



27th September 2024

Fortnightly Bulletin

St Mary's Catholic School



Dear Parents'

We opened the doors on Wednesday evening for our annual Open Evening for prospective students for September 2025. I am exceptionally proud to share with you the number of visitors who have complimented and remarked on the welcoming, friendly, polite and well-mannered students who welcomed our visitors as tour guides, department representatives and helping in the wide range of activities on display. Our visitors sensed the warmth and family feel that we pride ourselves here at St Mary's by the engaging conversations with students who answered questions and spoke about their own experience of being a student here at St Mary's. A tremendous thank you to our parents for making the necessary arrangements for your child to participate as ambassadors of our school and volunteer their time so generously. I am truly thankful and blessed for your support.



This week, we welcomed back one of our Alumni students Alex White, currently Fashion Director at Elle Magazine based in New York. Alex managed to fit in a visit back to St Mary's between attending fashion weeks in Paris and Milan! Our students were enthralled in her talk listening to her inspiring and motivating account of pursuing your dreams and ambitions. Alex is a true inspiration and we were delighted to host her return to her former school. You will see an account from Isabella, one of the panel of student interviewees.

A very special thanks to Nilesh Dosa MBE who has also visited us in the last two weeks as he launched his programme "Icanyoucantoo". The programme offers our students the chance to take part in his exceptional programme to inspire and work with top tier global companies to mentor them through their Y12 studies and offers exceptional leadership opportunities. Nilesh and his team of mentors delivered an inspiring presentation to our Y12 cohort, which has generated a real excitement as the students make and submit their applications to take part in the "Icanyoucantoo" programme.

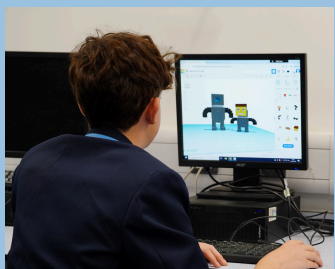
Our Y12 students also took time out of their studies to participate in a day of team building activities together. The day was aimed to create new bonds and friendships within the Sixth Form cohort and teach our young people the tools needed in overcoming challenges and obstacles in a fun and creative way. The students had a blast and lots of fun, albeit the weather and conditions presented a greater challenge than they had initially hoped for. Exceptional thanks to Mr Noble, Mrs Knight and Mrs Ribiero for providing the students with a great start to their Y12 studies.

Finally, I am looking forward to meeting our Y11 and Y13 parents next week with the last of our Year Group Parent Information evenings as we start the academic year. These information evenings and meeting with the Form Tutors and HOY enable a positive rapport to be built with parents and student to ensure a dialogue of support and encouragement to secure the very best outcomes for every child. I hope our Y7-10 and Y12 parents enjoyed these evenings to date and welcome our Y11 and Y13 parents on Tuesday 1st October and Thursday 3rd October evenings.

As September draws to a close, I thank you as parents for what has been a very positive start to the 2024-2025 academic year, your commitment in supporting your child and the school is recognised and appreciated and has set the good strong foundations for the term and school year ahead.

We pray for all our families:

Holy Family of Nazareth, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the centre of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen.



Sky Studios

On 17th September the Year 13 Film and Media students visited Sky Studios Elstree where they were able to make and edit their very own short film. Students completed a masterclass beforehand where they came up with a short film idea, film name and characters and were able to bring their film to life using Sky Studios multimillion pound XR equipment. Once the students had filmed their 3 scenes in front of a screen, they were able to use the camera equipment to seek the right angles, close ups and then edit the film.

It was a great opportunity to learn about the many careers and apprenticeship opportunities there are working within Sky and the industry in general. Year 13 student, Henry comments about his Sky Studios Experience :



"My experience at Sky Studios Elstree was very enjoyable and very informative. At Sky Studios we went into a state-of-the-art mini sized studio where we went through the stages of pre-production of our short film and then filmed it. After we filmed our short film, we edited it which included cutting the scenes to our liking and adding background music and sound effects. I enjoyed my experience at Sky Studios and was impressed with all the technology and equipment I got to use."

