

LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter

Issue 32 - 26th May 2023



Aim High!

Mr Johnston - Headteacher

It's hard to believe that we are already at the half way point of the summer term!

There is, as usual, a huge amount going on at school which is captured in part in these Headlines.

As I write, we have some students in exams, others on



study leave and the majority on lessons across the school—including PE on the field enjoying the lovely summer weather.

Mrs Wilkin and Mr J Wright are in Oxford on a University Open day with a group of our Sixth Form students, having a tour and finding out information about Balliol College, Oxford. I'm sure we'll hear all about it next half term.

What ever you are doing over half term break, stay safe and well.

God Bless.



MAY HALF TERM

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



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday-Friday 29th May-2nd June 2023
HALF TERM WEEK

School Closed

Students Return on Monday 5th June 2023

Week Commencing Monday 5th June 2023
GCSE & A Level Exams Continue ~ Week 3

Wednesday 7th June 2023
Year 7 Trip to Harry Potter Studios

Thursday 8th June—Saturday 10th June 2023
Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expedition

Important Safeguarding Information for Parents

Edibles – Sweets infused with Cannabis Oil

Dear Parents

Schools have been made aware that students and young people are being offered edibles or sweets infused with THC or Cannabis on some social media platforms. This is particularly apparent in Bishops Stortford and the local areas in the last few weeks. The sweets can be purchased very cheaply and look and are marketed like regular sweet products. You will see some photos of packets to demonstrate the concern.

As the amount of cannabis in the sweets can vary greatly and other harmful drugs may be added, the effects of consuming edibles are unpredictable and it can be easy to accidentally take a larger dose. It is known that edibles take between 1-3 hours to have an effect because food is absorbed into the bloodstream differently. Which means young people may end up consuming larger amounts of the sweets if they don't think it has worked. Thereby making overdosing with edibles a great risk!

The risks when consumed may include: elevated heart rates, increased anxiety or panic attacks, fainting, uncontrolled vomiting or hallucinations. To help protect all our young people, we ask that you monitor sweets packets or edibles that may be given to your child, you look out for unusual signs or symptoms and seek immediate medical advice if your child is in distress.

We will continue to inform, advise and guide our students through PSHEE lessons, assemblies and tutor sessions; and we trust that you will not hesitate to get in touch with us if you have questions or comments related to the above concerns.

Kindest regards

Miss D McHugh
Designated Safeguarding Lead



English Department News...

Year 9 are writing creatively in their English lessons

Victor has written an engaging story based on the photograph and like other students was hoping to create a range of tones and help the reader think about an important idea, to get ready for GSCE English Language. We hope you agree he has been successful and enjoy reading an extract from his work.



Extract from Students work... By Victor

Looking out of the dark tainted detention windows I could see all my friends enjoying their time with the bright sunshine beaming down on them. The sound of everyone laughing and talking made steam leave my eyes as I couldn't wait to leave. It was like a whole other world; my own dark circle separated from everything and everyone.

Finally the doors unlocked and I was free from the dark side; it was like I had been locked away for an eternity in a prison on a far away island. I could see the enjoyment on everyone's faces. No one was feeling melancholy, no one had a frown on their face. The sound of excitement was enough to make even the loneliest and saddest feel joyful and excited.

Later, leaving the playground the clouds turned from light to dark and sounds of cars and buses faded in. The bitter smells of all the fumes assaulted my senses. However at the corner of my eagle eyes I spotted a sweet shop all lit up ...



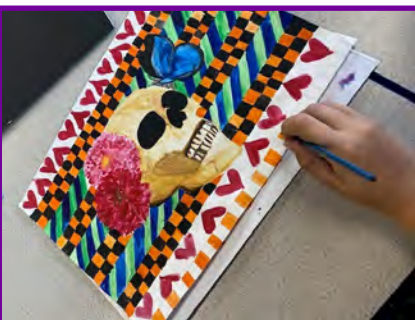
Art Department News...

