

LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter

Issue 22 - 8th March 2024



Well Done, Year 11 and Year 13—Mock Exams Complete!

Mr Johnston - Headteacher

Year 11 and Year 13 students have been undertaking their second and final round of mock examinations this past two weeks. Although there are a few final exams to sit (particularly for Year 13), the majority are now complete and I would like to commend both year groups for the mature, thoughtful and dedicated approach they have taken in order to secure the grades they need to progress on to Sixth Form, College or University/ careers.



So, congratulations, and well done. I am sure that the hard work put in these last few weeks will pay dividends when it comes to the final examinations next term and the feedback from your teachers, which I have asked be given to you as soon as possible, will help to prepare you further as you learn from the approach, answers and comments/ support from your teachers.

I'd like to thank Ms Newman (Exams Officer), Mr Palmer (AHT) and the team of dedicated Invigilators and LSAs who have supported the students over the last few weeks, and also the teachers for their relentless approach to ensuring each student gets the best exam run-in possible.

Year 11s—don't forget, that you can now start signing up to the Easter Revision sessions run by staff at St. Mary's during Monday 8th, Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th April using this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/RywCvyqhqE>

Have a great weekend with your families. **God Bless.**

Year 11!

Please look out for your letter from Mr Noble, Director of Sixth Form www.stmarys.net/sixthform

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday-Friday, 11th-15th March 2024
Year 10 and Year 12 Internal Exams

Monday-Friday 18th-22nd March 2024
Year 10 and Year 12 Internal Exams Continue

Monday & Tuesday 25th/26th March 2024
Year 11 Futures Meetings

Wednesday 27th March 2024
Year 9 Geography Field Trip



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

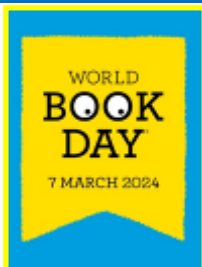


Matthew 6:21

*For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also.*



World Book Day at SMCS



Many thanks to all the staff who took part in the **World Book Day costume competition.**

Students from all years voted and the winner this year was Ms Williams (dressed as the witch from *The Wizard of Oz*), with the rest of the Science team making a great effort this year!



Remember to swap your child's book token for a free book before stock runs out. The closing date for using the tokens is 31st March.

To find the nearest shop to redeem the token, click here:

<https://www.worldbookday.com/books-and-tokens/books/participating-retailers/>.

These books are not on the Accelerated Reader system, as they are specially written for World Book Day.

There are extra tokens for students who don't have them yet (or students with younger siblings).

Students can collect them from English teachers or in the library next week.



The World Book Day book swap has been extended into next week. Students can bring a book they no longer want from home to swap. Any books brought need to be in good condition, and secondary level please. Any leftover books will be donated to the library or to charity after March 15th.



Year 12 Trip to Oxford



On Monday Year 12s enjoyed a wonderful sunny visit to Balliol College to find out more about studying at and applying to Oxford University.

We saw the Radcliffe Camera with its seven underground floors of library and Keble College, as well as a wonderful lunch in Balliol Dining Hall and a workshop at the Pitt Rivers Museum where we were told we were the best group they'd had!



Student Report by Laura S

Balliol is an aesthetic college with its historical architecture and large areas of open space and nature. It was a very peaceful and calm environment with everything students could need only a short walk away.

The presentation offered valuable insights not only on how to prepare for the university application process but also the university's side of the application process and support offered to students.

Our group was introduced to the unique and successful system of learning implemented at Oxford in which students learn from experts and leading researchers.

We went on to enjoy a meal, kindly provided by the college, after which we briefly explored the library. Despite the intense level of study associated with universities, Balliol has created a relaxed space for students to enjoy their chosen path of study.

Student Report by Faith E

On Monday, March 4th, I had the incredible opportunity of attending the Balliol College, University of Oxford trip.

For me, visiting the Pitt Rivers Museum was the highlight of the trip. I have a strong interest in colonialism, and witnessing the products of this, as well as learning about the history of these artefacts, was fascinating.

Looking at artefacts such as Boats that were used as part of the slave trade on a smaller scale and learning more about the impacts of assimilation of cultures was very engaging.

This experience proved to be insightful, and I am grateful to Ms Wilkin for offering us an excellent opportunity.



BALLIOL
COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



Intermediate Maths Challenge

In the recent **Intermediate Maths Challenge** a group of 34 Year 9 students won 2 Gold, 13 Silver and 9 Bronze Certificates.

This accomplishment is even more impressive by the fact that our contestants were the youngest in their age group - Year 9 to Year 11.

