

LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter

Issue 24 - 17th March 2023



PSHEE Focus

Mr Neves
Executive Headteacher

Firstly, may I wish all in our community with an Irish connection a very happy St Patrick's Day! Perhaps there will be further celebrations tomorrow (Saturday) with the Ireland rugby team winning the Triple Crown and Grand Slam in the Six Nations tournament? We shall see...!

The key focus of Ofsted in their current inspection framework is a school's curriculum. It underpins the judgement on the quality of education provided to its students. The National Curriculum sets out much of the knowledge and skills that schools are expected to deliver, and these include the traditional academic pursuits that have been taught for decades. However, a fully rounded education must also include elements of personal development, or as we know it, PSHEE. The 'H' stands for health education, and strives to help our students to live healthy lives, free from behaviours that might prevent these. An important aspect of this work is educating our students about certain dangers to good health. One of these that we must acknowledge is prevalent in our modern society is the use of drugs. On Tuesday this week we dedicated the day to PSHE education on the subject of drugs, for all year groups. Leading sessions throughout the day was a returning visitor to St Mary's: Paul Hannaford. He tailored his presentations to individual year groups, but at the heart of each one was the sharing of his hard-hitting personal story from his early teens to present day. It followed his journey from happy, family orientated, football-loving boy to his introduction to illegal drugs, to addiction and gang involvement and subsequent prison sentences, through to his rehabilitation and current role as an educator. He is working towards his target of speaking to a million school children, warning of the dangers of drugs, and shares his experiences with a variety of audiences: primary school children, secondary school children and adults. He told me he had recently presented to a group of doctors. There are clearly different ways to try to educate children about this subject and some might feel that Paul's approach is too harsh.

However, I believe that it will have made a big impact on our students' understanding of the consequences of getting involved with drugs and those who promote their use and supply. Thanks to those parents/carers who came to St Mary's in the evening to listen to Paul's presentation. I hope they found it equally informative. If you were not able to attend, I would encourage you to talk to your child(ren) about Paul's presentation that they attended during the day. I hope you will agree it was a worthwhile contribution to our students' broader education.



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Monday-Friday 27—31 March 2023
Charity Week

Tuesday 28 March 2023
Year 12 UCAS Discovery Day

Thursday 30 March 2023
Year 13 Futures Information Evening

Friday 31 March 2023
End of Spring Term

Drugs Awareness Education



Mr Paul Hannaford, Drug Education Guest Speaker, led Drugs Awareness PSHEE sessions in assemblies this week.

He talked about the dangers of addiction, drugs and alcohol as well as involvement in gangs, knife crime and county lines.



On Tuesday evening, Paul also provided a Parent Workshop speaking about the government safeguarding policy, and the prevention and early identification of any issues as a direct result of addiction, gang crime and substance abuse.



**STOP
KNIFE
CRIME**



Students Assembly Feedback comments:

Joseph, Year 10

The assembly was very helpful and changed my perspective of the consequences of being involved in street gangs and harmful drugs. Paul reminded me that holding a weapon is more dangerous for yourself and friends. I appreciate Paul educating us.

Terri, Year 10

Paul Hannaford's assembly was mind changing. It changed my whole perspective on crime, drugs. It makes me want to turn away from the bad path. I would want other people to see his talk and his greats. Thanks Paul.

Gabriel, Year 10

Paul Hannaford's assembly was very informative, a genuinely moving story that has taught me how and why I should stay away from drugs, crime, gangs. I am very thankful and appreciative of today's assembly.

Jacobbe, Year 10

I thought the assembly was very good. I have no doubt it could change pupils' lives and slap the youth into reality about the problems with drugs and crime.

Science Week with Careers Week



Student Report by Raul M, Biology Student, Year 12



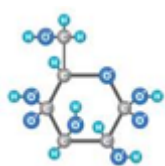
Last week, we had Careers Week, an especially important period of time for Sixth Formers as they prepare for major careers decisions. Because of this, events such as this intrinsically offer an opportunity for students to not only discover potential paths they could take to get into the industries of their choice but also new industries which they might not have known existed, with Science week. This meant that last week the school had many speakers come in to talk about their professional journey all the way from their GCSE's and A-Levels to their current profession, the talks ranging from across the different stages of drug development, polymer production as well as the role of IT in a multitude of fields. The majority of the talks revolved around Science due to the merge of Science Week with Careers Week but ones regarding apprenticeships also took place.



