

LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter

Issue 38 - 14th July 2023



Transition Week

Mr Johnston - Headteacher

This week we have had the induction events for Year 6-7. It's been a real joy to meet the new students and parents and to share my excitement and plans for the new school year ahead.

In my talk to new parents, I outlined the 'St. Mary's 7-year journey' the children are about to embark upon or, for those joining us from one of the St. Francis of Assisi Trust primary schools (over one third of the 186 joining in September) it is the natural continuation of their 14-year 'all-through' journey from Reception to Year 13!

At St. Mary's we aim to develop each student to become true 'St. Mary's scholars' formed by Gospel values to become responsible, compassionate and caring members of society, whilst fulfilling their potential in all aspects of the curriculum. Integral to all of this is to enable

all students to develop their own special relationship with God to understand the place He has for each of us in the world, and the influence—for the good—that each student can have on those around them.

These are important reminders for all of us at the time of new beginnings and transition, so I have slightly adapted the prayer that I read last night at the induction evening and which the year 6 students read alongside me. I am hoping that all students, with their families, will take a moment to read this together over the coming weeks and reflect on their St. Mary's journey so far, and the year ahead.

This is the last newsletter this academic year. I will write an 'End of Year Update' letter to be sent on Wednesday as we close for the summer break. God Bless.

Lord Jesus,

I ask for Your help as I continue my journey at St Mary's Catholic School.

Allow me to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before me.

Open my eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that next year brings.

Open my heart and mind to new friends and new teachers.

Give me a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with my studies and courage to accept new opportunities.

Help me to be attentive to my teachers and let me experience Your presence in my new friends.

Jesus, inspire me to do my best at St Mary's Catholic School!

AMEN

Last Day of Term

Wednesday 19th July 2023

Please note: Pupils will depart from the school site from 12:50pm.



September 2023						
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday 17th July 2023

Year 7 Trip to Jump City

Year 8 Trip to Colchester Zoo

Year 9 Trip to Mud Challenge

Year 10 Trip to Bowling

Tuesday 18th July 2023

Class 9M & 9A Form Retreat

Wednesday 19th July 2023

End of School Term Presentations

End of Summer Term 1pm School Finish

Monday 4th September 2023

Year 7 and Year 12 Pupils Return to School

Tuesday 5th September 2023

All Pupils Return to School



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

Term Dates

September 2023—July 2024



Autumn Term:

Friday 1st September 2023—Wednesday 20th December 2023

Pupils Absent (Inset Day)	Friday 1st September
Pupils Return (Year 7 and Year 12)	Monday 4th September
All Pupils in School	Tuesday 5th September
Pupils Late Start (10am)	Thursday 28th September
Pupils Absent HALF TERM	Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October
Pupils Return to School	Monday 30th October
Pupils Absent (Inset Days)	Thursday 16th and Friday 17th November

Spring Term:

Wednesday 3rd January 2024—Thursday 28th March 2024

Pupils Absent (Inset Day)	Wednesday 3rd January
Pupils Return to School	Thursday 4th January
Pupils Absent HALF TERM	Monday 19th February to Friday 23rd February
Pupils Return to School	Monday 26th February

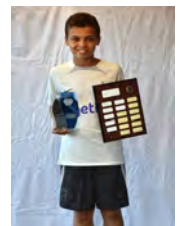
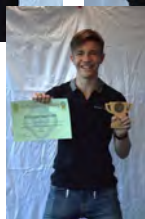
Summer Term:

Monday 15th April 2024—Friday 19th July 2024

Pupils Return to School	Monday 15th April
Bank Holiday	Monday 6th May
Pupils Absent HALF TERM	Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May
Pupils Return to School	Monday 3rd June

St Mary's PE Presentation Evening Friday 7th July

On Friday 7th July we celebrated the great sporting success we have seen this academic year. The evening was attended by over 350 students and parents. Students were recognised for their sporting ability and commitment to extra-curricular clubs this year. Well done to all of the winners and nominees.



