

# LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter

Issue 6 - 13th October 2023



## St. Mary's Family—Age 11-92+!

*Mr Johnston - Headteacher*

Last night was the Year 7 'Welcome Mass' during which our Year 7 students were officially welcomed into the St. Mary's community and given certificates. Fr. Peter celebrated Mass for us and gave a lovely homily reflecting on life's journey and the unconditional love God has for each and every one of us. It was a warm, family occasion which I really enjoyed along with the Year 7 Tutor team and the SLT.

I often talk about being a member of the St. Mary's Catholic School community as being a part of our family. This week, I also welcomed back into the school Gillian (pictured right with me) who, at 92 years old was a



student here 80 years ago, and lived in the boarding accommodation (now the T Block). It was wonderful to talk to her about her time at the school, including a story about carrying her mattress down the stairs during WW2 in an air raid to take shelter in the Refectory!

Students and families will always be a part of the St. Mary's family, and as Fr. Peter asked at the Year 7 Mass: I wonder how many of you [Year 7 students] will be sitting back in this hall in years to come with children of their own on the seats ready for Welcome Mass!

Have a great weekend with your family.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Monday-Friday**

**16th-20th October 2023**

Year 11 & Year 13 Mock Exams all week

**Monday & Tuesday 16th/17th October 2023**

Year 7—Year 11 Flu Vaccinations

**Wednesday-Friday**

**18th-20th October 2023**

Oxbridge Admission Tests

**Thursday 19th October 2023**

Years 8,9,10,12 Invitation Only Parents Evening

**Monday-Friday**

**23rd-27th October 2023**

**HALF TERM**

**Students Return to School on Monday 30th October**



St Francis of Assisi  
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

## Year 12 Visit to Grandey's Place

### Year 12 Visit the Incredible Heritage Craft Centre Grandey's Place in Much Hadham

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October the Art Department and Year 12 A Level artists visited Grandey's Place in Much Hadham for their free monthly guided tour.

We were absolutely stunned by the level of craftsmanship on show in the beautiful purpose built studios that have only been open since 2020.



Clive Beecham showed us round and we were able to get a real flavour of a myriad of creative careers such as stained glass window making, ceramics, stone carving, horology, leather making, globe making and so much more.

The expertise on show was awe-inspiring for both students and teachers. We learned so much about the history of craft in Britain and the way that modern manufacturing techniques are changing craft practices in surprising ways.

If you have a spare morning and are local to the area, I would very much recommend taking the tour to learn more about the amazing things happening on our doorstep!

Do visit their website to learn more and book a tour:

<https://www.grandeysplace.co.uk/>





## Year 12 Team Building Day at Nuclear Races

**Well done to all the Year 12 students who so brilliantly (and quite literally!) threw themselves into the team building day we organised at Nuclear Races!**



Your willingness to challenge yourselves on all the various obstacles - getting very wet and muddy in the process! - showed a range of really fantastic attributes: open mindedness, courage and independence, etc. Equally brilliant to see was how you encouraged and supported one another throughout the day. I trust you enjoyed seeing Mx Harritt, Mrs Knight and myself getting equally wet and muddy!

*Mr Noble  
Director of Sixth Form*



### Student Report by Kiera H, Year 12

The Nuclear Wild Forest trip on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October was a great team-building activity to get to know everyone. We had to climb over walls and swim through mud, which was great fun we all had a laugh and even got Mr Noble, Mrs Knight and Mx Harritt involved. The highlight of my day was when my friend lost her shoe in the thick mud we had to run through! I also really enjoyed the death slide we took part in at the end of our trip, which was a steep slide into a river; even those who were not sure about the slide got down with everyone else's encouragement showing the great team spirit Year 12 has. Throughout the course, there were several obstacles involving mud, water and hard work! We all worked together to complete the course! Many of us took a dunking, trying to cross the river using the rope, which was very funny. The different challenges we were faced with were great fun and a good opportunity for us to get out of our comfort zone as well as a nice break from the classroom. At the end of the trip, we were given an opportunity to shower, change into dry clothes and have our lunch together. We headed back to school for an early finish at 2:15! We are extremely grateful to the team at St Mary's for organising the trip and those at Nuclear Races for making it such an enjoyable experience!