Calling all Film Fans!

Come and enjoy films with a Maths or Science theme , or perhaps one in a foreign language with subtitles. These will be suitable for year 7 and up and refreshments will be provided.

You can sign up for one or all, and emails will be sent home using Evolve Clubs so that you can reserve one of the 30 spaces for this drop-in club. Each film counts as towards your St.Mary's Award clubs section for that month.



Swimming Gala News

Congratulations to Nathan R (8M) for his achievement in swimming with winning gold medals in several events in his recent swimming Gala:

- 100m Backstroke
- 100m Breaststroke
- 100m IM

Alex White, Fashion Director of Elle USA Magazine

This week, welcomed back to St Mary's Alex White, a previous student who has had a very successful career in the fashion industry.

Alex White's passion for image-making and fashion began as a child, inspired by the strong female role models of her British-West Indian mother and her four aunts. Alex's exposure to international travel and many cultures from an early age is her creative DNA. Throughout her career, she has envisioned innovative campaigns, editorial stories, product design and special projects with leading fashion and beauty brands that have placed women's stories and feminine perspectives at their centre.

White has collaborated on product design and runway styling for Prada, Burberry, Chanel and Marc Jacobs at Louis Vuitton. Her recent creative projects include the Paper Flowers and Believe in Dreams campaigns for Tiffany & Co, consultation with Nike on a fashion-forward brand initiative, and styling Topshop's re-launch of their international collections.

Throughout her career White's aesthetic has been sought after by beauty and fragrance brands worldwide including Estee Lauder, Dior, Sephora and MAC.

Alex White was the Fashion Director of W magazine for over a decade during its trailblazing years, founding US Fashion Director of Porter magazine and is a contributing editor of Vogue Italia and WSJ Magazine. Alex is currently working in New York as the Fashion Director of ELLE USA.



Isabella, a Year 13 student interviewed Alex: "This talk was extremely beneficial to me especially because I'm trying to work my way into the fashion industry through my A levels and extracurricular activities. Alex went to St Mary's as a student and from there went on to do an internship at a magazine company.

She explained the process post 16/17 she went through to be in the role she is in today. For example, she did an internship at 17 and went onto to be a photographer's assistant. From there she carried on pushing forward working her way up to have amazing opportunities such as styling the Chanel runway at the age of 25.

Alex gave us insightful tips on internships, apprenticeships and university courses that would be valuable. We also spoke about what her job role entails. Alex's job is to style the outfits we see on the runway, in picture's and on magazines. She has worked with incredible brands such as Chanel, Dior and Yves Saint Laurent. Moreover, the way White deeply explained every answer to the questions we were asking has helped me and many other students that I have talked to decide if the fashion industry is the right pathway for them.

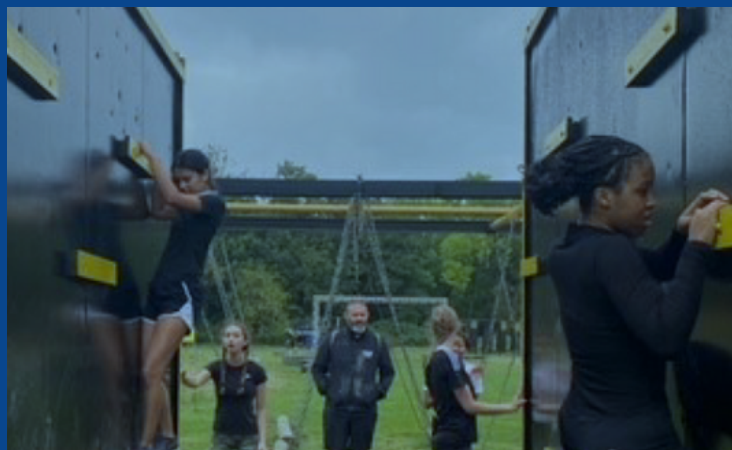
I learned that I must be determined and open minded as well as having the ability to co-operate with others around me, I learned valuable lesson that I will be keeping with me as I continue to work my way through A Levels and my post eighteen journey such as courses that would be of value to take, the best university and colleges to go to and even how to get in contact with companies if you're looking to do an apprenticeship. Finally, I learned the secrets into what being in Alex Whites job role entails such as what it's like working with lots of different celebrities, her opinions on different controversial topics within the fashion community and even how she anticipates the next big trends.

