



HEADLINES 24TH SEPTEMBER 2021

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter (Issue 3 2021-22)

Proud of our Community

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



Dear Parents and Students,

It was a proud moment for us both on Wednesday evening to see the whole school pull together, including the site team, our dedicated support staff, teachers, catering and cleaning teams and—especially—the students as we prepared for, and delivered an Open Evening for prospective students that just a couple of weeks ago we had been expecting would be limited to a virtual event.

Our student ambassadors were simply incredible and I'd like to thank each and every one of them for their service to the school. There will be House Points, and the opportunity to put this service towards their St. Mary's Award, BUT what I'd love to be able to bottle is the enthusiasm, thoughtful eloquence in response to questions, and the pride they demonstrated in their school, teachers and community. Thanks also to **you**—their parents—who encouraged and supported them to attend the event; arranging transport to enable it to happen.

Although it was, due to Covid, a slightly different event to previous Open Evenings, with limited numbers on site, ticketed speeches and shorter tours, there was a 'buzz' across the school, that I believe demonstrated in action, our ambition to nurture mind, body and spirit; a Catholic community dedicated to the achievement of excellence for all.

If you'd like to see for yourself, or pass on information to friends about us, please head to our website www.stmarys.net where you will find our new school video, interactive prospectus and full admissions information.

There has been a lot of speculation about the NHS plans for vaccinations for 12-15 year olds over the coming weeks. Once we have had final communications from the NHS



about their intentions, we will forward these to you. All communications and consent will be dealt with directly by the NHS as the whole operation will be managed and administered by them.

In this issue, you will find information about Extra-Curricular activities, new staff, and chaplaincy news. We continue to roll out our 'Operation Rejuvenation' plans/ 2021-22 Strategic Objectives which include a return to the events, activities and enrichment opportunities that make this school so special.

Have a great weekend with your family.

God Bless

Tom Johnston, Acting Head of School

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 28th
September

**Inter-house Rugby
& Hockey**

Wednesday 29th
September

Careers Carousel



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

www.stfrancistrust.net



Extra! Extra! Extra Curricular Clubs!

Last week we were delighted to send you our list of Extra-Curricular Clubs on offer this half term. The list of clubs on offer will keep changing and this can be found on [Teams Student Planner](#), alongside a range of GCSE and A Level revision classes.

Most of the clubs have now started, with more on the way!



Hockey **Spanish** **Candle-making**
Orchestra **Drama**
Rugby **Choir**
Books & Biscuits **Polish**
Lego Club **DT Formula One**
Homework **Rock & Pop Band** **Arts & Crafts**

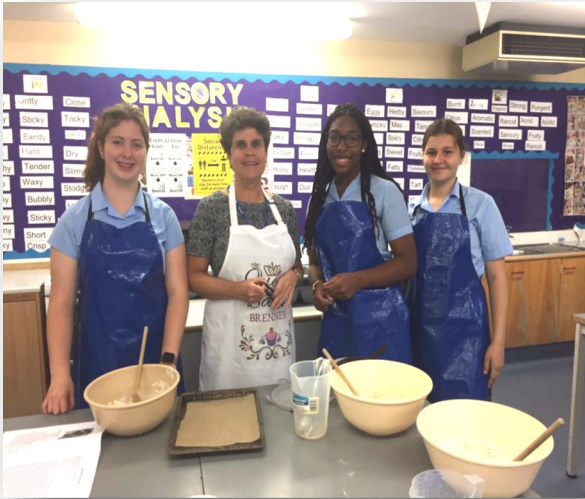
What will YOU take part in?

Please note that on occasions a club may unfortunately have to be cancelled at short notice, and should this happen, students are welcome to go to a different activity or the library if they are waiting for a lift home.



Introducing some of our new staff!

Mrs Brenner, Food Preparation and Nutrition Teacher



"I am Cathy Brenner, the new Food Preparation and Nutrition Teacher at St Mary's School. I am originally from South Africa and have a passion for food, having worked in the food industry and as a Food Technology Teacher for over 38 years.

