

LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter

Issue 35 - 23rd June 2023



Summer Blessings

Mr Johnston - Headteacher

It was wonderful to open the Trust primary school Netball and Football tournament yesterday in the blazing sun on the school field. It was a high-energy affair, supported by teachers, Headteachers, school staff, parents and families. In my opening prayer I reflected on the St. Mary's Catholic School values of 'Love, Respect, Flourish', encouraging the children to be respectful of their team and opposition, and that whatever the final scores we are all winners in God's love. There are some results and pictures further into this edition of the Headlines.

I was fortunate to be able to attend the feedback and award ceremony of the Bishop's Stortford Rotary Club Young Chef of the Year Competition last night. Schools from across BSET were there, including Hockerill, Birchwood, Herts & Essex and others all competing in teams to produce the very best menu for judging by a team of Rotarians and professional chefs. I'm really proud to announce that 'Team St. Mary's' came out on top, winning the senior competition with a very accomplished menu and team approach, and one of our students winning the overall title of 'Young Chef of the Year 2023'. Well done to all those involved, and thank you to the DT Department teachers for organising our students for this event—pictures and full details will be in the Headlines next week (watch this space!).

The next few weeks leading up to the summer holidays promise to be some of the busiest of the school year. Formal exams are almost over, with some A Levels remaining and then we will have the Year 11 and Year 13 Proms, work experience for Year 10 and Year 12, end of year exams for all year groups, Sports Day, Year 6-7 Transition events, Year 12 Induction, Catholic Retreats continuing, trips to The Globe Theatre and so much more besides. It really is great to reflect on the quality of the experience that the students are having this term—developing their wider curriculum whilst remaining focused on academic progress.

Behind the scenes, Mr Palmer and others are planning ahead for 2023-4 by pulling together the new timetable and classes for September. This is a big task and requires a lot of coordination. In the coming week or so, he will release the Year 9-10 options allocations and other curriculum details.

You will have seen my letter of yesterday which sets out our approach for the impending strike days on the 5th and 7th July. I wanted to give as much notice as I could on hearing the announcement of these days, as we are asking Year 8 to stay at home (Teams learning) on the Wednesday and Year 9 on the Friday. In this way, we can limit the impact on the students and ensure that events that week can run almost as normal. Thank you for your understanding on this.

Next week, the prayer intention is for refugees.

Lord Jesus, help us by your grace, to banish fear from our hearts, to welcome migrants and refugees with joy and generosity, while responding to their many needs. Amen



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 27th June 2023

Class 7M & Class 7J Form Retreat

Wednesday 28th June 2023

Year 11 Prom

Thursday 29th June 2023

Class 8T Form Retreat

Friday 30th June 2023

Sports Day

Friday 30th June 2023

Year 13 Prom

Monday/Tuesday 3rd/4th July 2023

Sixth Form Induction Days

Tuesday 4th July 2023

Class 8A & Class 8B Form Retreat

Summer Retreat Programme

This week has been the start of our summer retreat programme for our Year 7 students. After some torrential rain on the first morning we still managed to have a fun, thought-provoking and spiritual day.

The retreats are based at Windhill Churches' Centre, which is a fantastic space, and during our time together students were able to attend mass at St. Joseph's, where we celebrated the feast of St. Alban, a Roman soldier who protected and hid a Catholic priest who was being persecuted, and then receive the Holy Eucharist. Fortuitously, Fr Peter's homily was a very useful segue into the theme of the retreat that was about "Young people demanding and standing up for change". During the retreat we identified numerous injustices in our world and then spoke about why and how we should campaign to support these causes, we were also able to utilise St Alban as an example of someone standing up for what is right. At lunchtime, the weather had improved and so each form was able to have their shared lunch outside. It was fantastic to see how all students looked after each other. In the afternoon we then spoke about Pope Francis' "Laudato si" – his letter to every person on our Earth, to call for change and protection of our common home - Earth. Students watched a video and we had time to discuss the key questions and information raised throughout, this led on to some very challenging questions about what we may need to sacrifice in order to live more simply and sustainably.

Please do speak to your son/daughter about the retreat and "Laudato si", and hopefully as a family you may be guided by the Holy Spirit to decide on what changes/sacrifices you may be able to make to live more simply, in order to care for our Common Home.

I look forward to all the other upcoming retreats in the coming weeks, and if any parents are free/available to attend/join us for Mass at 9:30am on any of the other dates, then it would be lovely to see you there.



