



HEADLINES 10TH DECEMBER 2021

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter (Issue 13 2021-22)

“Christmas is Coming & Plan B”

Acting Heads of School Update
Mr Johnston & Miss McHugh



ams, which continue into next week, too. After such a period of disruption, we're proud of their determination to succeed and grateful to their teachers for supporting them and the marking of all the exam scripts. Hopefully, Mock Exam Results Day in January will be a positive experience that they can use to build on as the final run-in to the exam season begins in earnest.

Plan B

We continue to monitor the developments in the Covid-control measures as they are announced. We have very good systems in place, which meet all the current requirements. Next week, we'll announce plans for on-site testing in January (which is likely to include a staggered start on the 5th January, to allow for testing of all students as we have been instructed to do).

For now, though, we are determined to stay safe, and enjoy the excitement of Advent.

Have a good weekend with your families.

Tom Johnston



Christmas has come early for our Year 7s this week who have each been given the gift of a book from Mrs Frino, our Librarian as part of the 'Bookbuzz' scheme. It's also “*beginning to look a lot like Christmas!*” across the site with the trees up in Main Reception and the Student Hub. We are all looking forward to the Advent Service at St. Joseph's next Wednesday—please don't forget to register your planned attendance using the link on the email sent out earlier today.

Our Year 11s and Year 13s have massively impressed staff this week in the mature, sensible and focussed manner they have approached their Mock Ex-

St Mary's Catholic School

Invites you to our

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

At 7pm on Wednesday 15th December 2021

In the Church of St Joseph's and the English Martyrs,
Windhill, Bishops Stortford, CM23 2ND

The school car park is open for parking.

IMPORTANT: You must register your place at the Carol Service using the link in the email message.

UPCOMING EVENTS

13th December
Mock Exams Continue
Y11 & Y13

15th December
Carol Service at
St Josephs, 7pm

17th December
Cultural Capital Day

21st December
Advent Carol Service
Term Ends 1pm for
Students

**Please continue to TEST EACH WEDS & SUNDAY
and follow all Covid guidance**

**Every student must bring the following
to school EVERY DAY:**



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

www.stfrancistrust.net





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There will also be a collection taken on behalf of the Cardinal Hume Centre which we have been supporting as part of our Advent Charity efforts.



"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

John 1: 14





Enrichment and Fun!

Calling All Parents!

Enrichment and Fun for your Children!

Are you starting to remember how LONG the Christmas holidays can feel, especially once Christmas is over?

ENRICHMENT



Holiday Activity Fund

▶ Enrichment Activities

- ▶ Arts and Crafts
- ▶ Climate Change
- ▶ Community Safety
- ▶ History
- ▶ Mental Health
- ▶ Music and Theatre
- ▶ Nutrition
- ▶ Reading and Literacy
- ▶ Science
- ▶ STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)
- ▶ Wildlife and Outdoors

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals you will have received information about **free holidays clubs** - do take advantage and book soon if you are interested.

<https://sportinherts.org.uk/hafhappy/enrichment/>

For all families, this weblink, which looks as though it is only about sports, in fact takes you to a **vast range of enrichment ideas**.



Mrs Wilkin
Assistant Headteacher

Have you received your voucher?

£50 vouchers for the Christmas holidays have been emailed out to families in receipt of Free School Meals. Please check your emails and let Mrs Wilkin know via info@stmarys.net if you haven't received it.

We hope families will find this helpful over the costly festive period.



Are you entitled?



Mrs Wilkin
Assistant Headteacher





Personal Development Day Friday 17 December

In recognition of what a testing last couple of years it has been, and, relatively speaking, how late we are breaking up for Christmas, we want to give the children an end of term to remember!

Friday 17th December will be a day away from the usual timetable, with activities and competitions to inspire and challenge, inform and enrich, to celebrate our differences and learn to work better in teams.

Reading and Spelling are high on our agenda, and we have been delighted to be able to book author Matt Oldfield for the day. His books are incredibly popular with our younger students and there will be an opportunity to buy a book on the day too, or get your own copy signed!



Matt Oldfield

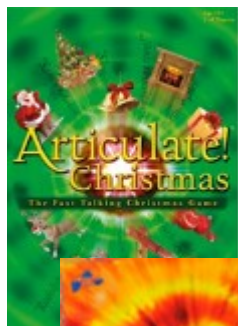
Author of the **Ultimate Football Heroes series, the Johnny Ball: Football Genius series, and Unbelievable Football**

Also writes as Ultimate Football Heroes

<http://www.heroesfootball.com>

Awards

Winner of the 2020 Children's Sports Book of the Year award



There will also be a visiting team working with groups of students on Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet', whilst younger students will test their spelling skills in an InterHouse Spelling Bee!

