently looking at attending the University of Edinburgh and Royal Holloway where I want to study human Geography. However I certainly won't be giving up my Art practise and hope to do this around my University studies.

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

My advice would be even though the course can get tough don't give up because sometimes inspiration can hit you and suddenly your project will just 'click' and you can really make something absolutely breath taking which is very exciting.





## KS3 Poetry Recital Tournament Final!



**Congratulations to the students who have got through to the KS3 Poetry Recital Final.**

They have now been allocated a poetry mentor (a member of staff from the school) who will be in contact with them by the end of next week and will organise a slot to help them prepare for the final in KS3 assemblies during the week commencing **20<sup>th</sup> March 2023.**

**Good luck to you all and make sure you practise as much as possible before the final!**

### The Finalists

Year 7	Dahlia A, 7M Erin S, 7J Emily N, 7A Kyra M, 7K Erin D, 7B
Year 8	Anna S, 8K Joanna E, 8G
Year 9	Ruby C, 9A Austin G, 9T Nathan W, 9J



## Year 12 Global Sustainable Development Competition



Think creatively, gain valuable research skills and learn more about global sustainable development.

**WARWICK**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

To enter the competition choose one of the following questions and a response:

### Questions



What do you think are the biggest sustainable development challenges raised by the current cost of living crisis?



The president of the UN Economic and Social Council recently said that it was imperative to put people first, if the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are to be realized by the 2030 deadline. Do you agree?



What is the main challenge to sustainable development in your local area?

### Responses

- A 1,000-1,500 word essay;
- A four-minute video or podcast essay;
- A photo or a series of photos and a 500 word (maximum) commentary; or
- An artistic exploration (for example, painting, poetry, short story, short film, etc.) and a 500 word (maximum) commentary.

Look at Warwick University's website for more information and to see last year's winners and runners up – two St Mary's students feature!

<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/schoolforcross-facultystudies/gsd/engagement/gsdcompetition/enter/>  
**Deadline Midnight Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

## Year 11 Geography Fieldwork



### Fieldwork in Bishops Stortford Town

On Monday the Year 11 geographers braved the elements to complete their urban fieldwork.

The afternoon proved to be a lot wetter than the morning but the students were still able to consolidate their learning from the class room and gain an insight into the advantages and disadvantages of different fieldwork techniques.



**Well done Year 11!**

## Lost Property Department!



### Student Lost Property!

We still have a number of winter coats unclaimed in our Lost Property Department and an almost brand new pair of girls shoes.

**Please ask your child to come to the Student Hub during their break time if you think one of these could be theirs!**





## Charity Week Hoodie



# Charity Week 27- 31 March 2023



**Have you ordered your Charity Week Hoodie yet?**

**Place your order on ParentPay by Monday 13 March**

**You can wear it instead of a blazer 😊 during Charity Week**

**All profits will go to Across and Catholic Children's Society.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



## Order by Monday 13 March



The Charity Week 2023 Hoodie options are:



Sizes available: S (36") , M (40") , L (44") , XL (48") , 2XL (52")

## ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL CAREERS BULLETIN



**Can you offer any of our Year 10 / 12 students a work experience placement?**

Do you own your own business and your insurance allows for work experience placements?

Or work in a company who allow work experience placements?

If so, please do get in touch with Mrs Knight our Careers Leader. We are looking to build up a portfolio of employers who are able to offer placements for those students who struggle to secure their own placement.

Please email [info@stmarys.net](mailto:info@stmarys.net) FAO: Careers if you are able to help.

## JOB OF THE WEEK

### Employment Manager

An employment manager oversees the recruitment and employment procedures in a company. They are typically in charge of planning the hiring processes, setting guidelines and timelines, and establishing budgets and objectives according to the company's policies and regulations.

Do I need a degree: No, although you can do a degree, undergraduate training or CIPD Training.

Average Salary: £50,626



**Thinking of an Apprenticeship with the Met Police? Join the webinar to find out more.**

Join the Metropolitan Police on Tuesday 21st March between 3.00pm - 4.00pm to find out more about the Police Constable Degree Apprenticeships.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_BpVNMZYrTnepCUDBimirw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BpVNMZYrTnepCUDBimirw) Register Here!

Amazing Apprenticeships

Register your interest

# #NCW2023

<https://thestemhub.org.uk/national-career-week/ncw-2023>

**CHECK THIS WEBSITE OUT!** As you know it is National Careers Week this week, if you follow this link it will direct you to pre-recorded videos and news articles. You can learn about Careers in Health and Social Care, Careers and Opportunities in Land Surveying, a Career as a Flight Instructor, a Careers in Software Implementing and a Career as a Mechanical Engineer.



# UCAS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vaN8Yei-4A&list=PLVFWa7MIDT769WGUTC-JQca4d8lPat2&index=6>

Watch the Job of Week Video here!

Check out the UCAS website for CAREER advice.

<https://www.ucas.com/careers-advice>





LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

#DedicatedtoExcellence

## Can you help with work experience placements?



### Can you, your business or employers offer any of our students a work experience placement?

Our Year 10 Students are busy looking for placements and contacting employers about work experience placements. But can you, your business, company or employer offer any of our students a work experience placement?



We are looking to build a portfolio of employers who can host our students for work experience. If your company insurance allows for work experience placements and are able to help, please do let Mrs Knight in Careers know.

Drop us an email at [info@stmarys.net](mailto:info@stmarys.net) FAO: Careers.

## We are hiring!



St Francis of Assisi  
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

**Click Here For Latest Vacancy Information**

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