## A Level Geography Field Trip to Hatfield Forest

**The A Level Geographers participated in their third day of field-work, at Hatfield Forest.** this has close links with the Earth's Life Support System topic, specifically looking at carbon cycles in different environments. It helps them to simultaneously understand the fast carbon cycle and the impacts humans can have on stores and flows of carbon, as well as developing their investigative skills and research methods.



The students were exemplary in their collaboration and considerations for other users of the forest.

Miss McGrath



### Student Report by Gabrielle L, Year 13

*On Tuesday the 10th October we went on a trip to Hatfield Forest. The forest isn't far from Bishop's Stortford so it was a quick bus journey. After this fieldwork day we have done three of our four fieldwork days. We went to Southend regarding our coasts topic, Cambridge for our changing spaces making places topic and now Hatfield Forest for our earth life support systems.*

*We went to further our data collection methods that will help our NEA's, these are our individual geographical research studies. We were measuring the carbon content in the trees. To do this we measured out a transect and measured the circumference of the tree trunks 1.5 metres above the ground. There were many calculations involved when trying to find out the carbon content of the trees, but it was very interesting. It showed us sections that we might be able to add to our own NEA's like a risk assessment or ethical considerations. It was an interesting fieldwork day that helped me think about what I might need to add into my own NEA.*





## Year 10 Trip to Zoology Museum



### Year 10 Trip to the Museum of Zoology University of Cambridge

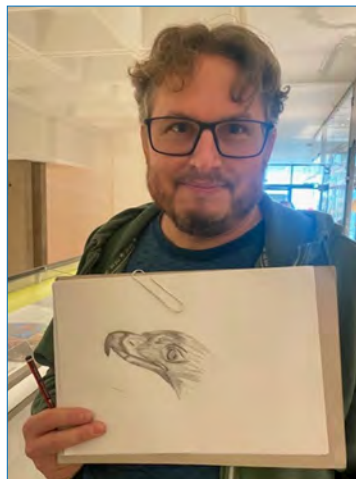
Year 10 artists visited the Museum of Zoology in Cambridge on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October in our annual GCSE coursework drawing on location trip.



Staff accompanying students were so proud of every single student's behaviour and attitude during the trip – each being an absolute credit to the school.

Students spent the morning and afternoon drawing from exhibits in the museum in order to gather first hand source material for this year's GCSE coursework theme 'Flora and Fauna'.

The museum provided us with a wonderful environment to study and draw each specimen; with all students (and staff!) producing some very well observed studies. Miss Nairn and Mrs Morgan-Wren would like to thank and congratulate all Year 10 artists on their exemplary conduct and very much look forward to the subsequent work which will be informed from the museum trip.



## Inter House Cross Country Competition



**The sun was shining for our annual Cross-Country Inter-House on Tuesday**

All of the students worked exceptionally hard, completing a three kilometre route. Well done to everyone who took part and gained valuable points for their house.

### Boys

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	Individual winners
Yr7	B	K	J	M	A	T		Anton K
Yr8	A	K	T	M	J	B		Alex P
Yr9	R	J	K	M	T	A	B	Theodore L
Yr10	B	K	A	J	T	M		Dawid N
Yr11	K	M	T	J	A	B		Max S

### Girls

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	Individual winners
Yr7	J	K	A	M	T	B		Isla K
Yr8	B	A	T	M	K	J		Bella H
Yr9	M	B	R	K	J	A	T	Poppy K
Yr10	B	M	A	T	J	K		Katie H
Yr11	A	T	B	K	M	J		Maya M





