

# HEADLINES 25TH FEBRUARY 2022

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter (Issue 21 2021-22)

## 125th Anniversary



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

This is the 125th anniversary of the school, which we have started the celebrations for this week in assemblies and given each student and member of staff their commemorative badge to proudly wear on their lapels. Since 1896, St. Mary's has offered a distinctive Catholic education in Bishop's Stortford being established by the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, whose distinctive crucifix we celebrate in the badge design.

We have used the original school seal at the top of this edition today, which was adopted in 1926 and students have been learning in assemblies this week about what each component part of the badge represents. At the centre is the monogram of Mary, our patron. The two lilies represent action and contemplation and the star recalls the mystery of the incarnation. There is also a stylised (rounded) cross shape representing the four fundamental principles of simplicity, joy, poverty and humility.

We are steeped in tradition and history, and at this particular point in time we are all in the privileged position to be simultaneously the recipients of all that has gone before us, and to be adding to the story as the current community.

The chapter of recent history of the school, during the pandemic, is gradually (we trust) coming to a close. Mr Celano, Miss McHugh and myself have been working with the staff this week (after a period of reflection and consultation) on building on our traditions and reminding ourselves of the great strengths this school has that have been side-lined by Covid control measures. Next week, students will be challenged to write the 'history of the future'—so that in another 125 years people looking back will be able to see the many proud achievements of our current community.

Covid measures have now been updated by government guidance. We will continue with ventilation, cleaning and many of the other safety measures for now. Masks can now be worn by personal preference, and we are asking students with symptoms to test and stay at home in the event of a positive result, as before but routine weekly testing is no longer required.

I'll end with a reminder about our place in St. Mary's history, with an extract from a prayer from St. Teresa: ***"Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body."***

Tom Johnston, Acting Head of School



St Francis of Assisi  
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST



### Upcoming Webinars from Cambridge University for parents and students Year10-Year12

#### WEBINAR

**1 March (Tuesday); 16:00-17:00**  
Exploring University & Subject Options

With over a hundred tens of thousands of different course options in the UK, making the right choices for your future can be daunting! In this session we will look at different factors that will help you narrow it all down and get to grips with the big decisions over university and course choice - different types of university, subtle differences in course content and assessment, and financial factors - we'll explore all this and more!!

Register here: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_noKCYN5XQBSEp5YVXxBonA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_noKCYN5XQBSEp5YVXxBonA)

#### WEBINAR

**8 March (Tuesday); 16:00-17:00**  
Super-Curricular Activities: What they are and why they matter

Exploring the subjects you love outside of school is both fun and rewarding - and it can help you make a great university application as well! In this session we will look at different ways you can develop your knowledge of a subject and develop loads of other skills at the same time. We will break down the benefits of super-curricular activities and go through places to find free and accessible resources to get you started.

Register here: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_a9EUnZmgSUS2-dpn3MMciQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_a9EUnZmgSUS2-dpn3MMciQ)

**Mrs C Wilkin**  
Assistant Headteacher

### Celebrating Sporting Success



**Year 10 students** have shown excellent dedication to boy's and girl's extra-curricular PE clubs this half term.

Their hard work has paid off as they have been successful in many of their competitive matches against local schools.

The students were rewarded for their wonderful efforts with takeaway pizza's!



**Well done to all involved!**

**Mr S Eddleston**  
Learning Coordinator, Y10







## Celebrating World Book Day at St Mary's!



On **World Book Day** next Thursday, students will have the opportunity to take part in live-streamed author events and to judge the staff book character costume competition.

There will also be a **Book Swap** in the library.

Each student can bring a book they have enjoyed but no longer want, and swap it for a book brought by another student.

If your child wants to take part, please make sure they bring an appropriate book for their age group, in good condition.

Any extra books will be donated to the library or to charity.



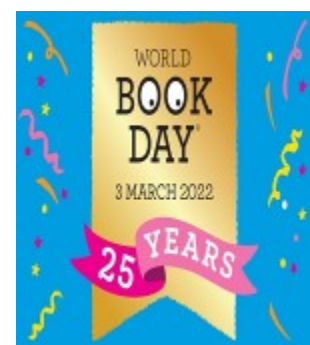
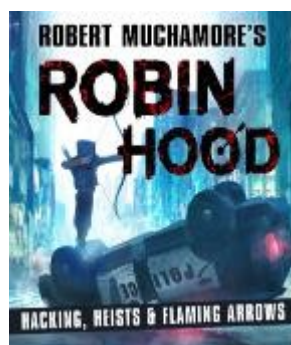
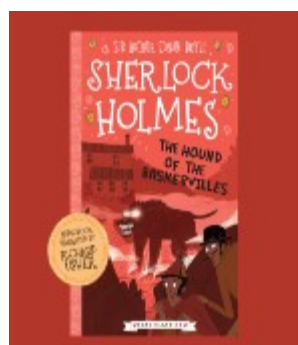
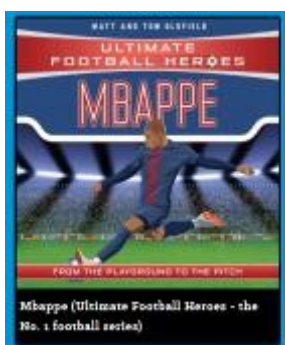
Remember that students in **Years 7 to 9** can get a **free book in exchange for the World Book Day token** they have received from their English teacher.

