

LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter

Issue 26 - 31st March 2023



Mr Neves
Executive Headteacher

I experienced my first St Mary's Charity Week this week...and what an impressive week it was! Lots of credit must go to the Sixth Form students, who were in charge of the fund-raising activities and the main events taking place in the afternoons. I am also grateful to the teachers who participated in the events: Family Feud, Karaoke and the soak the teacher event. The atmosphere in the school hall was electric and demonstrated the wonderful rapport we have between teachers and students. Special congratulations must go to our chaplaincy co-leader, Mr Wright, who took responsibility for the whole week. As I write, the final total for the money raised has not been calculated, but it is clear that the school community has been extremely generous with its support for our charities. Thank you for your support.

Whilst driving a few days ago, I heard on the radio an advert for a well-known department store. The advert was voiced by a famous comedian and was aimed at promoting a particular range of confectionery. The way into this subject was through the opening lines of the advert. These posed the question, 'What is Easter all about?' and the answer, 'it's about spending time with family and friends and loved ones.' This really struck me; I do hope that our students will enjoy the Easter holidays in this way, with family and friends and, no doubt, many enjoying Easter eggs - but that really *isn't* what Easter is about.

In traditional fashion the term ended today with our Easter liturgies - time for all our students to remember the events of Holy Week, leading to Good Friday and Easter Sunday. The liturgies involved videos and readings and a time for individual reflection. They were accompanied by our talented musicians and the fantastic Gospel Choir. In our Catholic community it was a time to reflect on Jesus' sacrifice for us and the message of hope delivered by his resurrection. We came together in prayer and were reminded of the true purpose of the Easter celebrations.

Today was my last day at St Mary's. With Mr Johnston appointed as Headteacher, I will return to full time work at my other school, the other side of the county. It has been a great pleasure supporting St Mary's since September, and I will take lots of fond memories with me. It is a wonderful school community - the students and staff are fabulous and I am grateful to everyone for making me feel so welcome. I wish everyone in the St Mary's community a very happy and successful future.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very happy Easter.



**May we wish you and
your families a very
restful and relaxing
Easter Break**



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday 3 April—Friday 14 April 2023
Easter School Holiday
SCHOOL CLOSED



Monday 17 April 2023
Students Return to School

Wednesday 19 April 2023
Year 12 Geography Trip to Cambridge
Year 11 Drama Trip 'Of Mice & Men'

Thursday 20 April 2023
Year 8 Parents Evening



Charity Week 2023



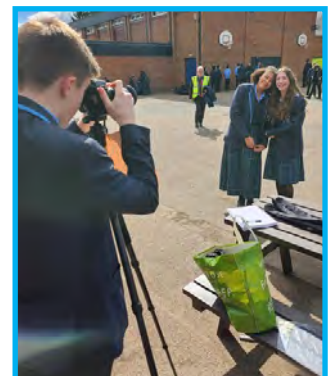
Charity Week Hoodies

Some of our students wearing the Charity Week Hoodie instead of their school blazer

Lunchtime Events



BAKE SALE



Name the Teddy Bear



Guess the Teacher Baby Photo



Charity Week 2023

Monday



Teachers vs Students



Tuesday

Teachers Karaoke



Wednesday

I'm A Teacher Get Me Out of Here



Soak the Teacher



Thursday



The IT Factor Talent Show

All monies raised will go to Across and Catholic Children's Society
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Student Reward Event



Termly Student Reward Event: Curling

Some of our students enjoyed taking part in this Termly Reward Event, and here are just a few of the **Student Reports** following the Curling Event.



Natalie R, Year 7

I really enjoyed doing the Curling as I got a chance to try out a new sport. What you are trying to do is get your stones into the 'house' and get them as close as possible to the middle. We had different colour stones depending on the team we were in. At the start we all struggled to get them far enough but as the session went on we got better and the blue team (my team) won.