Being able to speak with such an inspirational female figure was such an incredible experience and I learned so many useful tips on how to get into the industry I've always wanted to be in."

Sincere thanks and blessings to Nishlan and the team at “icanyoucantoo” for inspiring out Y12 students to aspire, inspire, dream big and achieve



On Tuesday 24th September our Year 12's went on their Team Building Induction Trip to Wild Forest, Nuclear Races. Students got very muddy and wet but had a great time and got really stuck in!



MESSAGE FROM THE STUDENT HUB

Please be aware that there has been a change to the procedure for collecting students during the school day.

If pupils need to leave for an appointment during the school day, they will meet you at the student entrance on Great Hadham Road.

Please park, walk to the pedestrian gate and ring the buzzer on the gate. Please explain who you are and who you are collecting.

We will not let any student leave the school site without confirmation that an adult is here to collect them.

The Neurodiversity Handbook

Hertfordshire County Council and the NHS are delighted to share with you the exciting and new Supporting your Neurodivergent Child handbook that has been developed for Hertfordshire parent/carers and professionals.

The **Neurodiversity Handbook** has useful resources, support and signposting on a whole range of things relating to Neurodiversity.

The resource is accessible to all regardless of whether a young person has a diagnosis or not, and can be used at any point during a young person's journey.

Children's Wellbeing Practitioner Workshops October-December 2024

Workshops are open to all young people & parents/carers of children and young people who attend a school or are registered with a GP in Hertfordshire. A referral is not needed to access a workshop.

All workshops are currently being delivered online via Microsoft Teams. For more information about what each workshop covers and to book a place onto a workshop, visit the Children's Wellbeing Practitioner Eventbrite page: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/hct-childrens-wellbeing-practitioners-33494371787>

Workshop	Date & Time
Emotional Wellbeing (For Young People 11-16) A workshop focused on adolescents managing their emotional wellbeing and things parents/carers can do to help.	Thursday 21 st November 6-8pm
Adolescent Self-Esteem and Resilience A workshop focused on adolescents improving their self-esteem and resilience and what parents/carers can do to help.	Thursday 28 th November 6-8pm
Supporting your Child's Self-Esteem and Resilience A workshop focused on parents/carers supporting their child to improve their self-esteem and resilience.	Monday 28 th October 6-8pm Wednesday 11 th December 10-12pm
Supporting with Sleep Difficulties This workshop focuses on supporting children and adolescents with managing their sleep difficulties and things parents/carers can do to help.	Wednesday 2 nd October 6-8pm Monday 2 nd December 6-8pm
Developing your Child's Emotional Literacy A workshop focused on parents supporting their child with developing emotional literacy.	Tuesday 1 st October 10-12pm Monday 4 th November 6-8pm Thursday 12 th December 10-12pm
General Emotional Wellbeing and Regulation Tips for Parents A workshop focused on parents supporting their child's general emotional wellbeing and ability to emotionally regulate.	Tuesday 15 th October 10-12pm Monday 11 th November 10-12pm Tuesday 17 th December 6-8pm

To access the recorded Emotionally Based School Avoidance Webinar please visit:
<https://www.hct.nhs.uk/service-details/service/childrens-wellbeing-practitioners-21/>