



HEADLINES 21ST JANUARY 2022

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter (Issue 17 2021-22)

Recognising 'Achievement'

Acting Heads of School Update *Mr Johnston & Miss McHugh*



This week, we have been recognising 'Achievement' which was the focus of the second half of the Autumn term. Following some impressive performances in the AP2 data that was released last week, this was quite a hard list to narrow down! Congratulations in particular to all students with a positive A2L average score—I know that Learning Coordinators are recognising this achievement and encouraging others to ensure that their results in AP3 are equally as impressive.

So, a big 'Congratulations' to all students awarded 'SMCS Achievement' Heads of School badges for their blazer lapels this week. The focus for this half-term is 'Resilience', and we are looking to award recognise the efforts of students involved in community work, support and wellbeing activities, peer mentoring, anti-bullying and a range of other categories. As Nelson Mandela said:

"Do not judge me by my success, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again."

The 6th Form Student Leadership Team are leading this work and we will reward the many anticipated successes in these areas!

On Wednesday, the government announced some limited changes to the Covid control measures, with more on the horizon. Masks remain compulsory in the corridors, communal spaces, including assemblies, and we are currently encouraging all students to continue to wear these in the classroom—we have had this measure in place for quite a while, and it is likely that this has been a contributory factor in our low case numbers. We will continue with ventilation and the requirement to test each Wednesday and Sunday—all positive LFDs, no matter how faint the line, should be taken seriously and the regulations followed. Thanks for your support in this matter.

Have a great weekend with your families.

Tom Johnston—Acting Head of School



UPCOMING EVENTS

27 January 2022
Year 9

Options Evening

3 February 2022
Year 9

Parents Evening

12—20th February

HALF TERM

(Return 21st Feb)

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



What to do if your 12-15 year-old child missed their appointment at school to receive their Covid vaccination

If for any reason your child missed the opportunity to receive their vaccination at school, or were declined their vaccination because they tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 12 weeks, you have the following alternative options. You will need to accompany your child to any venues offering the vaccination to give consent:

Booking vaccination appointments online

You can book your child's 1st dose online from the day they turn 12. You can usually book their 2nd dose from 24 hours after they had their 1st dose. You'll be offered appointment dates from 12 weeks after their 1st dose.

[Book a COVID-19 vaccination appointment](#)

Getting the vaccine at a walk-in vaccination site

Your child can get a 1st dose at a walk-in COVID-19 vaccination site from the day they turn 12. They can get a 2nd dose if it's been 12 weeks since their 1st dose.

[Find a walk-in COVID-19 vaccination site](#)

Kind Regards
The Hertfordshire and East Anglia Community School Age Immunisation Service

Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust



What to do if your 12-15 year-old child missed their appointment at school to receive their Flu vaccination



If you would like your child to be vaccinated against influenza and missed the last visit from the school immunisation team visit please contact the regional team at Hertfordshire@v-uk.co.uk via email, to arrange an appointment.

The vaccination is free and is a quick, simple and painless process where the vaccine is sprayed up the child's nose. Please note, even if your child had the vaccine last year, the type of flu year on year can vary each winter so it is recommended to have it again this year as they may not be protected.

Hertfordshire & East Anglia School Immunisation Team



VACCINATION
UK



Sixth Former (Georgia Y12) Report on Careers Events



Last Friday, our year 12 attended an educational and informative talk from an UEA admissions officer, Lucy Nottingham, who delivered an insight into university applications. Our guest gave us many tips on what is desirable for her fellow administrators to hear about in our personal statements, and used her knowledge on what previous applicants had talked/wrote about.

Personal Statements

A challenging, yet engaging question caused much discussion. Lucy spoke about two applications. The first was from an applicant who had undergone work experience at a hospital. The other, at MacDonalds; both of which applying, for medicine. We were asked which student got the place- it was the latter. The first had only stated that they did work experience in a hospital. However, the second explained how they had

had to interact with all types of people at McDonalds, and as a result, changed the way they engaged with different customers, such as with children. A pivotal event for them was when they were able to treat a customer for concussion and they watched how the paramedics efficiently acted to treat the patient. The applicant analysed how they learnt from the situation and how it increased their interest in pursuing medicine. So, all work experience is valid just as long as it's relevant to a skill from your desired job/degree.