Tokens are valid at most branches of WHSmith, as well as other major booksellers.

This year there are four brilliant books to choose from for Secondary level.

See the World Book Day website for information: <https://www.worldbookday.com/books/>

There are also free audiobooks available until 31<sup>st</sup> March, here <https://www.worldbookday.com/world-of-stories/> including these titles:





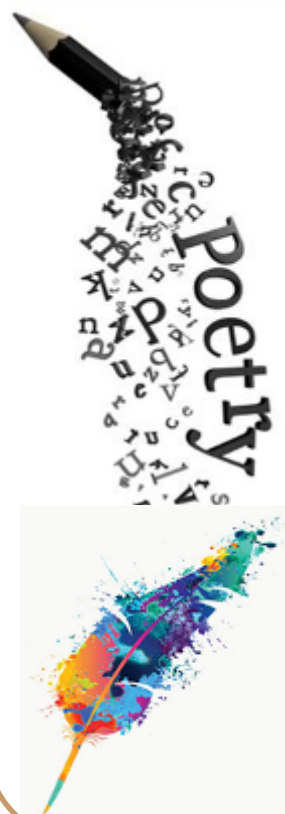
## Year 7 & 8 Poetry Recital Competition



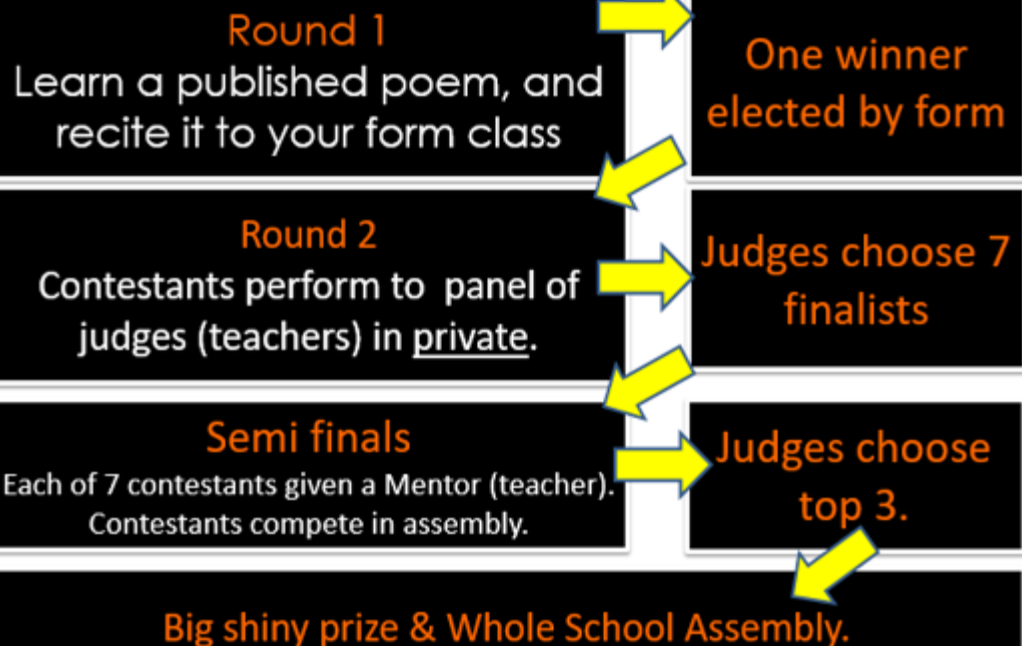
Year 7 and 8 Poetry Recital Tournament!

Students need to get poems ready to recite to forms in the week beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> March!

Win hearts, win minds, win... a shiny prize!  
Check through the slides on your form's Team or ask your teachers for advice on choosing a poem.