We have bought some new board games to give students time to work together in teams. Watch out for **a new Games Club starting next term**, so that we get some more use out of these new purchases which we hope will be popular with all ages.



Christmas is a great time for Quizzes and students will also have InterHouse Quizzes, InterHouse Dodgeball and InterHouse Benchball competitions to take part in!



Celebrating Diversity is so important, and few schools can be more diverse than St Mary's! The Science department will be leading research into BAME Scientists and students will be taking part in or watching their peers dressed in national costume, representing countries as diverse as India, Russia, Vietnam and Sierra Leone.

Our older students will be watching the film Hidden Figures- do watch this with your family if they haven't seen it. It is a compelling movie about African American female mathematicians working for NASA at the height of the space race.

Our recent piano recital was such a success, we have a waiting list for school piano lessons, and 17th December will be another opportunity to showcase some of our top instrumentalists and welcome others who will introduce students to instruments with which they may be less familiar.

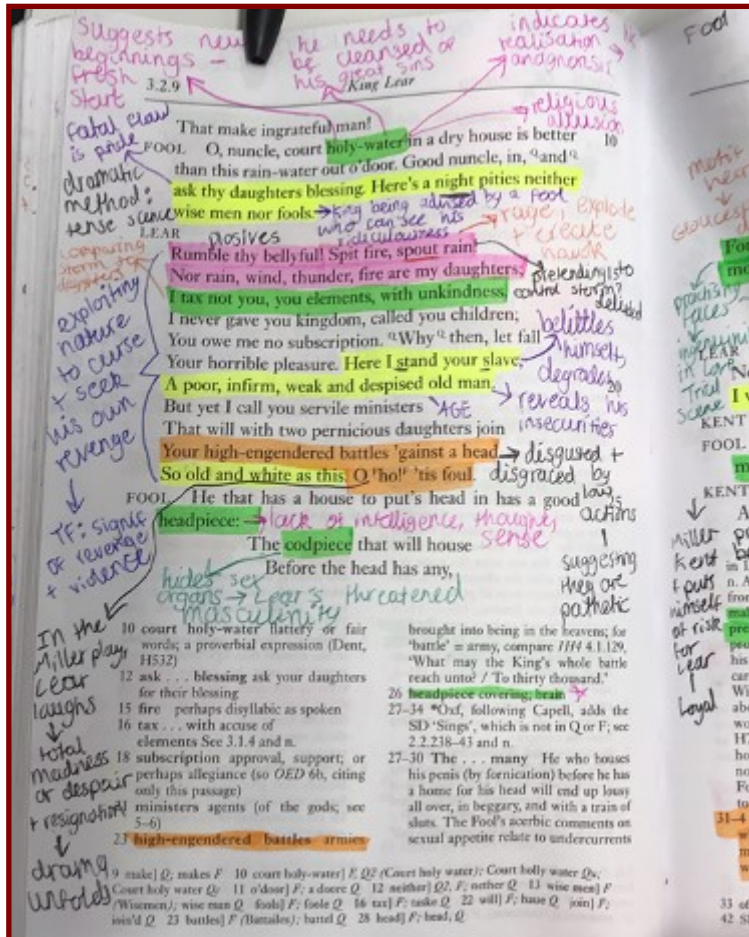


Mrs Wilkin
Assistant Headteacher





Year 12 A Level Literature



King Lear

by William Shakespeare



Year 12 A Level Literature students are growing in confidence as they annotate King Lear which is a more challenging text than they have read before.

Jennifer Hensley's annotations build on her analysis of Macbeth last year and are not only detailed and precisely relevant to the exam but engagingly colourful!

Mrs Heslop
Assistant Headteacher



Year 7 Bookbuzz

This week Year 7 students have each received their free book, in a partnership between 'Book Trust' and St Mary's Catholic School.

Year 7s can visit the Bookbuzz website www.booktrust.org.uk/Bookbuzz to write a review of their book or read a blog by the author.

Happy reading everybody!



Mrs Frino
Librarian





Hertfordshire and East Anglia
Community and School Age Immunisation Service

Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust
Howard Court
14 Tewin Road
Welwyn Garden City
AL7 1BW

December 2021

Dear parents and carers,

By the end of November all schools in Hertfordshire had received a first visit by the Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust's Community School Age Immunisation Service to complete COVID-19 vaccinations for students aged 12-15.

Unfortunately, due to high demand for the vaccine our Immunisation Teams were unable to complete vaccinations for every young person who had consented on the day we visited your school. We have been working closely with Hertfordshire County Council's Public Health and Education departments to prioritise the schools which urgently need a second visit before the end of term as we cannot complete a return visit to every secondary school by the end of term. These decisions are based on a range of factors, including case rates in local areas, number of children vaccinated on first visits and recent COVID-19 outbreaks that would delay the eligibility of students that could receive their vaccination.