Another example of this is when our guest spoke about skills. Whether communication, public speaking, problem solving or any of the many others, there will be numerous skills linking to each of our future degree prospects. Vital indicators for admin officers are the ability for the applicant to analyse how each thing they have written about has been beneficial, and by doing this, the applicant promotes their expertise and the value of their work experience. But, our speaker made a point of not being too generic. Hundreds of applicants' personal statements are seen by administrators so hearing a phrase such as 'my netball training and competitions improved my teamwork and communication skills' is an example of a generic statement. They want to see something different- to make a bigger impact (find an alternative situation than a sports team, for example).

E-Work Experience:

Due to the current climate, physical work experience is inevitably going to be challenging to find, so online experience is especially valuable now. The point is, is that the applicant has taken the initiative to find the education and information. Lucy featured MOOCs, NHS values and TED talks in her speech. In personal statements, one can write about what they learnt. Another key suggestion was super-curricular reading: evaluating relevant articles and stating an opinion presents oneself as a more sophisticated, educated and well-rounded individual.

As a year 12 myself, I can say that this was an invaluable talk, which will equip us all with the opportunity to be diverse from our fellow applicants, therefore standing out. In addition, Lucy provided us with resources and websites to support us through this process, such as unifrog.

We thank Lucy and the St Mary's staff for this personal speech.

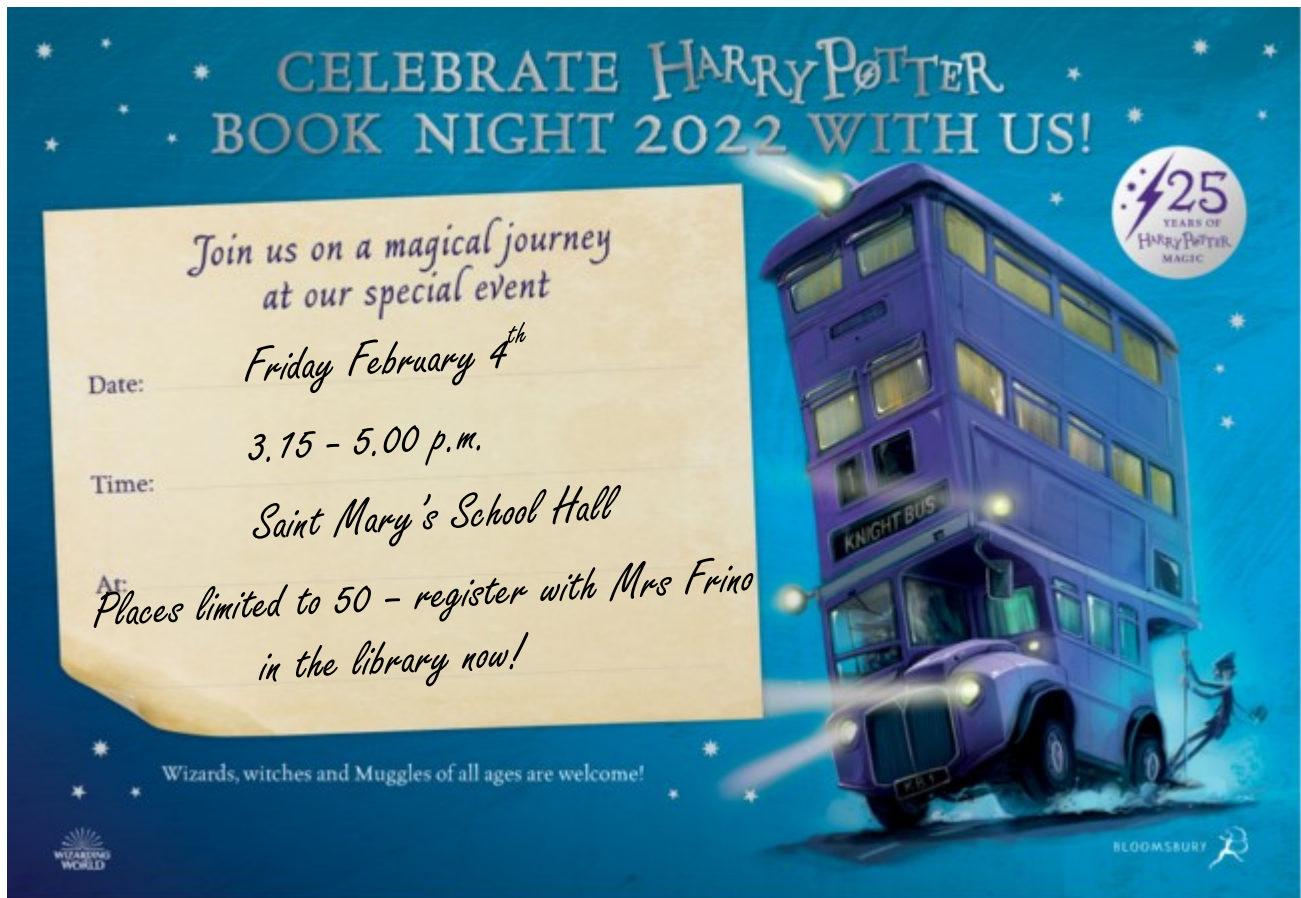
Deadlines and Choices:

For medicine and Oxbridge candidates, applications must be in by October (year 13), and the rest of the courses, universities need submissions in January (year 13). However, our school will have an earlier deadline to enable our teaching staff to have time to work with us and optimise our personal statements. Additionally, Oxbridge applicants only choose either one of the universities, and medicine candidates have a maximum four university medicine degree choices, and one applying for a different course.

By Georgia R
Year 12 Student



Library News



The theme of this year's national Harry Potter Night is 'Magical Journeys'. St Mary's will be hosting an event in the Hall on Friday February 4th for all students who are true 'Potterheads'. There will be games, challenges, snacks and a quiz to separate the Muggles from the Wizards.

Students should see Mrs Frino in the library to sign up (50 places maximum).

Maths Problem Solving.

Year 10 and 11 Problem Solving

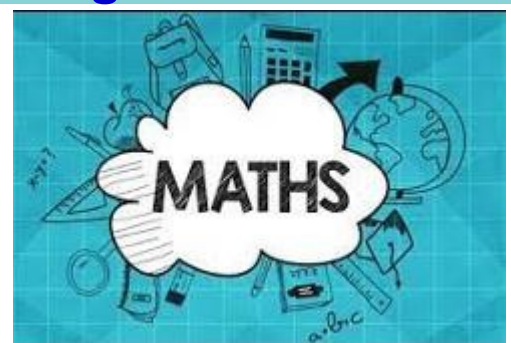
Webinar for Parents

If you have always wondered why a maths problem is not just right or wrong, or how you can support your young person through the maze of problem solving, then this is the opportunity for you

Craig Barton is a renowned Maths teacher, researcher and educationalist. Along with his colleagues, he is delivering a webinar aimed at Problem Solving and the approaches to successfully engaging with this challenging aspect of the Maths examinations.

The webinar is free and will take place on **Thursday 27th January at 7.30pm (GMT)**.

Rachel (the presenter) will use a combination of research and her own experience to describe the issues students have with problem solving, and most importantly of all to offer a series of practical strategies **parents can use** to help support their children when solving non-routine questions.



Please use this link to join the webinar

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PzNxT3glQdWB9G1ICJMcPg



Healthy Habits for 2022



This half term we will be encouraging students to make new habits that promote wellbeing. The traditional New Year's resolutions of eating healthily and taking up more exercise are part of a good self-care plan, but there is a little more to it and we will be guiding them in more detail during form time over the coming weeks. We will be explaining what a self-care plan is and why they are a good idea. There are four areas that we will be focusing on, physical, emotional, social and practical. Students will be given more information on what a healthy activity could be within these four areas and encouraged to make their own plan. Please ask your child about their ideas and encourage them to try and make these new healthy plans turn into healthy habits for 2022.

Holocaust Memorial Day 2022

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is an international day on the 27th of January that is set aside for all people to remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, alongside the millions of other people killed under Nazi persecution of other groups and in genocides that followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

The 27th January marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. The Holocaust threatened the fabric of civilisation, and genocide must still be resisted every day. Our world often feels fragile and vulnerable and we cannot be complacent. Even in the UK, prejudice and the language of hatred must be challenged by us all. Holocaust Memorial Day is for everyone. Each year across the UK, thousands of people come together to learn more about the past and take action to create a safer future.

The theme for this year is 'One Day'. This theme reminds us that we should act in the now, today. It also helps us to understand how friendships, communities and millions of individual lives were changed in the matter of one day, some for the better and many for worse. One Day also speaks of the hope that helped people survive terrible conditions, and of the hope that we have for a better future for our world.

