

LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter

Issue 1 - 8th September 2023



Welcome Back!

Mr Johnston - Headteacher

After a long summer break, it's great to see the students back in school. The weather has been hot, but with blazers left at home and relaxing the rules on ties, we have all got through a hot week on site, and can look forward to a late summer's weekend—delaying autumn for just a little longer.

This week in assemblies, I have been reminding the students of our Catholic values of Love, Respect and Flourish—especially how they can demonstrate these in their daily lives at school but showing kindness, being calm, forgiving easily and caring for the school and those around them.

I have also introduced the students to the new 3-Year School Development Plan, as I did with the

staff last Friday at our INSET day.

I commend this plan to you, as it has been developed over the summer term in consultation with all staff, parents (thank you if you replied with valuable comments), SLT and governors. Everyone has a part to play in developing our school and this is the framework I will use, and return to often in communications and as things get underway this term and into the future. The 10 themes are listed below, and there is a lot more detail behind each one to make each point actionable and make a change for the good.

Thank you for all your support and have a lovely weekend with your family.

Tom Johnston, Headteacher

School Development Plan 2023-6		OBJECTIVES	
1	Develop Catholic Life of the School	6	Racial Justice, Equality and Diversity
2	Challenge in lessons	7	School buildings and place to learn
3	To enhance our Sixth Form 7 year journey.	8	Environment and climate change
4	Leadership – Taking the Lead	9	Clear and transparent ' Rewards and Consequences ' system
5	Enrichment and personal development opportunities	10	' Wellbeing ' - resilient, happy and supportive culture

Date for the Diary
OPEN EVENING
St Mary's Catholic School
Wednesday 27th September
Open Evening is for Year 7 entry in
September 2024.

Speeches at 6pm, 7pm and 8pm
 The Eventbrite link to book tickets for the open evening.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/open-evening-2023-tickets-713044123167?aff=oddtcreator>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday/Friday 21st & 22nd September 2023
 School Photos by Pret a Portrait

Tuesday 26th September 2023
 Year 13 Geography Fieldwork,, Hatfield Forest

Wednesday 27th September 2023
 School Opening Evening

Thursday 28th September 2023
 Late Start for Students
School Starts at 10.00am



St Francis of Assisi
 CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

A Level Results Day 2023!

Year 13 students at St Mary's Catholic School achieved excellent results, which saw them able to take up offers from top universities, apprenticeships and employment. Despite the national context and the challenges they faced during Covid they have truly shown what they are capable of and stepped up to the task of their very first public examinations; demonstrating a resilience and achievements that will bolster confidence as they step into their next adventures.



The Oxbridge Set!



Nathan I (L) gained A*A*A*A* and is off to Cambridge University to study Engineering.

Emily E (R) achieved A*A*B and will read Biology at the University of Oxford.



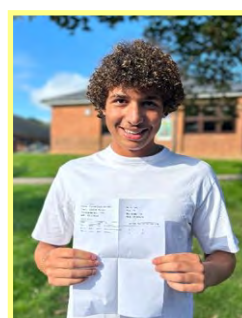
Mr Johnston, Headteacher, commented *"This is an important milestone for these students, their families and the whole school community as we continue to move on from the effects of the pandemic. In doing so, we reveal that the foundations of St. Mary's Catholic School remain strong and steadfast. Our students continue to flourish, achieving academic excellence whilst at the same time developing into caring, compassionate and responsible members of society. I would like to thank wholeheartedly the teaching and associate staff who have worked tirelessly with both their classes and individual students. Thank you also to all of our parents for your positive support for the school over the last seven years"*



Edward L achieved A*A*A and will study Economics at the University of Bath.



Nina S achieved A*AAA and is hopeful of her place at the University of Ljubljana to study Veterinary Medicine.



Leonardo M achieved AAA and will study Physics at the University of Edinburgh.

The results have given the students the key to their next steps, and we celebrate them all, but strong academic outcomes are only a part of our ambitions for the students at St. Mary's Catholic School.

A Level Results Day 2023!

Miss McHugh, Deputy Headteacher who has also been leading the St. Mary's Sixth Form, said: *"St Mary's is a family community, and we base our approach firmly in Catholic values so that students leave us after Year 13 with excellent results but also with a social conscience, a moral compass and as well-rounded individuals. It is all of these aspects in collaboration that will enable each student to flourish and be resilient as they face an ever changing world. I am so proud of each individual and although they leave the school today, they will always be in our hearts and part of the St. Mary's Catholic School family"*



Aliyah S achieved AAA and will study Chemistry at the University of Leeds.