Class Profile 9A Art – A Fabulous End to the Mexican Day of the Dead Project Well done Year 9!

Miss Nairn would like to congratulate 9A Art for their superb work this half term.

Classwork is breath-taking with students refining skills in readiness to take on GCSE Art next term. Our project theme this term has centred on the **Culture of Mexico**, in particular the festival of **Mexican Day of the Dead**. Students observed detailed images of skulls, floral forms and insects as well as the work of Thaneeya McArdle before embarking on a large scale A3 watercolour painting response. Student focus and the wholly positive approach to a challenging task has resulted in some fantastic painted outcomes which will be on show in C6 in due course.

Artists include: Rev, Daniel, Jimi, Ilaria, Carmen, Joshua, Michael, Valentina, Elliot, Jacob, Rebecca, Sofia, Sheyon, Hector, Oliver, Sophie, Kinga, Sofia, Michael, Codie, Brigid, Patryk, Wiktor, Ethen, Matthew, Aaron, Eden, Holly, Luca, Efua, Julia.



Art Department News...



Football in Languages!



MFL Mingalaba Day with Steve Eadon

On Thursday 19th May pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 were treated to a talk about the opportunities speaking other languages brought to Steve. He spoke about his time working at Arsenal for 11 years and the interviews he was able to conduct in different languages with numerous footballers. Staff and pupils enjoyed this with several staff and pupils staying behind at the end of the sessions to continue asking questions. Some pupils were fortunate to also participate in French and Spanish football sessions.

Student Report by Franklin, Year 8



On Thursday I played with an ex-football coach called Steve who had worked at Arsenal for 11 years. Firstly I did a few activities such as running to the correct colours. So when he shouted bleu I had to run to blue. When Steve shouted blanc you would have to run to white. After we warmed up we got into our teams and it was great or as the French would say C'était genial.

Throughout the whole session I learnt come new words such as écoutez – listen, les yeux – eyes, les genoux – knees, marchez – walk and also je voudrais – I would like.



Mingalaba

Library News...

The winner of the Jhalak Children's and YA Prize (see last week's Headlines) was announced on 25th May. It is 'When Our Worlds Collided' by Danielle Jawando.

The book tells the story of three young people who meet when they witness a crime in their local shopping centre. It is a page-turner, with great characterisation and an underlying message of hope and empathy. The book is suitable for more mature young readers, the publisher's recommendation is age 13 upwards.

It would be a great half-term read for Year 8 and above!



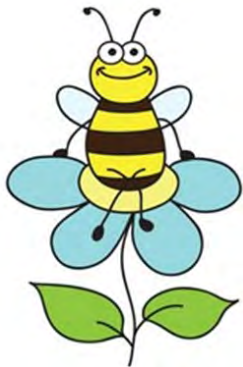
The Jhalak Children's and YA Prize was founded in 2022. It seeks to celebrate books for children, teens and young adults written by British/British resident BAME writers.

There are brand new copies of the books for young adults in the school library now. Please encourage your children to come and explore these exciting new titles.



Hay Fever Season!

Between May and July, during the traditional growing season, trees and plants create more pollen, and this, together with warmer more humid temperatures and winds, can bring about a spike in our hay fever symptoms.



Hay fever affects almost 10 million people in England, of all ages. This equates to almost one in four adults and one in ten children.

If your child has hay fever, please can you make sure they have had their antihistamine medication before coming to school. Students can bring spare medication to the Student Hub. First aid trained staff will administer non-prescription medication when a parent/ carer has provided a written letter of consent, and the medication is provided in a labelled container, with instructions for dosage. All medicines are stored safely in the Student Hub.



Free Online Safety Guide What Parents and Carers Need to Know about Influencers



Not only is an “influencer” an increasingly powerful role in the digital age, but it’s also become a desirable career goal for many young people – an enjoyable way to gain international fame and a gateway to financial success. A survey of Instagram influencers, for instance, found that those with over a million followers make an average of £12,000 (around \$15,000) per month.