Dr Eileen Seward, a Medicinal Chemist, worked in drug discovery and she overviewed the difference and changes which are present between early and modern drug discovery, the impact her company (Charles River) had being involved in the majority of all drugs treating rare/orphan, oncological, neurological, blood and infectious diseases. She also explained the key skills required for her job, the different difficulties she experiences regularly having to develop drugs such as potential risks of the drug as well as those involved in the development of the drug and the key skills required for her job and the different countries she regularly visited as a part of her work.

Dr Dominic Tisi who is a Structural Biologist working with Astex spoke to us about the part he plays in designing the key molecules used to develop drugs which treat cancer. He told us about the difficulties of developing a drug which treats cancer explaining why it is so difficult to actually develop one as well as telling us the cause of cancer. He also works developing treatments for neurological diseases and explained the importance of treating these illnesses in their early stages whilst the damage caused is at its minimum.

Dr Elaine O'Prey recounted to us how her experience doing lab work allowed her to become a freelance medical writer and editor which allows her to work for herself and be more in control of what she does which provides her with a lot of freedom and flexibility. We learned of her day to day running her own company (Kestrel Consultancy Group LTD) as well as looking at actual scientific manuscripts she had worked on.



Dr David Ring, a polymer chemist who currently works as the global head of technology for Synthomer came and spoke about how setbacks do not mean the end of the road for you. He failed to get the grades required by his conditional offer at Oxford and so went to the University of Nottingham and now has a position of high seniority within a large company. His talk revolved majorly around university life working in labs, the details of him getting his PhD as well as his responsibilities within each of the many companies he worked at.

Lastly, Mr John Wright, having worked in IT roles in several different fields including BT, BBC, JP Morgan, the Home Office and the Metropolitan Police, laid out some of his most interesting jobs which included combating identity fraud in which he explained the different stages which took place in building software which could identify stolen identities and the difficulties and pressure involved.





PE Department News...

Respect for Ukraine

At 12:00pm each school day, all St Mary's PE students fall silent for a period of reflection for those affected by the war in Ukraine.

This is no exception for our PE classes too. In the midst of playing football in their PE lesson, all pupils in our Year 9 boys class demonstrated impeccable behaviour with many of the students choosing to take a knee as a demonstration of respect for those affected by the war.



Well done to all involved!



*Mr Eddleston
PE Department*

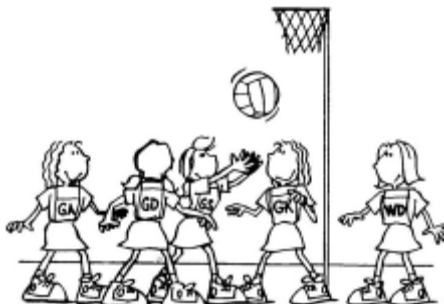


LENT†



In order to help with prayer during Lent we have introduced 'SiLent' - a two minute silence at midday, each day at school throughout Lent.

PE Department News...



District Netball Competitions

Over the last week various year groups have been taking part in the District Netball competitions held at Herts and Essex School.

We have two teams representing St Marys at each age group which is fantastic.

Each team has been a credit to the school and we look forward to the final two age group competitions.

Our Netball club has been very popular this year and we hope this continues.

Well done to our Netball teams!

Ms Massey
PE Department



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 FAO: Careers.

Charity Week 27 - 31 March 2023



Charity Week 27- 31 March 2023



Charity Week will be a true testimony of who we are and what we present.
We encourage all students to take part.

ParentPay is where to go to buy tickets for the week or individual events happening, they are selling fast and there is limited availability, so do not miss out on what proves to be a fun filled week.

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Chaplaincy News...



Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesday 22nd March from 12:30pm until 3:00pm
A letter has been sent home to all parents.
Please reply by Monday 20th March

Feast Days

Monday 20th March

St. Joseph (J House) Feast Day Service

Friday 24th March

St. Oscar Romero (R House) Feast Day Service

Carnegie Shadowing Club



NEW Carnegie Shadowing group starts next Thursday, 23rd March, 3.10-4.00pm in the library.

See Mrs Frino, Ms Rose or come along to the first meeting to find out what it's all about.

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.

We will meet on Thursdays after school in the library.

The students meet together to take part in special activities, watch videos by the authors and share opinions about the books.