Year 12 Enrichment Week



Year 12 Enrichment Week

Y12 Trip to St Mary's University Twickenham



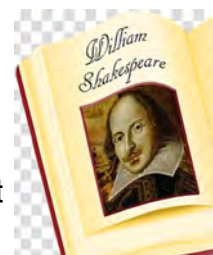
Year 7 Globe Theatre Trip



Last Wednesday, we got to participate in a trip to the Globe Theatre!

When we first arrived, it was much bigger than I thought. We were split into groups, and those were who we were with for the majority of the trip.

Our tour guide took us outside the actual globe and we discussed some interesting facts about Shakespeare. We talked about how people would have travelled to the globe, how much it would've cost and more.



Then we went inside the globe and had a tour of it. The stage had so many amazing features such as two trap doors!



After this, we went into a studio to do some acting exercises and games. It was really fun and such a cool experience.

I really enjoyed it, it was so interesting!

Grace J, Year 7 Student



What's going on in DT?

Year 10 GCSE Design Technology: Product Design

This half term Year 10 product designers have finalised preparations for their Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) with a prototyping project focused on developing design skills for different clients and users.

This project challenged them to remove themselves from considering their own product requirements and to step into the lives of a user with a neurodevelopment disorder, learning disability or physical difficulty.

Through a range of research strategies students discovered previously unconsidered limitations associated with performing everyday actions e.g. eating or controlling electronic devices that influenced their designs while giving them a deeper appreciation of the difficulties some users face when negotiating everyday tasks.



Using the practical skills developed through previous projects students were tasked with realising their designs to create a high-quality prototype out of foam and card that would allow for high quality testing and future development.

The originality of the designs was excellent with many students creating completely new features to assist with the challenges discovered through research.



These included new way of picking up a dropped device for people with limited dexterity, a hands-free solution to eating if you are blind, a multi directional device for teeth cleaning specifically for the elderly and an adjustable modular approach to operating a television for someone with leaning difficulties.

Mr. T. Webb



Year 6 Induction Day

We welcomed 186 new students to our St. Mary's family on Thursday, when they joined us for their Induction Day.

The day began with a welcome from Mr Johnston and Ms Conquest (Year 7 Learning Coordinator), who reminded our new students of our values of Love, Respect and Flourish. The students had time to experience taster lessons such as creative writing in English, and a rainbow fizz experiment in Science. The day ended with hymn practice and a Liturgy reflecting on how we must use our talents to be the very best we can be. The Year 6 students were exemplary, and we look forward to seeing them in their new St Mary's uniform in September.



Year 6 Summer Award Challenge



ST MARY'S AWARD Year 6 Summer Award 2023

Name:

Form class:

Challenge	Details	Dates
READING CHALLENGE (at least 2 books)		
SPORT or FITNESS		
KINDNESS AND FRIENDSHIP		
PRAYER AND SPIRITUAL LIFE		
CHARITY Money donation or donation to charity shop)		
LEARN A NEW SKILL		
PLAN & COOK A MEAL		
PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION (pics of yourself completing your award!)		

To win a badge, you must complete at least 5 of the 8 challenges

Hand your sheets in/email them to Mrs Wilkin c.wilkin@stmarys.net first week back in September.

Year 7 Singing Festival

On Tuesday 11th July, a Singing Festival for all Year 7 pupils was held in the school Hall.



Having prepared a repertoire of songs from Musical Theatre amongst others during lesson time, the festival was all about the classes coming together as one full year group choir; rehearsing and then giving a combined performance. The songs included Hallelujah, Tomorrow, The Bare Necessities, The Wellerman, Any Dream Will Do, and a Disney medley of Part of Your World, A Whole New World and Beauty and the Beast.

Pupils very much raised to the occasion and it was a pleasure to hear and see the whole year group acting as one and singing with so much energy! Thank you should go to all Year 7 pupils, particularly those who took on solo roles, and Mrs Salter-Kay and Mr Chapman for running and leading the event.

Library News...



Just some of the new books acquired with donations from our Y11 and Y13 Leavers.

All the books are linked to the History, Geography or Science curriculum.