Anna S, Year 8

I really enjoyed participating in the Curling event. It was very well explained and organised, so I was able to learn quite a bit about the sport, its aims and its rules. The man running it gave some great tips and warnings on certain areas which made it safe and fun, and I didn't have to worry about getting anything wrong, because it was not a lesson! We also learnt lots about how to aim the stone at the house and the scoring system, enjoying ourselves whilst messing up a little. Overall, I think it was worth missing lessons for and a perfect treat for everyone to enjoy.

Daniel B, Year 9

I thought the celebratory Curling event was quite fun and it really engages everybody. I really enjoyed it as it was very interactive and I didn't get bored at any point. I like the idea of events like these as it boosts the students. I believe that everybody enjoyed it and had a great time.

Stacey M, Year 10

Participating in Curling was very enjoyable! I had only done Curling once before in the autumn term. It's a completely new sport which taught me a lot about the importance of precision, technique and teamwork in a sport. I am very grateful for the opportunity to do Curling for an hour and the competition aspect was so thrilling. I would highly recommend you to look into Curling as a sport as I thoroughly enjoyed it alongside a selected group of my peers.



Laura S, Year 11

There was an initial excitement among the students along with some anticipation mostly to see how the sport, Curling, could be played without the traditional ice surface. Once everyone had gathered, we received a brief history of Curling originally played on frozen lakes and an introduction to the modifications which made it possible to play on other surfaces such as the Sports Hall. We all had some time to practice before we began counting scores, red against blue. Teamwork along with some unpredictable paths of the stones led to increased enthusiasm in the students with some friendly competition! After a few attempts, each one of us were already beginning to improve gaining more accuracy with each turn. It was an experience I would recommend for all to try!



Geography Study Tour to Iceland



Geography Study Tour to Iceland 25th—28th March 2023



Year 11 and Year 13 Geographers have just arrived home from a fantastic trip to Iceland. After a very early start on Saturday morning we had a relaxing afternoon in the Blue Lagoon followed by a tour and free time in Reykjavik. On Sunday the group took the Golden Circle Tour and learnt about geothermal energy at Hellisheidi Power Station before exploring Iceland's amazing physical Geography; ending the day with Mass at Christ the King Cathedral. On Monday we explored the South Shore to discover black sand beaches and a rapidly retreating glacier. We finished our tour with a trip to the local bowling alley with lots of friendly competition. Look out for a report and more photos from our Year 11 students in the next headlines after the Easter break. A special thank you to Mr Doherty, Mrs Heslop and Ms Ridler for bringing their energy and enthusiasm and making the trip possible.

Many of the Sixth Form students were due to go to Iceland in 2020 so have been looking forward to the trip for a long time, they have summarised their experiences in a single sentence in these quotes:



It's such an unforgettable experience, I'd definitely go again.

It was an adventure! The trip really helped me understand the topics we learn in class through the visual presentation of the various landscapes that we learn about.

An explosion of geographical awesomeness that overwhelms the senses.

A brilliant trip that helped me solidify my knowledge of coastal landscapes and hazardous earth.

Breathtaking views unlike anywhere I have been before.

It was an unforgettable experience filled with memories that will stay with us for years. I am so grateful to have been given the opportunity of a lifetime to visit such a captivating part of the world.

Such a memorable, once-in-a-lifetime experience, exploring one of the most unique environments in the world.

It was a once in a lifetime trip, we saw amazing views and learnt a lot about Iceland's geography and history.

Once in a lifetime trip, filled with so many unique geographical landforms and amazing memories.

Iceland is a once in a lifetime opportunity that I will never forget, I feel very grateful to have experienced this beautiful country and their natural landscapes.

Learning about Iceland's rich cultural history and seeing its natural beauty was unforgettable. It contextualises almost all of the geography as a subject, human and physical, making the experience of learning geography much more exciting as you are able to see everything happening in real time and learn about the future for Iceland.