### Poetry Recital Tournament





## Monthly Music Magazine

### COMPOSER OF THE MONTH March—Chopin (1 March 1810-17 October 1849)

Chopin was a Polish composer and virtuoso pianist of the Romantic period who wrote primarily for solo piano. He has maintained worldwide renown as a leading musician of his era, one whose "poetic genius was based on a professional technique that was without equal in his generation."

All of Chopin's compositions include the piano. Most are for solo piano, though he also wrote two piano concertos, a few chamber pieces, and some 19 songs set to Polish lyrics. His piano writing was technically demanding and expanded the limits of the instrument, his own performances noted for their nuance and sensitivity. His major piano works also include mazurkas, waltzes, nocturnes, polonaises, the instrumental *ballade* (which Chopin created as an instrumental genre), etudes, impromptus, scherzos, preludes, and sonatas, some published only posthumously. Among the influences on his style of composition were Polish folk music, the classical tradition of J. S. Bach, Mozart, and Schubert, and the atmosphere of the Paris salons of which he was a frequent guest. His innovations in style, harmony, and musical form, and his association of music with nationalism, were influential throughout and after the late Romantic period.

In his final years, he was supported financially by his admirer Jane Stirling, who also arranged for him to visit Scotland in 1848. For most of his life, Chopin was in poor health.

He died in Paris in 1849 at the age of 39, probably of pericarditis aggravated by tuberculosis.



YouTube Link:  
Chopin Nocturne in Eb Major

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tV5U8kVYS88>

### Music Liturgy - Why Sing Hymns in Lent?

Hymns are sung to shape Lent. These songs range from prayers of confession to cries of lament to expressions of trust and praise for God's grace. The season of Lent is a time of penance, including traditional practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

There are a number of themes which appear in the Lenten readings in each year of the liturgical calendar, including repentance and renewal, preparing for Christ's death, appealing to God's mercy and compassion.

Here are some well-known Lenten hymns that cover these themes. How many do you know? Do you have any favourites?

- At the name of Jesus*
- Be Still my Soul*
- Here I am lord*
- Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*
- Be thou my vision*
- Father Hear the Prayer we Offer*
- Be Not Afraid*
- Forty Days and Forty Nights*
- Lord Jesus Think on Me*
- Praise to the Holiest in the Heights*
- You Lord are the Centre of my life*
- Unless a Grain of Wheat*
- Take my Life and Let It Be*



## Spring Concert

Please join us for an evening of musical entertainment from our talented students!

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March**  
The Hume Theatre: 7pm



**Tickets available via:**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/spring-concert-tickets-274235414507>

**£5 for Adults and FREE for Under 18s/Staff**

### Music Clubs

**Monday:**  
Orchestra

**Tuesday:**  
Choir

**Wednesday:**  
GCSE Catch Up

**Friday:**  
Pop & Rock Group





# GCSE Revision Workshops



Mathematics advisers from Herts for Learning will be leading **24 topic-based online workshops** during February and March 2022: 12 for Foundation Tier and 12 for Higher Tier.

The revision workshops are scheduled to start on **Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> February**.

Students will have the opportunity to take part in several focused revision activities, and to complete exam-style questions. Each workshop will be 50 minutes long. Students may wish to attend two or three consecutively, with a short break in between each. The cost of each workshop is being subsidised by Hertfordshire County Council, reducing each to £5 per student (incl. VAT).



Individual places can be booked **directly by parents/carers** <https://cpd.hertsforlearning.co.uk/courses/bookings/default.asp?ds=1&ccid=5> or email [training@hertsforlearning.co.uk](mailto:training@hertsforlearning.co.uk) .

Please download the GCSE Mathematics 2022 revision programme for dates and booking details.

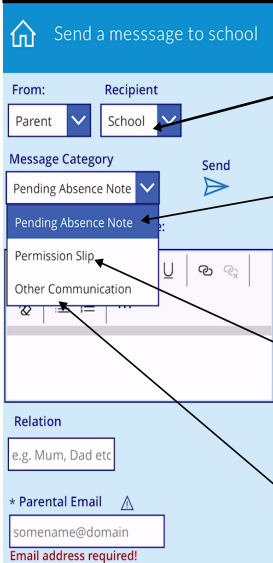
<https://www.hertsforlearning.co.uk/teaching-and-learning/secondary-teaching-and-learning-support/gcse-english-and-maths-revision-support-students-2022>

## Reminder to use the Parent/Student Planner App for Student Absences

You can now send messages to the school office or to a teacher via the Student Planner App

1. Ask the student to log into their App
2. Choose the "Parent Teacher Messages" option on the App main screen
3. Compose your message by choosing the correct options
4. Send the message
5. Receive a confirmation email.