You can read more about the Holocaust Memorial Day and read the stories of the survivors of genocides at the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust website: [Holocaust Memorial Day Trust | One Day \(hmd.org.uk\)](http://HolocaustMemorialDayTrust|OneDay(hmd.org.uk))





Polish Club



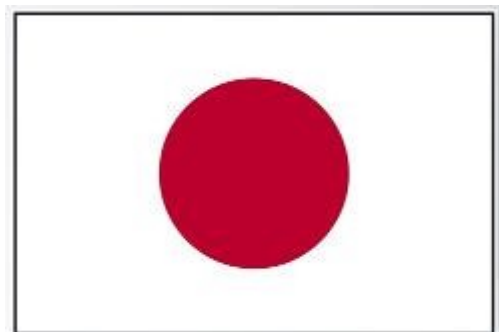
In Polish club, students worked on their writing skills. They had loads of fun working together on a script for one of the most known to Polish people cartoons: "Reksio". And for break, they enjoyed proper Polish donuts which we bought in our local Polish shop.

Japanese Club



Japanese culture club students tried their hand at Shodo (Japanese calligraphy).

They also tried some Japanese kitkats!





Chaplaincy News:

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2022

[Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2022 \(ctbi.org.uk\)](http://ctbi.org.uk)

Each year, Christians are encouraged to pray for unity among the different Christian denominations. This year, the prayers and reflections for this octave, from the 18th to the 25th of January, have been prepared by the



churches of the Middle East. You can download the pamphlet with prayers, reflections and suggested activities that have a personal, local and global impact. May this week of prayer and reconciliation help to bring healing to the global Body of Christ.

Prayer

Creator of light,
illumine our path by the light of
Christ who moves before us and
leads us.
May he be a beacon for our
pilgrimage.
Enlighten us and dwell within us.
Guide us to discover a manger in our
hearts where a great light
still shines.

We Saw His Star in the East...



Questions

Reflecting on the past year:

Global: What could the role of the Church be in proclaiming the good news of the Gospel in a world where there is so much injustice?

Local: Where have you seen signs of hope in your community, especially during a time of pandemic?

Personal: How have you sought 'the light' in the midst of darkness?

“Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?”

(Mt 2:2)

*Humble leadership breaks down walls
and builds up with love*



“Safe & Well”—Fire Safety Advice



Fire Kills but You Can Prevent It!

Dear Watch Member,

More than three quarters of fire related deaths happen in the home. You can make sure that your home is safe by arranging a [Safe & Well](#) visit from the [Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service](#).

Safe & Well visits are carried out by uniformed officers **free of charge**. You will receive advice on making your home safe and on staying well. Fire and Rescue Service will fit smoke detectors where necessary and check your existing ones. With a working smoke alarm, you are 4 times more likely to survive. **Safe & Well visits are available to anyone**. It won't cost you a penny, but it could save a life.

Everyone can benefit from fire safety advice, but some groups in our community may be at greater risk. Help is available so get in touch [online](#) or by telephone on 0300 123 4046.

If you are worried about a young person's or child's behaviour around fire you can report it anonymously at [Report dangerous behaviour around fire](#).

Make a fire escape plan

If there is a fire in your home, it'll be much easier for you to escape if you've already thought about the best way to get out quickly.

- Work out an escape route and keep it clear of obstructions
- Keep keys to doors and windows accessible
- Check all the family know how to escape
- Tell family or friends who may stay at your home overnight

If a fire starts in your home act fast. Every second counts!

- Raise the alarm
- Get out
- Get others out if you can safely. Don't risk your own life
- **Call the fire service on 999 or 112**

Stay out – don't go back in for anything





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 Gravynaise	Mongolian Lion's Head Beef Meatballs	Hand Battered Fish & Fricke
VEGGIE	Keralan Egg Molee Curry	Veg Chilli Nachos Homemade Salsa	Quorn Roast & Stuffing Bap Gravynaise	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

Subject to change based on supply

WEEK 1

We are hiring!



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST



Classroom Teaching Assistant (32.5hrs)

- St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Waltham Cross
- Closing date: 28th January at 12pm

Enquiries: denisep@stjosephs351.herts.sch.uk

Exam Invigilators (casual)

- St Mary's Catholic School, Bishop's Stortford
- Closing date: 2nd February at 10am
- Interviews: 7th February

Enquiries: recruitment@stmarys.net

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/>