Iceland's landscape including waterfalls, glaciers and volcanoes presented the opportunity to bring my geographical knowledge to life.



Year 9 Netball Team

On Wednesday 22nd March the Year 9 Netball Team represented St Mary's at the Hertfordshire Janice Cook - Emerging Schools Tournament.



This tournament is named after an inspirational lady who was the Chair of the Hertfordshire Netball Association. Janice fully supported participation and opportunities for all levels across school aged students.

It was lovely to be part of this tournament with other local schools. The girls were a credit to St Mary's and worked very hard all day, despite the weather trying to dampen our spirits.

We won all our games in the first pool leading us to the cup competition. We had a few tough matches but the girls worked really hard and ended up winning a further three matches.



We finished 3rd overall.
An amazing result for our first-time entering this competition.

Well Done to our Year 9 Netball Team!



Inter House Netball & Football Competitions

Year	Inter House Netball Results		
	Team A	Team B	Overall
7	1 st A 2 nd B 3 rd J 4 th K 5 th M 6 th T	1 st B 2 nd J 3 rd A 4 th T 5 th K 6 th M	1 st A 2 nd B 3 rd J 4 th K 5 th T 6 th M
8	1 st B 2 nd A 3 rd J 4 th T 5 th M 6 th K 7 th R	1 st M 2 nd J 3 rd R 4 th A 5 th B 6 th K 7 th T	1 st M 2 nd B 3 rd J 4 th A 5 th T 6 th K 7 th R
9	1 st M 2 nd A 3 rd B 4 th J 5 th T 6 th K	1 st A 2 nd B 3 rd M 4 th T 5 th J 6 th K	1 st A 2 nd M 3 rd B 4 th J 5 th T 6 th K
10	1 st K 2 nd B 3 rd J 4 th A 5 th T 6 th M	1 st K 2 nd M 3 rd J 4 th B 5 th A 6 th T	1 st K 2 nd J 3 rd B 4 th M 5 th A 6 th T

Year	Inter House Football Results		
	Team A	Team B	Overall
7	1 st A 2 nd T 3 rd B 4 th M 5 th K 6 th J	1 st K 2 nd T 3 rd M 4 th A 5 th B 6 th J	1 st T 2 nd A & M 3 rd K 4 th B 5 th J
8	1 st M 2 nd J 3 rd B 4 th K 5 th T 6 th R	1 st M 2 nd T 3 rd J 4 th B 5 th K 6 th A	1 st M 2 nd T 3 rd J 4 th B 5 th K 6 th R
9	1 st B 2 nd K 3 rd A 4 th J 5 th T 6 th M	1 st A & B 2 nd J 3 rd K 4 th M 5 th T	1 st B 2 nd A 3 rd J 4 th K 5 th M 6 th T
10	1 st T 2 nd K 3 rd A 4 th M 5 th B 6 th J	1 st T 2 nd A 3 rd J 4 th K 5 th M 6 th B	1 st T 2 nd A 3 rd K 4 th M 5 th B 6 th J



Year 12 UCAS Discovery Trip



On 28th March 2023, our Year 12 cohort travelled by train to the ExCel Centre in London for the UCAS Discovery Day.

Here, they were able to engage with over 100 universities, enquire about courses, different options and pathways, speak with the exhibition staff and take away knowledge and prospectuses of hundreds of experts all under one roof.

There was apprenticeship providers and employers in attendance, from Dyson, The Armed Forces, the RAF and The Association of Accounting Technicians.

Students were able to get the latest advice and information on different career choices.

It was lovely to see our students beaming with excitement about their futures and hearing that they had a lovely day.

"Going to the UCAS Discovery Day was a great way to see the opportunities available for us after we leave school. It definitely opened my eyes as to the grades I need to achieve for entry requirements"

Lilly S Year 12

"The UCAS Discovery Day was a brilliant opportunity to open my eyes to uni's I would not have considered or discovered for my desired subjects of Law and Music. It also helped me realise the grades I require giving me a new drive to achieve the best of my ability"

Tobias R Year 12





Talks for Year 12 Students

Talks for Year 12 by Ex St Mary's Students studying at Imperial College London and Durham University

We have been delighted to welcome back to St Mary's, ex-pupils currently at Durham or Imperial College London.