Antonia S achieved A*AB and will study Architecture at the University of Nottingham.



Shemirah A achieved AAA and will study Management at Loughborough University.



Georgia R achieved A*A*A* and will study at the University of East Anglia



Isabella N achieved A*AA and will study at the University of Nottingham



Robert W achieved AAA and will study at the University of York



Mary G achieved A*ABC and will study at Durham University



Jennifer H achieved A*AB and will study at King's College London, University of London



Benjamin F achieved A*AB and will study at the University of Sheffield



Kieran H achieved AAB and will study at the University of Nottingham

Other higher education destinations include (to name a few!)

Loughborough University, University of Warwick, University of Sheffield, Durham University, King's College London, University of Bath, University of Nottingham, University of Leeds, UCL (University College London) and the University of York.

Results Day 2023 ~ High Fliers!

Twin success!



Twin success celebrating starting their A Levels, with 20 top grades at GCSE between them!



Vivian and Laura with 10 Grade 9's and 9 grade 8's between them!!!!

Sixth Form BBQ



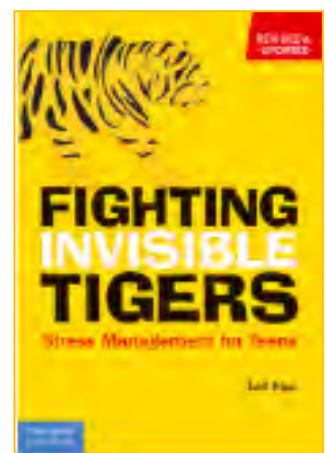
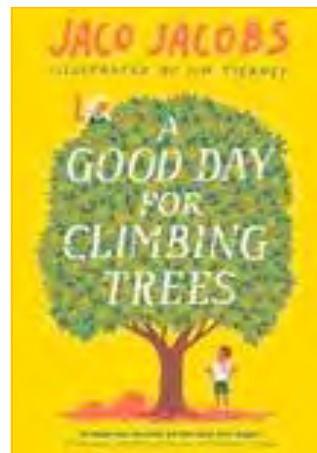
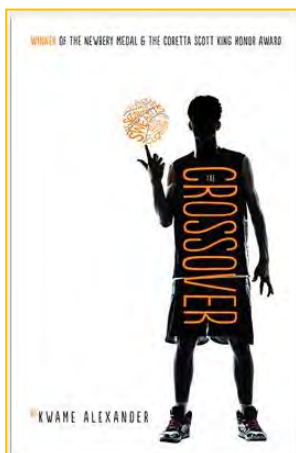
Get (back) in the Reading Habit!

The message to our students, across English and Accelerated Reader lessons, at the start of a new term is to **get reading**.

Please encourage your child to read for 35 minutes each day, especially if they have got out of the habit over the summer break. Students should choose something they really enjoy to read – this might be fiction or non-fiction, a magazine or a graphic novel. Regular reading for pleasure increases students' performance across all subjects, and it's also great for their wellbeing during the busy start of term.

All students are expected to have a reading book in their bag every day.

Remind your child that they can visit the library (H4) to choose a book, especially if they feel like trying a new genre or author. Mrs Frino (librarian) and our student librarians are always on hand to help with choosing.



Books on display on the library desk for the first two weeks of term are all about returning to or starting school, fitting in and finding friends and interests.

Accelerated Reader teachers will also be relaunching reading incentives specifically for KS3 over the next fortnight. These include house points for every book quiz passed, the Reading Challenge Cup and certificates. They all aim to reward regular reading, regardless of the length of the book, and to make sure students continually improve their reading skills.

Check the Headlines for updates throughout the year from Miss Keane, literacy co-ordinator.

