

# LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter

Issue 23 - 15th March 2024



## The Journey of Lent in Prayer

*Miss McHugh - Deputy Headteacher*

Dear Parents/Carers and students.

I am writing to you this week in the absence of Mr Johnston who is off school ill, we wish him a speedy recovery. In this week's edition of our weekly Headlines, you will see some amazing photos of last weekend's school trip to Iceland, which returned on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March. The students behaviour was exemplary as they got to experience spectacular natural wonders that our Iceland offers with the gysers, geothermal pools and stunning rock formations. The physical natural beauty inspired the students and the vast array of geographical features they witnessed brought learning to life. A school being able to inspire and motivate our students to go beyond the classroom and into the wider world around us is a privilege. I hope you enjoy the photos and see the wonderful opportunities our students experienced. Tremendous thanks is given to Mr O'Leary, the Geography department and the teachers who accompanied the students on this trip of a lifetime.

As we enter our fifth week of Lent, we call our prayers to guiding our students on their Lenten journey. Every day at 12.00pm as a school we call our students for Si-Lent. Two minutes of silent prayer and reflection during Lent to reconnect with God and bring our hearts and minds in prayer. The school is pin drop silence as a community when 1,200 students and staff pray together for two minutes, and doing what we are called to do every single day, to put God first. It is with this as our core value that we focus our prayers this week on the following prayer and reflection on our place and purpose:

Christ has no body but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which he looks  
Compassion on this world,  
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,  
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.

I ask for your blessings as parents and carers in instructing and guiding our young people in their faith. I thank you for entrusting your child in our care as a school community in having the Gospel Values as our core. May we as parents and school keep working united and together in driving the very best for our children during this Lent to become closer to God and being the person God calls them to be.

Wishing you and your families a blessed and restful weekend.

God Bless Miss McHugh



### UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

**Thursday 28th March 2024**  
End of Term and School Day ends at 1.00pm

**Easter School Holiday**  
**Friday 29th March-Sunday 14th April 2024**



St Francis of Assisi  
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST





## Lent ~ "The Tenner Challenge"



During this period of Lent every form class is encouraged to partake in the Inter House Tenner Challenge!

Each form class is given £10.00 with which they are challenged with trying to make as much profit as possible by the end of this term. Furthermore, tutees are asked to volunteer to fulfil four key roles; CEO, Business/Finance & Marketing Directors. The students have a key role in supporting their tutees to help achieve the best possible profit.

### What are we raising money for?

- This Lent as a school we have two dedicated charities, one local and one global.
- We are raising money for the following:



**Diocese of Westminster**

Sending a team of 14 Sixth Form students as "Red Cap" helpers on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes in July 2024



**CATENIANS**

**CAFOD**  
Catholic Agency for  
Overseas Development

Supporting a joint venture between the Catenians and CAFOD in building a stand pipe of fresh water to a local community in Zimbabwe

### How does it work?

- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March each form is given **£10** each;
- You have up until Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March to make as much profit as you can, whilst students are encouraged to think **ethically** and **sustainably**.
- *Make money any way that isn't illegal, gambling or fraudulent while giving back to the school community;*
- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March repay £10 plus the profit!



Heavenly Father,

God of abundance, our hearts are full of gratitude.  
May we be young people who give willingly and generously.

We ask for your richest blessings to be poured upon us as we work to multiply our offerings and use them to further your work.

Amen







## Geography Trip to Iceland



### Geography Iceland Trip 2024

Year 10 & Year 11 Geographers have just arrived home from a fantastic trip to Iceland.





## Headteacher's Tea

Last week we welcomed students to the latest Headteacher's Tea who over the past fortnight achieved the highest number of positive house points in their year group.



This event occurs every half term as a mark of the school's appreciation for all the hard work and dedication our students demonstrate both in and outside of class!

It was a very well attended event, with the students enjoying cake and hot chocolate!

Congratulations to all those involved!

*Mr Eddleston  
House Coordinator*



## National Reading Champions Quiz

Well done to the students in Year 8 and Year 9 who took part in the National Reading Champions Quiz on Tuesday, organized by the National Literacy Trust

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/>.