I have taught Food Technology both in South Africa and in several other local schools and I have an excellent record in achieving excellent GCSE exam results.

I bring energy and enthusiasm to my lessons and am hoping to inspire the students of St Mary's to cook from scratch and be confident able chefs with a good knowledge of nutrition. In my spare time I enjoy playing tennis and bridge."

Mrs Acheson, Science Teacher

"My name is Alexandra Acheson and I am an Early Career Teacher (ECT) within the Science Department.

Prior to teaching, I worked for 20 years within the Scientific Industry in various roles, my last being as the Scientific Conferences Managing Editor, managing workflows and teams globally.



My transition to teaching has been enjoyable, even in these more challenging times, and in delivering lessons both in person and remotely. I am passionate about delivering engaging and exciting lessons and looking for ways to demonstrate theory in practice (a must in Science!) as much as possible to ensure pupils can understand some difficult concepts.

As a practising Catholic, I am thrilled to become a member of St. Mary's community, to live out the school motto and to contribute to, and support all pupils on their academic and spiritual journey as they grow. "



Chaplaincy News:

Today is the feast of Our Lady of Walsingham.

In 1061, a devout and holy woman, Richeldis de Faverche, prayed earnestly to Our Lady that she may be able to serve her in some way. In answer to her prayer, the Virgin Mary led her in spirit to Nazareth, showed her the House of the Annunciation, where the Angel greeted Mary, and asked her to build a replica in Walsingham as a perpetual memorial of the Annunciation. She did so and the Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham grew to become one of the important places of Christian pilgrimage in the Middle Ages which only ended after the destruction of the shrine during the Reformation. Today, the shrine attracts over 150,000 pilgrims annually, who make visit the Slipper Chapel and make the mile-long walk to the grounds of the old Marian priory.



Statue of Our Lady of Walsingham

<https://www.walsingham.org.uk/the-statue-of-our-lady-of-walsingham/>

PRAYER TO MARY, OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

Let us join in prayer to Our Lady of Walsingham, asking her intercession that we may be comforted in our hour of need and that we may experience the joy she had at the Annunciation.

O Mary, recall the solemn moment when Jesus, your Divine son, dying on the cross, confided us to your maternal care.

You are our Mother, we desire ever to remain your devout children. Let us therefore feel the effects of your powerful intercession with Jesus Christ. Make your name again glorious in this place once renowned throughout our land by your visits, favours and many miracles.

Pray, O holy Mother of God for the conversion of England, restoration of the sick, consolation for the afflicted, repentance of sinners, peace to the departed.

O Blessed Mary, Mother of God, Our Lady of Walsingham, intercede for us. **Amen.**

An Opportunity Beckons – Are you Thirsty?

Do you have many questions? Do you find your experience of faith unsatisfying? Perhaps you have been through the sacraments of baptism, first communion and confirmation but never really explored what gifts and treasures of the Christian that you have received or thought how they are relevant to your life.

The ASCENT is a three-year discipleship process for anyone in years 10, 11 or 12 who want more! Maybe you feel ready to go to the next level in your faith journey. Including weekends away, mentoring and small groups, this process is just what you might be looking for to climb to greater heights in your faith!

The first weekend away for this coming year takes place at the end of October half term. For more info, check out the official ASCENT website ([Home | theASCENT UK](#)) or visit the Youth Portal on the parish website at St Joseph's and the English Martyrs [Youth Portal – Catholic Parish of Bishop's Stortford \(rcstortford.org.uk\)](#)





#DedicatedtoExcellence

Our Chapel is OPEN!