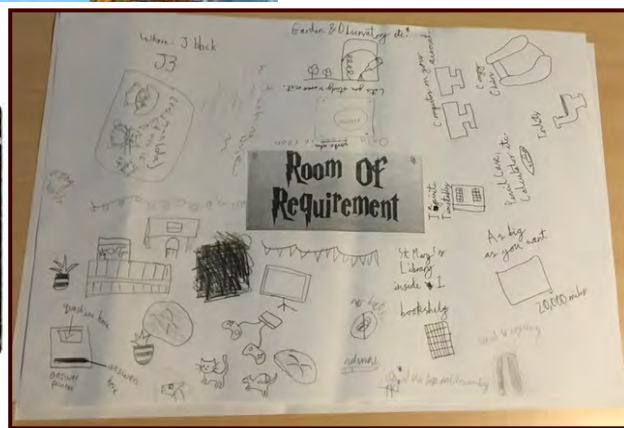
## Harry Potter Book Day



**Harry Potter Book Day** was celebrated in the library on Thursday after school.

This year's theme was Magical Places and students took part in activities set in Gringott's Bank, Diagon Alley and the Room of Requirement.

Thanks to everyone who attended and made it a magical event!



*The winning ideas for a Room of Requirement at St Mary's, by Caitlin, Matilda, Charlotte and Joseph, Year 7*



  
**PLEASE  
RETURN  
YOUR  
LIBRARY  
BOOKS**

## Bring back your books next week!

Mrs Frino will be sending form tutors lists of students who have overdue books next week.

**Minus house points for overdue library books** will be issued on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October.

Please remind your child to bring back or renew their book **before half term**. There are plenty of new books in the library to borrow over the holidays.



## Thriving Minds Conference



### An Enrichment Day to Enrich the Mind at St Edmund's College



#### Student Report by Alexander M, Year 9

Last week, myself and some other St Mary's students attended a Thriving Minds Conference at St Edmund's College in Ware; it was a school day like no other.

To me the word "conference" sounds quite grown up and pretty intimidating, however this unique experience was neither of these words. This conference made you expand and question both your own thinking and the life choices that you make.



From the very moment you enter through the gates of this grand college, you become somewhat enthralled in what may lie ahead.

The conference was led by Julie Arliss, an innovative and receptive educator, who presented a variety of topics, from science theories to the advantages and disadvantages of the lifestyle choices that each of us make throughout our lives, and finally we concluded our day with a robust debating session.

It was an extraordinary day and I am so glad that "I came, I saw and I conquered my fear of the word conference".





## Thriving Minds Conference



### Enrichment Day Review at St Edmund's College

#### Student Report by Rozalia G, Year 9

First and foremost, I would like to thank my school for offering this trip to us, and St Edmunds College for hosting it. I had a lovely day, and especially enjoyed the first session about 'Justice, Truth and Beauty'.

I wasn't expecting history to be linked as much as it was, which was a nice surprise, as history is one of my favourite subjects.



A few times across all sessions, I didn't understand what was being said, or didn't know some of the words used, but I understood the context, which helped me understand the rest.

Each session was interesting and engaging; I thoroughly enjoyed them all.

The day was a new, fun, knowledge-filled experience for me. I learned so much! Again, thank you to all that made it possible.





## Introducing some of our new staff...



### **Mrs McDermott** **Teacher of English**



After studying Theatre Studies at the University of Warwick, I spent some time acting before becoming a teacher. Over the years I have taught Drama, English and Film Studies.

I began to get more involved in the Pastoral side of school by becoming a Head of Year and DDSL.

Like all teachers my satisfaction comes from any time that I feel I have made a difference, however small.

I am committed to getting the most of my students and helping those with poor self-esteem to find their strengths and succeed.

In my spare time I love to act and have recently discovered a passion for pottery. Both pastimes are great therapy and a wonderful way to relax.





## Mock Interview Day ~ We Need You!

WE NEED YOU!