### Sending a message to the School Office



Choose school

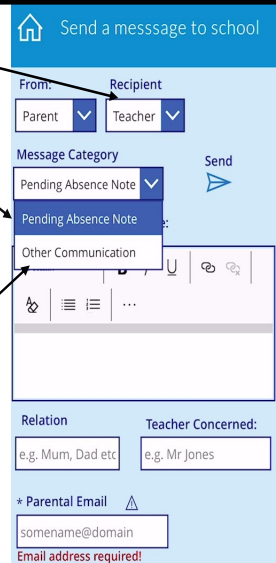
**Pending Absence note**  
Choose this option if you did not manage to call the school on the day when your child was absent

**Permission Slip**  
Choose this option if you need to collect your child during school time

**Other Communication**  
Choose this option for all other forms of communication with the school

### Sending a message to a teacher

Choose Teacher



**Pending Absence note**  
Choose this option if you know the teacher to whom the note is directed

**Other Communication**  
Choose this option for other communications with the teacher

Please note students can read and retain all communication written in their planner



## St Mary's Reading Cup League

The current standings for the **top five** English/Accelerated Reader Classes in the **St Mary's Reading Cup League** (which ran from 5th January to 21st February) are :



	Word count total	Group
<b>1</b>	<b>5,374,921</b>	<b>7A</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>4,558,066</b>	<b>9B</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>3,945,694</b>	<b>8C</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>3,271,461</b>	<b>7B</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>3,173,313</b>	<b>7F</b>



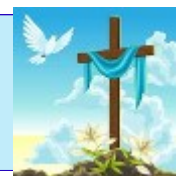
Accelerated Reader tracks how many words each student reads, so the more books students read and quiz on, the higher their group will rise in the league.



Well done to all of our Word Millionaires!



## Enrichment and Design Opportunity! St Francis of Assisi Easter Card Design



- Use A4 white paper to **design the front of a greeting card** which represents what the Easter message means to you.
- Use paint, pencil, felt tip etc.—but no computer generated images please.
- There are **prizes to be won** and the best entries will be made into Easter cards.
- This is a great opportunity to create something special and meaningful!



Please hand in finished designs to your Art Teacher by: **Friday 4th March**

Mrs C Wilkin  
Assistant Headteacher

HE IS RISEN!  
*Alleluia!*  
HAPPY EASTER





## Our School Prayer: Hail Mary



*Hail Mary,*

Full of Grace,  
The Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit  
of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary,  
Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners now,  
and at the hour of our death.



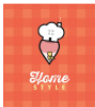


*Amen.*

## Aspens Menu

Autumn  
Winter  
2021

# STREATERIES

Aspens  
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	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
					
<b>STREET</b>	Spicy Andhra Chicken Curry	Sweet Potato & BBQ Pulled Jackfruit Burger	Roast Chicken & Stuffing Bap Gravy	Mongolian Lion's Head Beef Meatballs	Hand Battered Fish & Fricke
<b>VEGGIE</b>	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
<b>SIDES</b>	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!



St Mary's Catholic School



St Francis of Assisi  
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

### Assistant Premises Manager (School Estates)

Full Time (37 hours per week) – plus additional hours as agreed

You can view the job details by clicking here:

Click: [Assistant Premises Manager ADVERT](#)

Closing Date: Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 10 am. Interviews week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> March.

### Full Time Teacher of English with Drama – Required from September 2022

You can view the job details by clicking here:

<https://www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/full-time-teacher-of-english-with-drama-required-from-september-2022-ect-mps-ups-fringe-pounds-26-948-pounds-42-780-hertfordshire-1568739?preview=1>

Closing Date: Monday 28th February 10 am

Start Date: September 2022

### Student Supervisor – Required from April 2022

You can view the job details by clicking here:

<https://www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/student-supervisor-st-mary-s-catholic-school-bishop-s-stortford-required-from-apr-2022-h3-5-6-fringe-term-time-pounds-19-312-19-698-pounds-626-actual-pounds-15-675-pounds-15-978-hertfordshire-cm23-2nq-1570561?preview=1>

35 hours per week , Term Time Only

Closing Date: Monday 28th February 10 am

Start Date: April 2022

### Temp Full Time Teacher of Maths – Required from Summer Term 2022

You can view the job details by clicking here:

<https://www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/-temporary-full-time-teacher-of-maths-required-from-summer-term-2022-ect-mps-ups-fringe-hertfordshire-1576233?preview=1>

Closing date: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 10 am

Start date: 19th April 2022, or shortly thereafter

**Apply in writing using the forms available on our website**  
[www.stmarys.net](http://www.stmarys.net)

**WE ARE  
HIRING!**