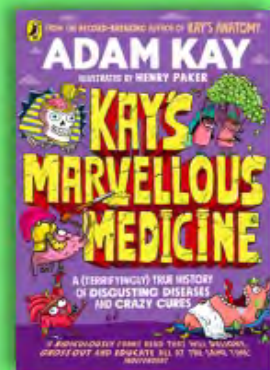
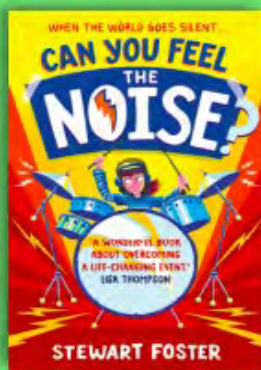


Book Buzz ~ Year 7

Book Buzz – a free book for every Year 7 student

St Mary's is pleased to offer a free book for each new student in Year 7, supplied through the Book Trust's Book Buzz scheme. For more information, visit <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/>

This year there are 16 books to choose from, some of which are shown here. Students will be asked to choose their favourite in their Accelerated Reader or English lessons, after looking at the selection and thinking about what they enjoy most. The books are then ordered, and they will be handed out later in the autumn term at school. There is no cost to parents/carers.



Summer Reading Challenge



Students who completed our Summer Reading Challenge should hand their forms or reviews to Ms Keane, Mrs Frino or their English teacher.

Ms Keane will be awarding house points. Well done!



Extra Curricular Clubs



PE Extra Curricular Timetable HT1

PE extra-curricular clubs start week commencing 11th September.
They are open to all abilities, there is no need to sign up or let us know you are going to attend, simply turn up with your kit and join in!

Club	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Senior
Boys Rugby	Monday	Monday	Monday	Monday	Monday
Girls Football	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday
Cross-Country	Friday	Friday	Friday	Friday	Friday

All clubs run from 3:15 to 4:15pm.
You must organise your own transport home from school.





MFL Department



The MFL Department would like to request that all students acquire a French/English, Spanish/English or Italian/English dictionary, according to the language that they study.

These dictionaries can often be found second hand on Amazon or EBay.

We would also be hugely grateful if parents would be happy to donate any dictionaries they may have at home which they are no longer using. Many thanks in advance for your support in this matter.

Mrs Catmur
Subject Leader, MFL

Wellbeing Practitioners



HCT Children's Wellbeing Practitioners are holding some **free online events** over the months of September including:

- Supporting Your Child's Self-esteem
- Developing Your Child's Emotional Literacy
- Emotional wellbeing Workshops (11-16 year olds)
- Adolescent self-esteem workshop

To book your place, and for more information please click on the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/hct-childrens-wellbeing-practitioners-33494371787>



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



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#DedicatedtoExcellence



CONFIRMATION 2023-2024 - CATHOLIC PARISH OF BISHOPS STORTFORD

If you will be in Year 10 or above from September 2023 (your date of birth being on or before 31 August 2009) and would like to prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, please collect an application form in person from the sacristy after any weekend Mass.

The completed form should be addressed to Fr Peter and posted into Number 3 Windhill **by Monday 18 September 2023** — no late applications will be considered.

You should live within the parish boundaries (Bishop's Stortford, Much Hadham and Sawbridgeworth) to apply. Anyone living elsewhere should contact their local Catholic church and request to join their preparation programme.

Along with your paper application form, also email Sophie Sullivan at: bstortfordcatechist@rcdow.org.uk, so that she can send you details about the information meetings. The first meeting will take place the week commencing 9 October 2023, with the programme starting November 2023 through to July 2024.

We are hiring!



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

Click Here For Latest Vacancy Information

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

Recruiting School Governors

**OUR SCHOOLS
NEED MORE
CATHOLIC
GOVERNORS
AND
DIRECTORS.**



CAN YOU HELP?

1

It's not for someone like me

It's for everyone and we need more diversity on all our boards– in race, age, experience and gender.

2

I've got no experience of Education

We need a breadth of people from outside of Education

3

I'm too old/young

Anyone over 18 can become a governor and there is no upper age limit

4

I wouldn't know what to do

The Diocese and LAs provide induction training and ongoing support

5

I'd get nothing from it

78% governors say they feel their work "makes a difference"

89% would recommend the role to others



Please contact governors@rcdow.org.uk
or check out some of our vacancies at
[Interested in working in our Schools –](https://www.rcdow.org.uk)
Diocese of Westminster Education
Service ([rcdow.org.uk](https://www.rcdow.org.uk))



(PTA) Friends of St. Mary's (FoSM) NEED YOU!



FoSM

**(Friends of St. Mary's)
need your help!**

**Join us on 20th September 6.30 pm at
school for a short introductory meeting
All VERY welcome—bring a friend!**

info@stmarys.net