God Bless

Mr Wright, Lead Chaplaincy



Future Retreat Dates:

27 June – 7M, 7J

29 June – 8T

4 July – 8A, 8B

6 July – 8R, 8K

7 July – 8M, 8J

PE Department News...

Catholic Primary School Netball and Football Tournament 2023

Thank you for all the schools that attended and took part in a fantastic tournament.



Football A Team

Runners Up – St. Joseph's Hertford
Winners - St. Augustine's

Football B Team

Runners Up – St. Augustine's
Winners - St. Joseph's Bishops Stortford



Netball A Team

Runners Up – St. Joseph's Waltham Cross
Winners - St. Augustine's

Netball B Team

Runners Up – St. Joseph's Bishops Stortford
Winners - St. Augustine's



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

The yoto Carnegies

The yoto
Carnegies

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.

Winners announced!



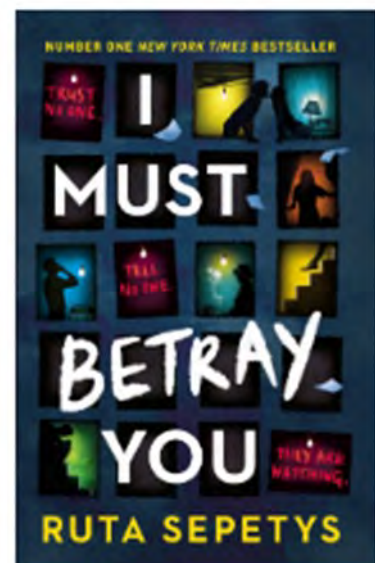
The winner of this year's Carnegie Prize was announced on Wednesday 21st June. The prize is awarded by a panel of Librarians to the best book written for young adults, and this year they chose 'The Blue Book of Nebo' by Manon Steffan Ros. It's a unique story (translated from the original Welsh) about a mother and son who are living alone after a mysterious disaster has hit their home town.

Recommended for readers in Year 8 and above, because of some more mature content, it is a story that will stay with you long after you read it.

The Shadower's Choice award is voted for by the students in schools across the country who have read the Carnegie Prize shortlist. This year's winner was 'I Must Betray You' by Ruta Sepetys. Our Shadowing group at St Mary's chose it too. It's a gripping story, based on real events in Romania in the 1980s.



All the shortlisted books are available to borrow from the library.



Geography Department News...

Global Sustainable Development SMCS Competition Winner
Congratulations!

Excellent work, well done!



St Mary's Catholic School Geography Department

Warwick University hold a Global Sustainable Development Competition each year.

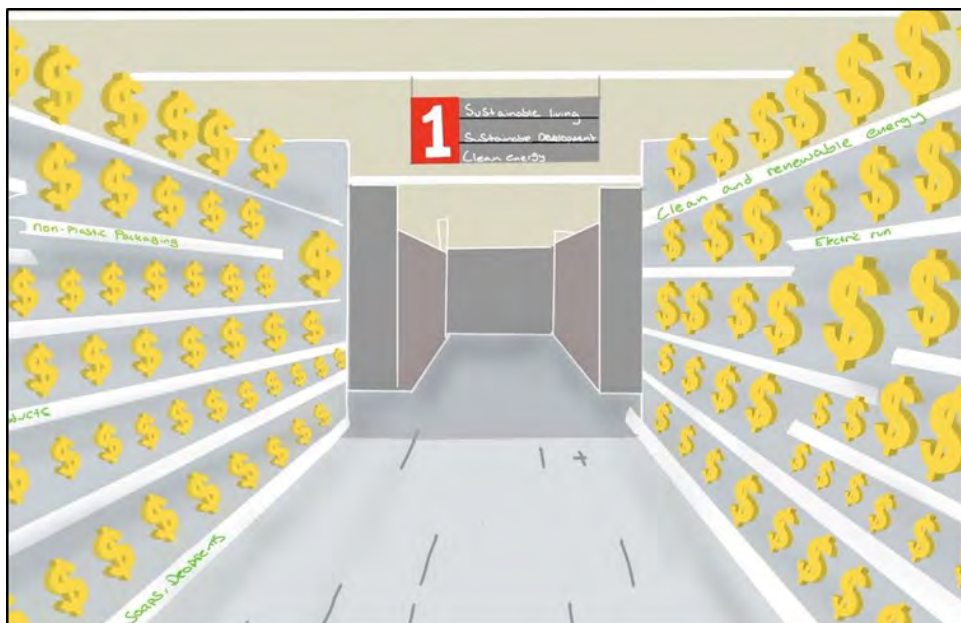
This year students were tasked with creating either an essay, podcast, photo or artistic exploration to answer one of three questions posed about sustainable development.