The Yoto Carnegies are the UK's longest running and best-loved children's book awards, recognising outstanding reading experiences created through writing and illustration in books for children and young people.



School Library Books



Please ask your children to check carefully at home and return or renew their school library books.

Mrs Frino will be issuing **minus house points for overdue books** in the last week of term.

Please return or renew all library books by Friday 24th March.

Why not choose a book you'd love to read over the Easter break at the same time?



Art Department



Artist in Focus... Antonia S, Year 13 Student

Why do you study or love Art?

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

Art has always been an important part of my life. It allows me to be creative, express myself and show others who I am and what I love. Studying A level Art has helped my design and observational skills as well as my passion for being creative in general!

Who inspires you?

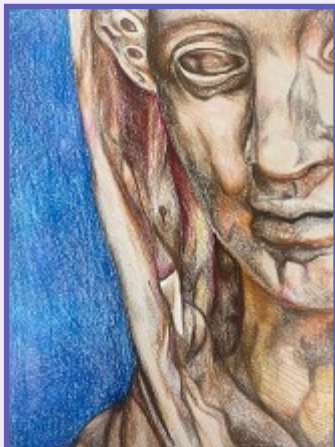
*An artist that inspires me is **Van Gogh**. Although a very popular and well-known artist, his incredible way of interpreting his surroundings and his ability to turn motionless objects into ones that seem to flow with colour is truly magical and never fails to surprise me.*

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

I would like to study Architecture after leaving St Mary's, so I will be going to University. I wish to learn how to apply my artistic skills to creating eco-friendly buildings that will help to save our planet.

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

If you have a creative talent and passion for Art, keep on using it! Being able to interpret the world around you and present your ideas through artistic form is a gift, and can help you inspire others.





ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL CAREERS BULLETIN



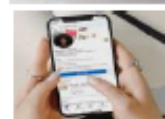
Can you offer any of our Year 10 / 12 students a work experience placement?

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 FAO: Careers if you are able to help.



JOB OF THE WEEK

Fire Fighter

Firefighters respond to fires, accidents and other incidents where there are risks to life and property. Full-time firefighters help protect the public in emergency situations. They respond to a wide variety of calls: as well as fires, they assist at car crashes, chemical spills, flooding and water rescue.

Do I need a degree: No

Average Salary: £32,244

<https://youtu.be/m5xe0pC-f0w?list=PLVEWa7uIDT769W-GUTc-10ca4dRIPatZ>

Watch the Job of Week Video here!

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_BpVNMZYrTnepC_UDBmirw Register Here!

SUMMER WORK EXPERIENCE



A few weeks back we wrote in this bulletin about Summer Work experience placements with Investin.

These are now 75% full!

Students from age 12-15 and 15-18 can take part in summer work experience placements, if their application is successful.

To maximise career potential, apply to a Summer Work Experience Placement NOW.

https://investin.org/collections/our-programmes?gclid=EA1a1QobChMj86u4o_b_QIVIMftCh2plAxiEAAAYASAAEgKES_D_BwE

Forthcoming Career Events

Year 11 Students are having a 1:1 meeting with the external Independent Careers Advisor. These usually take place on Mondays and Wednesdays. During these meetings, Year 11 students will be asked about the plans they have put in place in readiness for leaving school after their exams this summer.

Services for Young People

Year 12 UCAS Discovery Day

Year 12 Students will soon be travelling to the ExCel Centre in London visiting the UCAS Discovery Day where they will meet with hundreds of universities and apprenticeship providers to inspire and discover their future pathways.



PSHE

Students in all year groups will have PSHE lessons in Careers from finding competencies, starting your own business, maximising your potential to debating whether everyone should go to university.



Proposed Term Dates 2023 - 2024

Term Dates 2022-2023

Term Dates for Summer Term 2023

Students Return to School Monday 17th April 2023
Bank Holiday Monday 1st May 2023
HM King's Coronation Bank Holiday Monday 8th May 2023
Half Term Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June 2023
Summer Term Ends Wednesday 19th July 2023

Term Dates 2023-2024

Term Dates for Autumn 2023

Year 7 Students Return to School Monday 4th September 2023
Year 7 and Year 12 Students Return to School Tuesday 5th September 2023
All Students Return to School Wednesday 6th September 2023
INSET Day School Closed Thursday 21st September 2023
Half Term Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October 2023
INSET Days School Closed Thursday 16th & Friday 17th November 2023
Autumn Term Ends Wednesday 20th December 2023