These universities are as competitive in entry as Oxford and Cambridge, with Durham offering a very similar university experience to Oxbridge, with its beautiful ancient colleges, and Imperial offering a unique and vibrant London College experience at the UK's only Science and Technology University with state of the art equipment in stylish South Kensington, surrounded by the London museums, Royal College of Music, Royal Albert Hall and Hyde Park.

Here is some of the student feedback from the Year 12s who attended the talks:

Year 12 student Evan writes:

On Wednesday 22nd March, ex-St Mary's student Joseph came in to talk to us about how he is coping with studying Maths and Statistics at Durham University and his university experience, how Durham is unusual in having the Oxford and Cambridge college system and brilliantly situated between York and Newcastle, both of which are a short train ride away. On Monday 27th March, we had two ex-St Mary's students Matthew and Lucy, who are studying Geology and Biomedical engineering, talked to us about their experiences at Imperial College London, student finances, their residences as well as the admissions process and how to make yourself stand out when you apply.



Year 13 Finance Students

FCA Talk for Sixth Form Finance Students



Last week, we were fortunate to have St Mary's past pupil Michael McGloin come into school to speak to us about his role in the FCA (Financial Conduct Authority). Michael explained his own journey which started in Medicine and Law and now he is in the role of Associate in the Listing Transactions Department.



The FCA was formed after the 2007-08 financial crisis and was formally three separate departments. The FCA has three main objectives: to secure an appropriate degree of protection for consumers, to protect and enhance the integrity of the UK financial system and to promote effective competition in the interests of consumers. This is a big part of our Finance course so we found it useful to hear about it from an actual employee.

An outline of Michael's job is accepting or rejecting companies that want to enter the mainstream market by comparing them to a list of strict criteria to help keep the Financial market safe. He spoke about the options the FCA offers for after Year 13, such as apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships which can help someone to get onto the professional ladder.

We really enjoyed the talk and thank Michael and the FCA for giving up their time for the benefit of us.

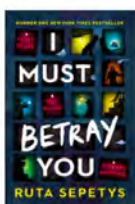
Year 13 Finance Class

Carnegie Shadowing Club



We had our first Carnegie Shadowing meeting last week, and students are avidly reading the shortlist for this year's prize. The inter-school event will be hosted by St Mary's this year in June, and it will be a fantastic opportunity to meet students from other schools in Hertfordshire, to share opinions about the books we've all read.

If your child is interested in taking part in the Shadowing Club, it's not too late. They can come to the next meeting after the Easter holidays, on Thursdays in the library after school, and begin reading one of the shortlisted titles (see below).



Some titles are recommended for readers aged 13+

This week there have also been a series of online events, organised by Scholastic UK, featuring the authors of all seven books on the shortlist. Students from St Mary's had the chance to interact with Katya Balen, author of 'The Light in Everything' on Tuesday, and ask her questions about her book. She set them a task of writing a poem inspired by the sea – and the results were very impressive!

*The sea is
A split between land,
A home for millions,
A blanket for sand.
Swarming with sea lions,
Blue whales, dolphins...
Jellyfish, octopus, sharks,
And more.*

*The sea is
An escalator for bottles,
Floating to shore.
A garden for coral,
Trimmed by a lobster's claw.*

*The sea is my home,
The place where I dropped
My ice cream cone,
The place where I learnt to swim.
The place where adventures begin...
Harriet I, Year 8*



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?

Competition for Year 12 Students

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



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

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/>

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.

**Deadline Midnight
Friday 28th April 2023**

Thank You to Sixth Form Volunteers!

A Massive Thank You to All Sixth Form Reading Volunteers!