Thank you!

PE Department News...



On Thursday 6th July the girls represented the school in the Nicky Morris Athletics Competition at Wodson Park.

We had some great performances all round and all the girls were a credit to the school.



We came 5th overall out of 10 schools.

Year 7 - 4th

Year 8 & Year 9 - 3rd

Year 10 & Senior - 5th

The following girls achieved the new record for their age group in the 4x100m Relay – 55.5s.

Samantha O, Erin S, Alisha K and Oliwia N.

Our Year 10 & Senior Team also ran a fantastic 4x100m relay - 54.75s. This relay was so close, there was only 1/2 second between 1st and 4th place!



Overall, a brilliant end to the athletic season.



Athletics Success!



Bruce Longden Athletics Success!

This week our students competed in the Bruce Longden Athletics Challenge held at Wodson Park, Ware. The students competed in the top division against schools such as Richard Hale, Simon Balle and Chauncy, but to name a few. Our best male athletes from across the school were invited to compete in the following age groups: junior, intermediate and senior boys.

As the photo of the team demonstrates, there was lots of individual successes with many students winning their respective event/s.

A special mention must go to Pascal (Y9) and Max (Y10) who achieved a championship reckon in the 100m and 1500m respectively.

Congratulations to all involved.

Mr Eddleston



Accelerated Reader Totals

Well done KS3 readers!

The final Accelerated Reader word count for this year has taken place and Key Stage Three students have read and quizzed on an amazing
140,806,226 words

These are the top English/AR classes from each year group (numbers from 11th July), winners of the St Mary's Reading Challenge Cup. The figures show total words from books which have been quizzed on with a pass. Winning classes will receive some sweet treats in their last English/AR lessons.

Year 7 winners: 7D 18,203,228

Year 8 winners: 8G 10,445,248

Year 9 winners: 9B 4,797,927



Ms McHugh will be presenting Word Millionaire Certificates at the awards assembly next week.

Well done everyone for beating last year's word total record by two million words!

All students should keep up their reading habit over the summer break. Please encourage your child to take part in the **Summer Reading Challenge**. They can collect a form from their English / AR teacher or from the library and receive five house points for reading two books over the holidays.



This year we are challenging all students to read two books over the summer break, for a chance to win five house points in September. The reading challenge was launched in assemblies last week and details are available from English teachers, AR teachers and the librarian.

Students read two books of their choice, they write a short review of each, and (for Year 7 and Year 8) do the book quiz on Accelerated Reader in September.

For KS3 students we have prepared a list of recommended titles, with the books listed according to their AR colours, but children do not have to choose from these suggestions. The important thing is for them to keep reading over the summer holiday, not just to maintain skill levels, but for their mental health and wellbeing.

Any books borrowed now from the library are due for return on 5th September, so please encourage your children to choose two books they will love to read over the break.



A Prayer for the End of the Year



*At the end of this school year we
give thanks to God:
for all the teaching and learning
that has taken place in our school,
both in and out of the classroom,
for the talents and gifts that have
been shared and the challenges that
have been faced;*

*For the burdens that have been
lifted and the hurts that have been healed;
for the respect and care that has been given.*

*We give thanks for the friendships
that have just begun and for those
that have grown.*

*For the faith that has been lived in
our daily struggles,
for the hope that has lifted our
hearts on the dark days
and for the love that has kept us going.*

*We give thanks for the community
that we are, and we ask you Lord -
Bless our students as they sit their exams:*

*May your Spirit inspire them
with confidence and calmness
Bless our families as we take our
holidays, may our time together
leave us with memories to cherish.
Pour out your love on us that we
may return renewed and refreshed
to continue our journey together.*

*We make this prayer through
Christ our Lord
Amen*



*May we wish you and your families a restful
and relaxing summer break—term ends Wednesday 19th July*



Autumn Term: September 2023

Pupils Return (Year 7 and Year 12 Only): Monday 4th September

All Pupils Return: Tuesday 5th September

We are hiring!



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

Click Here For Latest Vacancy Information

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