



HEADLINES 1ST OCTOBER 2021

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter (Issue 4 2021-22)

Interhouse Sporting Success

Acting Heads of School Update
Mr Johnston & Miss McHugh



Dear Parents and Students

We are delighted to have our students taking part in so many after school clubs and activities. The students are enjoying taking part in so many sporting activities with special mention and commendation to our Year 7 Rugby Team who performed outstandingly in their first fixture winning their game! There was great excitement this week for our first Inter House competition of the season, with Hockey and rugby tournaments led by our PE staff and Sixth Form leaders. A great day was had by all and our winning Houses results are shown on Page two.

Year 7 Parents Evening is fast approaching and we are very much looking forward to welcoming our Year 7 parents to their first visit to the school site. As a staff body we are very proud of how well our Y7 students have settled into secondary life and I know the students themselves are very excited to show their parents the school and to be welcomed by their subject teachers with a progress update on their academic studies. Mr Johnston and I look forward to meeting many of our Year 7 parents in person on Thursday evening.

You will find attached to the Headlines, the Covid Vaccination programme letter requesting you to provide either consent or decline for children aged 12-15 who are eligible for the Covid vaccination. Please do read the letter carefully and instructions. The date scheduled is Wednesday 20th October. Any queries must be directed to the NHS immunisation team on their dedicated telephone number who will be able to assist.

We are blessed to be celebrating the Feast day of the patron saint of our Academy Trust – St Francis on Monday 4th October. Every school in the Trust will join together for a very special Assembly to be broadcast by every form tutor during AM registration. It is a beautiful way for our Reception class, Y1 all the way through to Y13 students praying together in all eight schools to mark our first Feast Day as an Academy. May the words of St Francis bless us and guide us always.

Wishing you and your families a restful and relaxing weekend.
God Bless

Deirdre McHugh,
Acting Head of School

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 7th October
Year 7 Parents Evening

Thursday 14th October
Y11—Y13 Invite Only
Parents Evening

ACTION REQUIRED.

You will find attached to the HEADLINES a letter from the NHS regarding the vaccination programme for young people aged 12 to 15 who are being offered a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

- Public Health England has updated its page of resources for young people and their families with answers to some frequently asked questions.
- Please note this is being administered by the NHS so any queries you may have need to be communicated with the NHS immunisation team.
- Please do ensure you clearly accept or decline the vaccine for your child by following the instructions on the parental letter.



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

www.stfrancistrust.net



Inter-House Rugby and Hockey!

I am delighted we are able to have our inter-house competitions up and running again. The first one of the year was hockey and rugby. The students were a credit to their forms, they all looked fantastic in their form colours and competed with real pride. Well done to all involved.



Rugby results:

Year	B Team winners	A Team winners	Overall
7	K	M	M
8	A	A	A
9	T	M	M
10	T	M	T
11	K	T	T



Hockey results:

Year	B Team winners	A Team winners	Overall
7	T	A & M	M
8	B	T	B
9	A	B	B
10	T	K	B
11	B & A	J	A

Mr Wright
Head of PE



Introducing some of our new staff!

Mrs Guidera, RE Teacher

The Holy Spirit guides us on our journey through life and that's exactly what it has done to me. London, Durham, Yorkshire, Bishops Stortford. It appears that the Spirit likes me to travel. For the past 23 years I have educated the students of Hartlepool and Bradford. The latter in a wonderful Catholic School with 18 years dedicated service in a variety of roles; Governor, Head of Citizenship, Teacher of RE, Sixth Form Lead RE and enrichment residential organiser. I therefore arrive at St Mary's Catholic school with much experience and enthusiasm in my new role and location. I strive to echo the mission of the Nuns of Namur by delivering good quality R.E to all students increasing their knowledge understanding and skills. Apart from my enjoyment of Teaching RE and as a St Mary's Strawberry Hill alumni I look forward to enhancing the religious life of the school as it enters its 125 year anniversary.

✝
KEEP CALM
BECAUSE
I'M AN RE TEACHER



St Mary's Award relaunched!



From next week all students will be working towards their bronze St Mary's Award with the first batch of badges to be presented in November following AP1.

Our goal this year is to see most students able to achieve the award and to reward the commitment to St Mary's shown by helping at Open Evening, supporting fundraising events, attending extra-curricular clubs, entering Inter-House contests, actively participating in the Catholic life of the school and embracing opportunities for student leadership. Please do ask your child how they are getting on- most students should be able to fill 2 or 3 boxes already. We are asking them to complete the award on teams this year. Their tutors will guide and advise them, but the students will complete the award with details of what they did and when themselves, and I hope in this way they will realise how much they are doing and how this is helping them to grow into a resilient and determined young adult ready for the world beyond school.

Mrs Wilkin
Assistant Headteacher



Careers Carousel 2021



After the disruption, caused by Covid, for almost the last two years it was amazing to be able to hold our annual Careers Carousel this week. With a great deal of careful planning, we were able to go ahead with this fantastic event, albeit on a smaller scale from in the past.