Having shared an assembly in September about the importance of showing love within our community through action, I was very proud of the number of Year 12 students who volunteered to read with KS3 students during their Accelerated Reader lessons.

These students' efforts have been crucial in promoting and developing literacy skills amongst our KS3 students. By generously dedicating their time on a regular basis since September, the below students have made a meaningful and long lasting positive impact on their school community.



Thank you from the students you have helped and all the staff!
A small token of appreciation was given during this week's assembly.

Sixth Form Volunteers:

Oliver W
Gabriele J
Aurelia E
Nyaradzo C
William B
Irene B
Abigail I
Stephanie P
Ezekiel M

Holly M
Lilly S
Amy M
Aimee F
Isabella M
Tafadzwa M
Tobias R
Lily M
Kyan P

Winners of the Poetry Recital!

Congratulations to **Anna S (8K)** for winning the KS3 Poetry Recital Competition!

A massive well done also to **Ruby C (9A)** who was awarded Runners Up prize.

Both students have been awarded their certificates and prizes in assembly this week.



Extra Curricular Clubs

AFTER
SCHOOL
CLUB



Summer Term PE Extra-Curricular Timetable

Club	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Senior
Athletics	Monday	Monday	Monday	Monday	Monday
Cricket	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday
Rounders	Friday	Friday	Friday	Friday	Friday

All Clubs run from 3:15pm to 4:15pm

You must organise your own transport home from school after the club

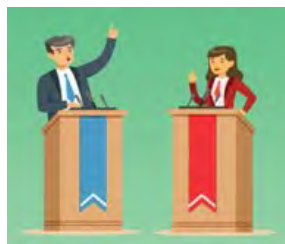


Extra Curricular Clubs Summer Term

This summer term please come along and join in our wide range of activities/clubs (please see website).

We have some new clubs on offer like Japanese Club, and athletics, rounders and cricket, as well as our ever popular Chess Club.

Regular attendance at a club will count towards your St Mary's Award. Joining a club is an excellent way to make new friends with similar interests and also take part in life outside the classroom here at St Marys.



A big well done to all the 506 pupils who received their Bronze and Silver St Mary's Award badges and certificates this term.

Year 7 Art ~ Collage Work

Miss Nairn would like to commend **7E Art** for their fantastic collage work inspired by the illustrator Eric Carle.

Students created a range of textured papers using paint, brushes and glue spatulas which when dry were then used to create intricate collaged outcomes. Students have worked really hard on a challenging and fiddly task but the effort was worth it as they look stunning.

Particular well done to the following artists whose work is showcased here:

Henry M, Isabel J, Reggie J, Selina D, Joanne O, Martha A, Romeo D, Alana M, Jessica W, Brian T





Uniform and Equipment

Uniform and Equipment for the start of the Summer Term

Uniform:

Please can we ask you to do a uniform check at home and ensure that your child has the correct school uniform for the start of the Summer term:

- * School Shoes **must be black leather**, low heels.
- * Parents are urged not to send pupils to school in fashion shoes. **Boots, trainers or canvas material footwear may not be worn in school.**
- * All items of clothing must be marked clearly with pupil's name.

Do also take a moment before the new term starts to remind your child that:

- * No jewellery may be worn apart from a plain cross and chain, wrist watch and one pair of plain gold or silver stud earrings in the earlobes.
- * Please note that no jewellery of any value is to be worn.
- * "Smart" watches are not permitted due to safeguarding issues.
- * For safety reasons, long hair should be tied back, not up.
- * Extreme hairstyles e.g. tinted or dyed hair are not acceptable. Any and every extreme haircut, as judged by the Head Teacher, specifically those with shaven sections contrasting other sections of longer, scissor cut hair are not permitted.
- * All hair accessories must be navy blue or black.
- * Make-up, fake tan and nail varnish and other noticeable appearance altering treatments e.g. eyebrow treatments, fake lashes must not be worn.
- * The use of nail extensions are not permitted due to health and safety concerns.