You are receiving this update as unfortunately we will not be able to return to your school before the end of term.

We hope that your child will still take up the opportunity to receive their COVID-19 vaccination as this will give them and those around them the best protection against the virus. You can book an appointment using the national NHS portal

www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/ at a local vaccination centre or call 119 to book an appointment by phone. As legal guardians, you will need to accompany your child to the vaccination centre appointment and to give consent on arrival. The previous consent provided to us is not valid at vaccination centres.

There are also a wide range of walk-in options at vaccination sites across the region. Not all walk-in locations are running a clinic for young people, please check the website before you book. You can find times and addresses at: <https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/events/vaccination-walk-in-clinic-times>

The Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation guidance has recently changed and it is now preferable that healthy 12-to-15 year-olds receive their vaccine 12 weeks after a positive test.

If a child is classed as clinically extremely vulnerable and has had a positive COVID-19 test, they should wait for at least 4 weeks from the date of their positive test and until they are recovered to receive their vaccination.

We apologise for any inconvenience and thank you for your ongoing support and co-operation.

This service is provided by Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust and covers Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, Norfolk and Suffolk.


Hertfordshire Community
NHS Trust

www.hct.nhs.uk



Hertfordshire Music Service—Parents Have Your Say!

Hertfordshire Music Service

HAVE YOUR SAY

We would like to invite everyone, even if you or your family are not having music lessons, to tell us about your views and experience of music to improve what we offer.



<http://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/HMSHaveYourSay2021>





Road Safety & E-Scooter Use

E-Scooters are readily available to purchase and sales are expected to increase over the festive period. However, it is currently against the law to ride a privately owned E-Scooter on a public road, cycle path or pavement. Private E-Scooters can only be legally used on private land (with the landowners permission).

Illegal use of E-Scooters can lead to a Police warning or seizure of the E-Scooter. E-Scooter use on pavements, cycle paths or roads can lead to serious injury for pedestrians, scooter riders and other road users.



Sarah Elliott
Sustainable Travel Officer
Active and Safer Travel | Highways | Environment and Infrastructure
Hertfordshire County Council



Know your Scooters

Electric Scooters



- Illegal to use on public roads, cycle paths and pavements in Hertfordshire
- Electric scooters can be seized by the police, you could be fined and get points on your licence
- Can only be used on private land with the Landowners permission
- High cost

Manual Scooters

- Active and sustainable mode of travel
- Keeps you fit
- Low cost





World Town Planning Day Competition 2021



Planning a sustainable community World Town Planning Day Competition 2021



Congratulations to our competition entrants. It was a very difficult decision but the Year 10 Geography teachers picked the top designs from their classes to enter into the RTPI competition. There were some great sustainability ideas including vertical gardens, buildings that absorb CO₂ and tree free paper. Our internal competition winner will be announced next week.

Well done to the following students whose designs have been submitted to the RTPI competition!



Amy B, Sofia C, Emily C, Zane H, Keira H, Vivian I, Szymon P, Elizabeth N, Jaymie S, Thomas T, Stefan W, Ethan W

Ms Hughes
Subject Leader Geography



Year 8 Design & Technology



This is a wonderful showcase of our Year 8 Design & Technology work. Book stands inspired by Summer Deck Chairs. Students combined both textile and wood work skills to produce the products.



Mr Hunt
Design & Technology Subject Leader



Menu in our Aspens Refectory

Autumn Winter 2021

STREATERIES

Aspens

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
STREET	Spicy Andhra Chicken Curry	Sweet Potato & BBQ Pulled Jackfruit Burger	Roast Chicken & Stuffing Bap Gravy naise	Mongolian Lion's Head Beef Meatballs	Hand Battered Fish & Fricke
VEGGIE	Keralan Egg Molee Curry	Veg Chilli Nachos Homemade Salsa	Quorn Roast & Stuffing Bap Gravy naise	Korean Spicy Rice Bowl with Fried Egg	Homemade Fishless Cake Lemon Yoghurt
SIDES	Turmeric Rice Masala Roasted Cauliflower	Garlic & Herb Wedges Rainbow Slaw	Fennel Seed Roasties Roasted Carrots	Beggar's Noodles Sweet Chilli Broccoli	Chips Peas

WEEK 1

We are hiring!



Learning Support Assistant (Part Time)



We seek an additional Part Time Learning Support Assistant (15 hours per week) from January 2022 (or shortly thereafter) to join our Learning Support team. Salary range H2 £18,562 - £19,312 + £626 Fringe Pro Rata.

Details of the vacancy, how to apply and the application forms and ancillary documents required can be found at <http://www.stmarys.net/about-us/vacancies/> Please email recruitment@stmarys.net to submit your application documents or to make an enquiry.