Much of this wealth, of course, is unlocked by entering into partnerships with various brands – which then raises all manner of questions about some influencers’ authenticity.

Is their praise for certain products genuine, or simply because they’ve been paid for their endorsement? This week’s #WakeUpWednesday guide peels back the filters for a closer look at influencers.

Download your guide

School Uniform Donations

Do you have any school uniform that no longer fits and is in good condition?



If you have any 'pre-loved' school uniform, we would really appreciate it being donated to the school so that we can recycle and reuse it. We particularly need larger sizes (Year 10 and Year 11), but all donations are welcome.

School Uniform Donations should be given to the Student Hub.

Student Lost Property ~ Visit the Student Hub

We have various items of student property in our Lost Property Department

Please encourage your child to visit the Student Hub during break or lunch time to reclaim anything which they may have lost in school!





ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL CAREERS BULLETIN



Careers Guidance Appointments

Some of our Careers Guidance Appointments will now move to Teams meetings / Telephone calls for our Year 11 students who are on study leave. Our Independent Careers Advisor is in school most Mondays and some Wednesdays until the end of Summer Term. Whilst the year 11 students are undergoing their GCSE'S we are beginning to book appointments with our Year 10 Students. Appointments with Year 10 Students are to get them thinking about their options for what they would like to do at the end of Year 11.



THE ASK PROGRAMME
APPRENTICESHIPS
TRAINEESHIPS
T LEVELS

WANT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT APPRENTICESHIPS?

The ASK Programme are running a webinar that Parents and Carers can join in on called **Pathways to Apprenticeships**. The Webinar is on Tuesday 6th June 2023 at 3.30pm and is aimed at helping students get ready to apply for apprenticeships and learning about the different pathways to apprenticeships. If you would like to join this webinar, please go to the following link:
www.amazingapprenticeships.com/workshops-webinars/ to register.



Calling all Year 12 Students not on D of E award!

The University of Hertfordshire have a Taster Day on Thursday 8th June at their Campus in Hatfield, Hertfordshire. Last year we took our Year 12's on this taster day as a trip for them to experience what a day in University is really like. Students got to roam around campus and join in lectures of their choice. If you are not on the Duke of Edinburgh Expedition, I recommend going. Ensure you fill out the University Visit form that I sent out by email last week and ensure everything is signed off by Miss McHugh Head of Sixth Form.

OPEN EVENINGS



LONG ROAD SIXTH FORM
COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGE

**LONG ROAD
OPEN EVENINGS**
4TH & 5TH JULY 2023, 5-9PM



**Hertford
Regional
College**

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

**FASHION
RETAIL
ACADEMY**

Undergraduate and Level 4 Open
Evening – Wednesday 21st June
2023. Level 2 & Level 3 Open Day
– Saturday 24th June 2023



JOB OF THE WEEK

Neurologist

Neurologists diagnose, treat and manage patients with diseases, disorders or problems linked to their brains. Neurologists work in Emergency situations and ongoing treatments with patients.

Average Salary: £40,000 – 75,000

Do you need a Degree? Yes. To become a Neurologist, you would first need a Medical Degree which will take a minimum of 5 years. You would then complete 2 years of foundation training in UK hospitals.

To become fully qualified to the highest level, this would take a minimum of an additional 7 years



As we finish our first half of the summer term, and close the month of May, we bring our prayers, blessings and thanksgiving to our Mother Mary, Patron of our school.



*Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,
Our life, our sweetness and our hope.
To you do we cry,
Poor banished children of Eve.
To you do we send up our sighs,
Mourning and weeping in this valley of tears
Turn then, most gracious advocate,
Your eyes of mercy toward us,
And after this exile
Show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb,
Jesus.
O clement, O loving,
O sweet Virgin Mary.*

Wishing you all a restful and relaxing half term break.

God Bless.

We are hiring!



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

Click Here For Latest Vacancy Information

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