Equipment:

As ever, students are responsible for having their own personal equipment every lesson. This includes multiple pens, pencils, eraser, sharpener, ruler as well as all of the other specialist equipment required. It is essential that every student remembers to bring them in on a daily basis and Form Tutors will continue to do the usual daily checks of uniform and equipment.

Previous student of St Mary's?



If you or any of your children are previous students of St Mary's Catholic School, would you like to be a featured case study on our website?

We are looking for previous students to write up a small case study to feature on our website under our **new Alumni section**. We would feature where they are now in terms of their career, how they got there together and any advice they would give to our students, with a selfie. We are building an Alumni Network to have ex-students come into school to give talks and support our careers programme.

If this is of any interest to you, please get in touch with Mrs Knight, Careers Leader. info@stmarys.net



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL CAREERS BULLETIN

Let's talk... Engineering

Many students aspire to be an Engineer. But the question I ask in response is, "what type of Engineer?". Let's explore the Engineering possibilities

Chemical Engineering £29,000 - £60,000 average UK Salary
Chemical Engineers design and manufacture materials and products using scientific principles from chemistry, biology, math and physics. They can work with microorganisms, food, pharmaceuticals and fuels. Chemical engineers research and design the machines, chemicals and activities which help create stuff from raw materials.

Civil Engineering £24,000 - £80,000 average UK Salary

Civil Engineers plan and manage building projects including the intricate details of constructing transportation systems, dams, bridges, tunnels, roads, airports, water supply systems and buildings. A great deal of civil engineering uses the application of physics and maths to understand the stability of different types of structures.

Mechanical Engineering £22,000 - £55,000 average UK Salary

Mechanical engineers have the skill of designing machinery and components including technical drawings, statistics, mechatronics, and fluid mechanics. Mechanical engineers usually work with machinery and are responsible for improving existing mechanical technology and designing new machinery. Careers include manufacturing, theme park ride design and robotics.

Electrical Engineering £20,000 - £60,000 average UK Salary

Electrical Engineers work with a variety of systems, devices and components from power stations to microchips. There are several categories to work in such as; batteries, motors, power generation, telecommunications, video, audio and many more. You don't need a degree to get into electrical engineering, you can become a technician.

Other Engineering Careers:

Aerospace engineering	Agricultural engineering
Architectural engineering	Audio engineering
Automotive engineering	Biomedical engineering
Broadcast engineering	Computer engineering
Design engineering	Energy engineering
Environmental	
Food science engineering	
Geological and geophysical engineering	
Industrial Engineering	Maintenance engineering
Manufacturing engineering	
Marine engineering	Materials engineering
Mining engineering	Nanoengineering
Nuclear engineering	
Rail engineering	
Structural engineering	<i>There are still many more!</i>
Telecoms engineering	

ENGINEER
YOUR
FUTURE

WATCH NOW



HARLOW COLLEGE

OPEN EVENING

28 March 2023 5-8pm

Stansted Airport College
Part of Harlow College

OPEN EVENT

Thursday 20th April 2023 5-8pm

LONG ROAD SIXTH FORM COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE

LONG ROAD OPEN EVENINGS

4TH & 5TH JULY 2023, 5-9PM

hrc Hertford Regional College

Thursday 4th May 2023 - 17:30 to 20:00

Thursday 29th June 2023 - 17:30 to 20:00

JOB OF THE WEEK

HOTEL PORTER

Hotel Porters welcome guests, carry their luggage and answer guest's questions.

To become a hotel porter it is recommended that you have some hospital or customer service experience or qualifications.

Average Salary: £14,000 -£19,000

Watch the Job of Week Video here!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rp5ox2mDxic&list=PLVFWa7uIDT769WgUTC--lOca4dURlPatZ&index=9>



We are hiring!



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

Click Here For Latest Vacancy Information

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