# We Need You!

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December, all Year 11 students will be taking part in our Mock Interview Day. Having a mock interview will help students learn how to answer difficult questions, develop interview strategies, improve their communication skills and help students to remain calm before an actual interview.

**We need 20 volunteers to be our Interviewers!**

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED.

We would appreciate any parents / carers to come in on the day and assist in being an interviewer.

If you can support us, please email Mrs Knight on [j.knight@stmarys.net](mailto:j.knight@stmarys.net) Thank You!

*Janice N, Year 12 Careers Ambassador.*



## Penny Box Scheme at St Mary's

*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 our new 'Penny Box' scheme.**

On the back of the toilet doors in the girls toilets there is a sign for students to alert them what to do in the event they require sanitary products.

Students can come to the Student Hub and get what they need without embarrassment.

Students can ask to see "Miss Penny" or ask for the "Penny Box".

**The 'Penny Box' scheme provides free access to sanitary wear (tampons and pads) when it is required.**

**The sanitary products are available for girls to take home if they want to come and get a pack.**

We also have sanitary pad 'starter packs' for Year 7 and tampon 'starter packs' for Year 9+, as well as standard packs of pads.



East Herts and Broxbourne

Quarterly Schools Newsletter



### Lithium Batteries

Lithium batteries are generally safe and unlikely to fail. However, they can cause fires, serious injuries, and even death if they are defective, damaged, improperly used or stored.

They are found in everyday items such as mobile phones and laptops, and in e-bikes and e-scooters.

- Regularly check the condition of the battery.
- Only use the charger that was supplied with it. If you replace it, go back to the manufacturer.
- Disconnect the battery and unplug the charger once it reaches 100%.
- Do not charge where it may prevent you escaping in the event of a fire.
- Do not charge near high temperatures or cover them up whilst charging.
- Ensure you have early warning systems in place – do you have working smoke detectors?



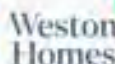
## St Mary's Catholic School Careers Bulletin

### Careers Carousel 2023

Last Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> October we held our annual Careers Carousel and what a success it was! Our school hall was buzzing with students exploring the exhibitors and the talk of futures and careers was evidently exciting. We had employers such as the NHS, the police, Price Bailey Accountants, Nockolds Solicitors, the RAF, The Royal Navy, Weston Homes, Quantum Care present and we were very lucky to have three colleges in and two universities in to meet our students.

Overall the day was a great triumph. Year groups were allocated slots to go round the carousel and engage with employers and providers of further vocational and technical education and through the feedback I have received, it has opened the eyes to many students about the careers and study options available post 16 and 18 and planted many career seeds!

The students were excellent and the feedback received from the exhibitors shows how wonderful and polite our students are. Our Careers Carousel provides a valuable opportunity for students to explore career options and network with potential employers. Mrs Knight, Careers Leader



### OPEN EVENINGS

#### HARLOW COLLEGE

#### OPEN EVENING

19 October 2023 5-8pm



21st November 2023

5.30pm - 8.00pm

Broxbourne Campus, Ware Campus  
Open Events



Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023 - 4.30pm-7.30pm



#### Open Event

Saturday 14th October  
10am-2pm



#### Upcoming Dates

- Saturday 14th October, 10am - 3pm
- Saturday 25th November 10am - 3pm







## LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

#DedicatedtoExcellence



BISHOP'S STORTFORD

INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING

Information Evening

6pm – 7.30pm

Tuesday 17th October 2023

at Leventhorpe

**TRAIN TO  
TEACH** *With us!*

If you are interested in training to teach Early Years, Primary or Secondary and would like to find out more about opportunities to train in a local primary or secondary school in Bishop's Stortford and its' surrounding areas, these informal information events are a perfect place to start.