We held an internal competition of which the standard from all the students was amazing; resulting in three winners. **Gabrielle had a winning entry with her digital artwork**, which explores the idea that sustainable products are often

too expensive for ordinary people and that we need the support of the government to be able to make sustainable choices for the products we buy more easily. **Oliver and Tobias were also winners for their collaborative essay**, which demonstrated thorough research of the Sustainable Development Goals and links to contemporary Geography.

There were also highly commended entries from Corey with his detailed essay discussing the challenges faced by people in different locations and great ideas for overcoming these challenges. There were also some great collaborations to produce podcasts. Well done to Lorenzo and Clinton for their excellent collaboration with great local knowledge about sustainability. Also to Ben and Harrison with well-presented and carefully chosen images and good analysis of geographical concepts. Amber and Gene also made a great collaboration, with thorough local knowledge of sustainability and thoughtful discussion of opinions.

Well done Year 12, the Geography Department is very impressed with all of your entries and wait with anticipation to see how you did in the Warwick University competition. Good luck!

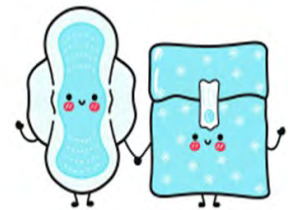


Penny Box Scheme at St Mary's



Period Poverty is a worldwide issue and affects millions of women and girls who struggle to afford or access safe menstrual protection.

In the UK, it is estimated that currently over 137,000 children across the UK have missed school days due to period poverty.



According to various studies, teenage girls need help:

- * 25% of girls have had to make do without period products during their period.
- * 1 in 9 girls have missed school or college because they could not afford period products.
- * 36% of girls said there is a lack of education over matters such as periods and contraception. In fact, 17% say that a lack of education is the biggest barrier facing young girls at school today.
- * 59% of students make up a lie or alternative excuse to miss school such as faking colds or headache.
- * 28% of young women (aged 16-24) who have had a period in the last 12 months report having avoided or missed school, college or university in the last year because of their periods.

*Do you need
sanitary
items?*

Ask to see Miss Penny or come to the Student Hub and ask for the Penny Box.



Here at St Mary's we have introduced our new 'Penny Box' scheme.

Students can come to the Student Hub and get period products if they need them without embarrassment.

"Ask to see Miss Penny" or ask for the "Penny Box".

The 'Penny Box' scheme provides access to products (tampons and pads) if, for example, pupils cannot afford period products or have forgotten to bring them to school.

Nobody should be held back because of their period.



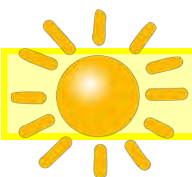
Year 11 and Year 13

Unwanted revision guides / school laptop return



Now that your exams are over, if you have a school laptop it is time to return it please as we have younger students in need of a device. Thank you to those of you who have already returned these.

Any revision guides, flash cards, etc, that were provided by school or that you don't need any longer and any unwanted maths sets and calculators that you are willing to donate will be very welcome as there are students who will be very grateful to use these next year!



Summer Term ~ Hot Weather

- ◇ Students to bring in a water bottle and ensure they stay hydrated during the warm weather
- ◇ Students to stay in the shaded areas/Refectory at break and lunch time to ensure they are cool
- ◇ Students to leave their school jumper at home
- ◇ Students to wear sunscreen and a hat
- ◇ Students with hay fever are to ensure they take preventative measures due to the high pollen levels expected



We are hiring!



St Francis of Assisi
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Click Here For Latest Vacancy Information

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



Confirmations 2023-2024



Catholic Church of Mary, Mother of God

192 Nags Head Road, Ponders End Enfield, Middlesex EN3 7AR

Telephone 020 8804 2149

Mobile 07937 539907

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2023-2024

For Students in the Parish of the Catholic Church of Mary, Mother of God.

For anyone in Year 9 or Year 10, and any academic year above that—applications for preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation can now be registered for the Confirmation Programme due to begin in September.

The Parish of the Catholic Church of Mary, Mother of God, in Ponders End, Enfield, will be having a **registration and parents meeting on Friday 7th July at 6.00pm** in the Parish Hall.

It is important that you attend this meeting with the young person who is to be Confirmed. Please bring the young person's Baptismal and Holy Communion certificates, and the registration fee which is £40.00. At the meeting, you will need to complete a registration form, and you will be given more information about the programme. Afterwards, there will be Evening Mass at 7.30pm.