Congratulations to all participants for their remarkable achievement, and especially to Alex L. (Best result in the Year) and Aaron W, who were both invited to the follow-up round - Grey Kangaroo March 2024!



The **Maths Society Club** sessions continue in preparation for the next challenge. **Bring it on!**

Charity Bake Sale ~ Almsgiving during Lent



On Tuesday & Friday
Class 11K are holding a Bake Sale.



All monies raised will go to the joint CAFOD and Catenians building of a water pump in rural Zimbabwe to provide clean running water to a local community.

If you can support this event, please make sure you bring money with you to take part!



Year 9 ~ National Space Centre

Over 180 Year 9 students were able to enjoy the wonders of space at the National Space Centre in Leicester.



They took part in a rocket building challenge in groups, trying to prioritise with the money that they had available to them.

A live science show on how a rocket actually takes off and the fuel components, which ended with a bang.



The highlight is the planetarium experience and seeing space from a new perspective.

Students also had time to experience the galleries and interact with all the exhibits.

A great time was had by all and the students would have gained valuable insights into space that could never have been achieved in the classroom.





Art Department ~ Year 7

Students from Art class 7A have produced some really exciting and creative collage homework this week.

They found different papers and fabrics at home and even made their own collage paper, using paint, pen and colour pencil. They layered the materials to create stunning landscapes with deep perspective and rich colour palettes.



Artwork by Julia B, Frankie G, Eireann P and Joseph R





New York Maths Trip 2024 - Travelling in style!

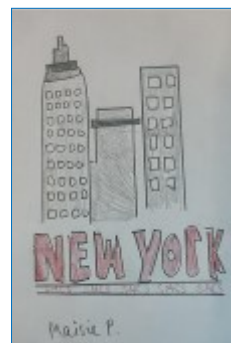
The month of May is approaching fast and with it, the trip to NYC.
We are all very excited, working on the last few details to make it remarkable.

We set a challenge for our young travellers

- to design a logo which will be printed on the official trip hoodies.
- Thank you to all who submitted their art work.

We had some great entries, but the winner left us all in awe.

Congratulations, Olivia F! What a talent!





Artist in Focus

ARTIST IN FOCUS: Abigail I, Year 13

Why do you study or love Art? Tell us about your journey and who you are...

I love studying Art because of the freedom it gives us to create whatever we want. I prefer working in a modern Pop Art inspired style as I enjoy working with bright blocks of colour. I especially love lino printmaking because of the precision and detail that can be achieved from it.

Who inspires you?

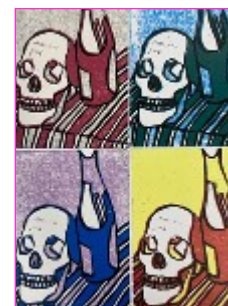
I am inspired by Roy Lichtenstein. He is a well recognised Pop artist, and a lot of my recent artwork has been greatly inspired by him. I am particularly inspired by his use of colours, patterns and lines, which has started to be a focus in my own work.

Where do you want to go and what do you want to do when you leave St Mary's?

When I leave St Mary's I am hoping to study English Language and linguistics at university and I will definitely keep creating my art up as a hobby.

What advice would you give aspiring artists here at St Mary's?

My advice would be experiment with a range of medias and styles to find out what you are best at and what you enjoy the most. It will help you find your own motivation and inspiration to produce artwork that you are very proud of.





LIVE MUSIC BY
BARRY OWEN!



St Patrick's Night

Friday 15th March 2024

10.00pm

St Mary's Catholic School, Bishops Cleeve, Gloucestershire
GL23 2NQ

BAR
&
RAFFLE



£20 - Tickets available:
www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-marys-catholic-school



SCAN / CLICK TO BOOK



CAFOD
Catholic Agency for Overseas Development



CATENIANS
BISHOPS CLEEVE



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#DedicatedtoExcellence



Sustainable Hertfordshire

A cleaner, greener, more environmentally sustainable county.

We're a member of the Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership. HCCSP is a strategic group which acts as the lead partnership organisation for partners to collaborate and identify joint work programmes on environmental, climate change and wider sustainability issues across Hertfordshire.

Hertfordshire County Council want to hear your views on sustainability and climate change.

The Sustainable Hertfordshire team at Hertfordshire County Council would like to hear from individuals who live, work, or study in Hertfordshire. We are asking 11 questions about your personal views and actions towards the environment, climate change (helping to reduce the causes and impacts from our changing climate), and sustainability, to help us make our county more sustainable. Your voice is important and we want to make sure that we are keeping people in Hertfordshire informed about our work and also enabling them to get involved in protecting the environment.

<https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/sustainablehertfordshire/>



We are hiring!



St Francis of Assisi
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Click Here For Latest Vacancy Information

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