Term Dates for Spring 2024

Students Return to School Thursday 4th January 2024
Half Term Monday 19th February to Friday 23rd February 2024
Spring Term Ends Wednesday 27th March 2024

Term Dates for Summer 2024

Students Return to School Monday 15th April 2024
Bank Holiday Monday 6th May 2024
Half Term Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May 2024
Summer Term Ends Friday 19th July 2024



LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

#DedicatedtoExcellence



Hertfordshire County Council Services for Young People

HOLIDAY ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

at Bishop's Stortford Young
People's Centre, 14 Northgate End,
Bishop's Stortford, CM23 2EU

Join us this Easter
Mon 3 April to Thurs 6 April
2-6pm each day

For young people aged 13-16

Priority booking for those eligible for
benefits-related free school meals

- Fun physical activities such as sports, dance and team games
- Creative activities such as music production, cooking, arts and crafts.
- Informal healthy lifestyles workshops
- Meet and socialise with other young people
- Free healthy food every day

Use the QR code below or contact
SfYP East Herts Team to sign up.

Area Team Manager: Mark Hughes
Youth Work Practice Manager: Russell Cairns

Tel: 01992 588220 Text: 07860 065173
sfyp.eastherts@hertfordshire.gov.uk
www.servicesforyoungpeople.org
@EastHertsTeam



Services for
Young People



LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

#DedicatedtoExcellence



Hertfordshire County Council Services for Young People

HOLIDAY ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

**at Breaks Manor Centre, Link Drive,
Hatfield AL10 8TP**

**Join us this Easter
Mon 3 April to Thurs 6 April
3-7pm each day**

For young people aged 13-16

**Priority booking for those eligible for
benefits-related free school meals**

- Fun physical activities such as sports, dance and team games
- Creative activities such as music production, cooking, arts and crafts.
- Informal healthy lifestyles workshops
- Meet and socialise with other young people
- Free healthy food every day

**Use the QR code below or contact
SfYP Welwyn Hatfield Team to sign up.**

Area Team Manager: Mark Hughes
Youth Work Practice Manager: Russell Cairns

Tel: 01992 588220 Text: 07860 065173
sfyp.welwynhatfield@hertfordshire.gov.uk
www.servicesforyoungpeople.org
@WelHatTeam



**Services for
Young People**



LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

#DedicatedtoExcellence



Hertfordshire County Council Services for Young People

HOLIDAY ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

at Herts Young Mariners Base,
231 Windmill Lane, Cheshunt
EN8 9AJ

Join us this Easter
Mon 3 April to Thurs 6 April
1-5pm each day

For young people aged 13-16

Priority booking for those eligible for
benefits-related free school meals

- Fun physical activities such as sports, dance and team games
- Creative activities such as music production, cooking, arts and crafts.
- Informal healthy lifestyles workshops
- Meet and socialise with other young people
- Free healthy food every day

Use the QR code below or contact
SfYP Broxbourne Team to sign up.

Area Team Manager: Mark Hughes
Youth Work Practice Manager: Russell Cairns

Tel: 01992 588220 Text: 07860 065173
sfyp.broxbourne@hertfordshire.gov.uk
www.servicesforyoungpeople.org
[@BroxbourneTeam](https://twitter.com/BroxbourneTeam)



Services for
Young People



The Bishop's Stortford Educational Trust School Centred Initial Teacher Training (BSET SCITT) is holding an informal information evening for anyone who is considering training to teach.

Including:

- Current teaching assistants
- Career changers
- Anyone returning to work after a career-break
- Teachers trained overseas
- Students graduating in summer 2023

With training taking place in one of our local schools here in Bishop's Stortford, completion of the course results in Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).

This is a great opportunity to come and chat informally with the team, meet some trainees, and find out more about the training programme from the Course Director.

The evening is being held on
Wednesday 22nd March 2023, 7pm - 8pm
at our training centre in
Leventhorpe School

To reserve your place, or if you have any queries please email:

ljb@leventhorpe.net

www.BSETSCITT.co.uk

In collaboration with
Teaching ☒
Search: Get Into Teaching

Useful Contacts:



SCITT Training Manager
Belinda Kistell
01279 603 161
bjk@leventhorpe.net



SCITT Team:
Emily Smith
01279 603 104
ers@leventhorpe.net



SCITT Team:
Linda Brierly
01279 603 104
ljb@leventhorpe.net