With a mix of employers and educational institutions in attendance, the Sports Hall was full to the brim with talk of careers and future prospects. The day started with an atmosphere of excitement and eagerness that at last things were starting to get back to a new kind of normal and events such as this were finally able to happen again. Employers were putting the finishing touches to their stalls as the first students enthusiastically lined up outside to see what awaited them. Year 9, 10 and 11 got the chance to visit multiple employers throughout their allocated time slot. The buzz of career talk filled the air as students gained as much information as they could. 'What qualifications do I need to be able to do this?' competed with 'Is there any work experience that you think would be helpful?' Questions were being answered and students were absorbing the information ready to be used again in the future when planning their next steps.



For most of the students, this was their first experience of career planning and it was a delight to hear some of the questions they were asking and to hear the students saying they had found a career they would like to pursue when they were older. At the end of the day when the last of the stalls were being packed away, a sense of calm descended on the Sports Hall once again. A huge amount of information had been shared throughout the day and it felt like it had made a real difference to some of the students.



Mrs Gaulton
Futures Coordinator





Y12 Induction Trip - Stubbers!

On Friday 24th September Year 12 embarked on their Induction trip a to Stubbers Adventure Centre, in the hope that we would strengthen the bonds within our friendship groups and build new bonds with the students that joined us this September.

Stubbers is a place filled with a range of activities and challenges designed to make you step out of your comfort zone in all sorts of circumstances, whether it be in water, on land or up high in the air!

Once we had arrived, we were organised in to our groups for the planned challenges, then met the instructors and headed off to our first activities. There was a wide range of activities on offer – these included: Rock Climbing, Leap of Faith, Raft Building, Canoeing and High Ropes. Many of these challenges were exciting and everyone worked really well as a team.

My group started with Canoeing, followed by Raft Building and then High Ropes to finish. Canoeing was great fun and a great way to learn new skills. Raft building was a good way to involve yourself as part of a team and the highlight being competitions with the other groups to see whose raft could travel the team the longest distance. It was also a good way to learn new skills like knot tying and craft techniques. Finally, High Ropes was something where everyone was so supportive and patient with people who maybe weren't so confident with heights. This was the highlight for the Y12 as it proved that we had come together as a team and had achieved!

I really enjoyed the trip. The instructors and our Sixth Form tutor team were great – they were really helpful and reassuring and that certainly helped as some of the challenges were daunting. A great day was had by all.

Alex K 12A





Chaplaincy News:



Fast, pray and give

Today is Harvest Fast Day. Thank you to all the parents who encouraged their children to take up our 'Go Green' Pea soup option at lunch today. Please continue to pray for and speak to your children about the COP26 meeting of World leaders in Glasgow this November, where important decisions about the future of our planet and its people will be made. The Harvest Fast today will help CAFOD and its partners support communities protecting the Amazon and to stand up for people dealing with the climate crisis. We hope to share more information about the success of this fundraiser soon.

Feast of St Francis of Assisi



Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred,
let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not
so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that
we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born
to eternal life.
Amen.

Monday, the 4th of October is the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. As members of the newly formed St Francis of Assisi Trust, we will be joining our fellow trust schools in a special assembly on Monday morning, joining together in prayer and praying for our schools and our communities.

Please see our Trust website <http://www.stfrancistrust.net/> for more details about how our schools are joined in partnership. May the life and values of St Francis of Assisi be an inspiration to us all in how to follow Jesus in our lives.

Mr D'Cruz
Chaplain



St Mary's is joining



TerraCycle recycle waste from common brands that use unrecyclable products.



We are recycling
Walkers Crisp
packets

There will be special
TerraCycle bins for these
packets





Menu for next week in our Aspens Refectory

Autumn Winter 2021		STREATERIES					Aspens ☀☀☀☀☀
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY		
STREET	 All American Cheeseburger Burger Sauce Wedges	 Chicken Shawarma Pickled Red Cabbage	 Gammon & Parsnip Yorkshire Pudding Wrap Gravy	 Jamaican Jerk Chicken Wings Rice and Peas	 Hand Battered Fish & Frickle		
VEGGIE	Chicken Style Strips Jambalaya Cornbread	Egyptian Koshari - Macaroni, Rice, Tomato sauce, Crispy Onions	Quorn Sausage Toad in the Hole Gravy	Cheesy Macaroni Pie	Vegan Mince and Pea Slice		
SIDES	BBQ Beans	Pomegranate Couscous Mezze Salad	Smokey Roasties Roasted Roots	Spinach & Coconut Slaw	Chips Peas	WEEK 2	

We are hiring!

Current Vacancies - Support Staff

St Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust Roles:

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

Full details can be found by clicking on the web link: <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>

St Mary's Catholic School Roles

Exam Invigilators: St Mary's Catholic School
Casual - Closing date 30th October 2021

Enquiries to recruitment@stmarys.net

Full details can be found by clicking on the web link: <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>

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

Full details can be found by clicking on the web link: <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>