This is an online quiz for teams of four, aged between 11 and 14. Our team was chosen because of the range of books they read and the number of quizzes passed on Accelerated Reader. They finished in the middle of the leader board, in a very challenging heat, featuring schools from North London, West London, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.

**Well done**  
Jeannie, Ellie-May, Isabel  
and Natalie!







## Carnegie Shadowing Club

**Carnegie Shadowing Club – starts Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March**

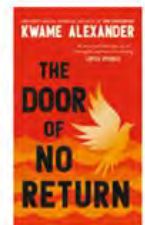
**The Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing** is awarded by children's librarians for an outstanding book written in English for children and young people. It is the longest running children's book award in the UK. Every year St Mary's runs a Carnegie group, just like hundreds of schools around the UK. Students read some or all of the shortlist and meet weekly to review the books and vote for their favourite. Then we get together with students from other local schools in the summer term at a Carnegie event. This year it will be at Hockerill school in June.

**The club starts next Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March in the library.**

It will be run by Ms Rose, Ms Diamond, Ms McDermott and Mrs Frino.



Below are this year's shortlisted books (some are rated 13+ due to content, but students in the group will be advised and guided by our staff).



## Library Books

***Bring back overdue books next week!***

***Reminders will be sent to form tutors next week.  
Students with overdue books must return or renew them  
before the Easter holidays.***



## Science Week ~ Visit by Author



### Author Ben Martynoga visited St Mary's during Science Week.

He spoke to Years 7, 8 and 9 about Darwin and the theory of evolution. Students also asked him their own questions. Ben said *"It was an absolute pleasure to visit St Mary's and get a chance to speak to so many students."*

Caitlin M thought that *"The most interesting part was when he said that we were all related to each other from the first empress of Egypt."*  
Anton K said *"Ben really brings out the fun in Science."*

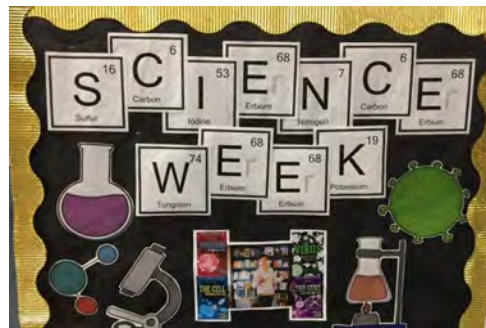
Ben was also very impressed by the students' entries for the *We Wonder/Journey into Space* competition, and he chose seven winners. Each student received a signed book. There are plenty of copies of Ben's books in the library (all with KS3 and 4 Curriculum links).

### The winning entries from Year 7:

Timothy T, Julia B, Jamie C, Charlotte E, Wiktorja R;  
and from Year 8:

Mikolaj W and Lela-Grace F.

Two of these will be sent off to the national competition later this month, to be in with a chance to win book tokens and books for our school.







## Science Week



### Science Week at St Mary's Year 10 building bridges



### Year 8 building flood defences





## Science Week

Science Week at St Mary's  
Year 12

Science  
Week  
2024



## Year 13 Prom



The Year 13 evening of celebration at The Manor of Groves Hotel has been booked, a wonderful occasion to celebrate the end of your child's secondary schooling here at St Mary's.

**It's not too late to sign-up for the Prom!**

We've had a fantastic uptake for the upcoming Year 13 Prom so far, and we're really looking forward to celebrating together as a year group.

All students wishing to attend this event must pay a deposit of £15.00 as soon as possible via the school's secure online service ParentPay, and return the completed behaviour contract slip to Mrs Ribeiro, to reserve a place.





## St Mary's Catholic School Careers Bulletin

Last week was National Careers Week. A week dedicated to giving young people the opportunity to develop awareness and excitement about their future pathways, career dreams and to give young people hope about their future. Our external Independent Careers Adviser, Claire Johnstone was in our Canteen on Monday throughout both lunch times for students to drop in and speak with to get careers advice and guidance. Students then had an additional opportunity to get Careers Advice and Guidance from Harlow College on Tuesday. Mrs Wallace-Martin had a Pop—Up stand outside the library on the Tuesday, being a qualified Careers Adviser she gave lots of advice on the best pathways for students to take to fulfil their career dreams.



Every year group had a dedicated Careers Assembly and a form time allocation to explore jobs in demand and the labour market. Students also had Career based lesson starters at the start of their lessons showing students what jobs / careers are available in their subjects.



### Labour Market Information

Parents and Carers, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to use career path and labour market information to aid the careers support you give your children at home. Labour market information can be found online and students can access up to date labour market information through their Unifrog accounts, which they can access at any time and from home.

**Log on to Unifrog, scroll down and find the section showing 'Exploring Pathways', find the Careers Library and under each career is up to date labour market information.**

### OPEN EVENINGS



Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024 - 17:30 to 20:00

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024 - 17:30 to 20:00

### HARLOW COLLEGE

Wednesday 24 April 2024 - 5pm-8pm



Thursday 25th April 2024 - 4:30pm-7:00pm



Wednesday 12th June 2024—  
Full-Time, Part-Time & Apprenticeships  
(6pm to 8.30pm)

### Capel Manor College

Saturday  
23  
March

### Open Day

Visit us between 10am and 3pm to discover  
courses starting this September

### unifrog

#### Careers library

✕ Careers favoured

Go to tool >



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#DedicatedtoExcellence



## INSIGHT INTO UNIVERSITY



Thank you to our supporters:



### HELP STUDENTS DECIDE WHETHER UNIVERSITY IS THE ROUTE FOR THEM

Insight into University is a comprehensive virtual experience allowing students to explore STEM studies at university and the career opportunities that these subjects lead to. It provides access to information on student life, STEM projects and activities set by leading UK universities and global STEM companies, first year undergraduate lectures, live interactive sessions with academics, admissions tutors, employers and current students.

Whether young people are interested in life sciences, chemistry, biomedical, forensic science, robotics, food science, electronics, engineering, physics, computer science, sustainability, materials science, aerospace, built environment, tech or maths, we have something for them. With specially developed content and live sessions from universities including University of Cambridge, Sheffield, Lancaster, Abertay, UCL, Oxford, Liverpool, Plymouth, Edinburgh, Birmingham, Warwick, Kingston, Nottingham, Strathclyde. We will also have some fantastic workshops and careers guidance from organisations such as Innovate UK, GSK, GE, Tech Partnership, Rolls Royce and more.

The unique feature of this course is that students are able to access content from a diverse range of STEM subjects and will be able to tailor a course that suits their interest.

On successful completion of the course, which involves 30 hrs of study, students will receive a Silver Industrial Cadets award and be in a position to make a more informed decision for their UCAS application.



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@IndustrialCadet

Visit us online  
[www.etrust.org.uk](http://www.etrust.org.uk)





## INSIGHT INTO UNIVERSITY



### When is it?

The experience will run from **1st July until 23rd August 2024** and can be completed flexibly to fit around other commitments and study at a pace that suits individual circumstances.

### Who is it for?

The experience is open to all students age 16+ and is suitable for all abilities, with activities that cover different levels of advanced study.

All students need is a genuine interest in STEM and inquisitiveness about what the future can hold for them and how they can help get themselves there.

### How to apply?

Applications open on 4th March 2024. Visit our website <https://www.etrust.org.uk/insight-into-university> or scan the QR code to register your interest!

### Cost: £95

Fully funded places are available if cost is a barrier, please indicate your interest on the application form



### What our students say

*"I've absolutely loved every minute of this course. I found the live sessions in particular very inspiring and informative, and all of the taster lectures were both accessible and challenging. I'm really excited to continue with my STEM studies."*

*"This course absolutely helped me with my future education and career path. The way I was able to choose which activities or lectures I wanted to complete was undeniably useful as it meant I could tailor a course to suit me. This was a thoroughly enjoyable experience."*

*"I really enjoyed the course and feel much more confident in applying to university having done it. The live sessions were very interesting and I was blown away by the wide range of choice of sessions."*

**92%** of students felt that the skills and knowledge that they gained from the course will have a positive impact on their future studies and career.

**86%** of students felt confident or very confident in making their future study and career choices after completing the virtual experience.



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@IndustrialCadet

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