Please join us at Leventhorpe, where you will have the opportunity to:

- Learn more about the application process and what our training programme entails
  - Chat to members of our team about any specific queries you may have
  - Find out about our partner and placement schools

Please click [here](#) for further information or email [recruitment@bsitt.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@bsitt.org.uk) to register your interest



- ▶ 1 day of provider led training at your training hub.
- ▶ Excellent subject knowledge training.
- ▶ 4 days in school - immersed in school life and learning how to teach.
- ▶ Bespoke course that will meet your individual needs.

#### COURSES:

- ▶ Primary Age 5-11 | KS1 and KS2. } Tuition fee (non-salaried) & salaried
- ▶ PGCE
- ▶ QTS only
- ▶ Primary with SEND Age 5-11 | (Special School experience).
- ▶ Primary with Maths (Leading Maths experience).
- ▶ Secondary Age 11-16 | KS3 and KS4 | (Subject specific): English, Maths, Science (Biology, Physics, Chemistry), Physical Education, Computer Science, Music, Geography, History, Religious Education, Art & Design, Design & Technology, Languages (French, Spanish, German), Business Studies, Dance, Drama, Sociology, Economics, Psychology.
- ▶ Secondary Age 14-19 | KS3 and KS4 | Business Studies, Sociology, Economics, Psychology
- ▶ Undergraduate Degree | 3 years (Education Studies), with Qualified Teacher Status.

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

GCSE Grade 4 or above in Maths & English (Primary requires Science).

A Degree.

Enjoy working with young people.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children; relevant DBS checks will be taken.

## We are hiring!



St Francis of Assisi  
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

Click Here For Latest Vacancy Information

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



East Herts and Broxbourne

Quarterly Schools Newsletter



# Welcome! Autumn 2023

To our Autumn edition of the Schools Stay Safe Newsletter.  
Read on for advice on ways to stay safe for you and your family.

## Road Safety around schools

Most children will have to cross the road on their way back home from school at some point. They should know how to cross a street safely from an early age.

1. Always look both ways, more than once.
2. Be seen!
3. Always use pavements where possible.
4. Teach your children how to use crossings safely.  
Always use them when they are available.
5. Do not cross the road looking at mobile devices.  
Put them away.
6. Do not cross between parked cars or on a bend.
7. Parents be aware not to park on zig zag lines outside schools and keep your speed at a minimum.



Talk to your children about traffic rules and road safety. No matter their age or understanding, make sure they are clear and stay safe.





East Herts and Broxbourne

## Quarterly Schools Newsletter



### Winter Water Safety for all

You may not associate water with winter, but it still poses the same dangers. Make sure you and your loved ones are water aware!

- Plan your route if you're going out and about near waterways in winter!
- Look out for the signs and warnings.
- Stay off the ice and frozen waters as they will not be able to hold a person's weight!
- Keep away from the edge, and be aware that snow and leaves may obscure the banks.
- Supervise children around ice and waterways
- Never go in after anybody who has fallen in. Call 999 and try to stay calm.



East Herts and Broxbourne

## Quarterly Schools Newsletter



### Are you aware of Staywise?

Staywise is an interactive website packed full of fun activities from the UK's leading emergency services and safety-focused organisations, making it easy for you to find trusted activities that provide learning opportunities to help keep you safe.

There is lots to do on there for children and they are learning as they play!



If you need any further information or advice on any of these topics, please feel free to call our friendly staff at your local station:

- **Hertford Fire Station**  
01992 507611  
[Hertford.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Hertford.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk)
- **Cheshunt Fire Station**  
01992 901900  
[Cheshunt.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Cheshunt.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk)
- **Bishops Stortford Fire Station**  
01279 696800  
[BishopsStortford.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:BishopsStortford.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

### Have you tested your smoke detector lately?

Do you have a night-time routine?


Would you know how to escape in the unlikely event of a fire?

We encourage you to book yourself a free Home Fire Safety Visit today. The local station numbers are to the right of this newsletter.

Don't forget, the visit is **FREE!**

 [Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service](#)

 [Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Community Safety](#)

 [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/fire](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/fire)