Firstly, a big thank you to the Chaplaincy volunteers at our Open Evening – Monique, Florence, Christiana and Matthew, who offered a cheerful welcome to our guests and made them feel welcome. Thank you also to Mrs Wright, Mrs McMillan, Mrs Ring and Mrs Sullivan who gave valuable suggestions and resources that helped to make the chapel a really special space on the evening. After the long Covid break, the chapel now is ready for regular use and form classes will begin to use the chapel for morning prayers on a rota basis from the following week. The chapel will also be open for students to visit during the day – the timings are now posted on the door leading to the chapel corridor.

Tuesday, 28th September

The National Day of Prayer for Schools is a call to action for Christians everywhere to pray for their schools. It has been promoted by the Pais Movement and Youthscape, Christian organisations that want every school in the UK to have a group of Christians praying for it and actively seeking to serve it. We invite you to join us in prayer for our school on this day. Year 7 will be making a prayer walk around the school during AM registration, with stops at the various statues of Our Lady to pray for our school community, led by Mr D'Cruz, our lay chaplain. If you are able to, please join Sophie Sullivan, the catechetical co-ordinator at the parish of St Joseph and the English Martyrs in Bishop Stortford, who is leading a prayer walk departing from the parish church at 10:15 am. See the parish website for more details: <https://rcstortford.org.uk/2021/09/17/join-sophie-for-a-prayer-walk/>

National Day of Prayer for Schools



CAFOD Fast day 1st October



We're Going Green for CAFOD! On Friday, 1st of October, the canteen will be offering green pea soup and bread as a menu option. Proceeds from the sale of the pea soup and bread will go towards the CAFOD Harvest Fast Day collection. World leaders are meeting in Glasgow this November to make important decisions about the future of our planet and its people. With Catholic schools around the country we are playing our part by joining CAFOD's Go Green day to support Amazon communities protecting the rainforest, and people around the world dealing with the climate crisis. Students who purchase the pea soup will also receive a special 'Go Green' sticker for

their participation in this fundraising event. You can find out more about the Harvest Fast Day on the CAFOD website - <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Family-Fast-Day>



Menu for next week in our Aspens Refectory

Autumn
Winter
2021

STREATERIES



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
STREET	Spicy Andhra Chicken Curry	Sweet Potato & BBQ Pulled Jackfruit Burger	Roast Chicken & Stuffing Bap Gravy	Mongolian Lion's Head Beef Meatballs	Hand Battered Fish & Frickle
VEGGIE	Keralan Egg Molee Curry	Veg Chilli Nachos Homemade Salsa	Quorn Roast & Stuffing Bap Gravy	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!

Current Vacancies - Support Staff:

St Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust Roles:

1. Finance Manager: (Based initially at St Mary's and St Joseph's Bishop's Stortford) – Full Time, All Year Round - Closing date is 11th October 2021 Enquiries to recruitment@stmarys.net or cfo@stfrancistrust.net

<https://www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/school-finance-manager-full-time-salary-pounds-25-000-pounds-35-000-dependent-on-skills-knowledge-and-experience-hertfordshire-1494418>

Location specific roles:

2. Exam Invigilators: St Mary's Catholic School – Casual - Closing date 30th October 2021 Enquiries to recruitment@stmarys.net

<https://www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/exam-invigilators-casual-st-mary-s-catholic-school-bishop-s-stortford-herts-pounds-9-95-p-h-hertfordshire-cm23-2nq-1495811>

3. Assistant School Caretaker: St Mary's Catholic School – Term Time Only 32.5 hours p.w. – Closing Date 30th October 2021

Enquiries to recruitment@stmarys.net

<https://www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/assistant-school-caretaker-term-time-only-32-5-hours-p-w-h1-2-pounds-18-198-pounds-626-fringe-allowance-pro-rata-actual-salary-pounds-13-741-hertfordshire-cm23-2nq-1496355>

Cleaning vacancies:

Our third party service provider Evergreen Facilities Services are currently looking for cleaning operatives, for various sites including St Mary's. Any interested applicants should contact Evergreen directly on 01438 748818.

Please note, any contact/employment with Evergreen is not linked to St Mary's Catholic School and you would not be an employee of the School or the St Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust.