



HEADLINES 14TH JANUARY 2022

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter (Issue 16 2021-22)

"In God's eyes our words have only the value of our actions."

Acting Heads of School Update
Mr Johnston & Miss McHugh

- St. Ignatius Loyola



Today our students have been reviewing their Assessment Point 2 (AP2) data. They have been reviewing the progress they have made in the Autumn Term and setting SMART targets to work on improving for Spring Term to secure and exceed their target grades during the Academic year. There is a great emphasise on students taking PRIDE in their exercise books, presentation, literacy accuracy and completing all work set to enable all learners to make great progress. The students are clear in their understanding of excellence, being driven by excellent organisation and quality of work in exercise

books being the most useful tool to enable students to make sustained progress over time, helping them to attain and surpass their target grades, which we know the students are capable of. We are proud of how hard our students continue to work and the great progress and effort in their learning. We reward and share their success and achievements.

As a school, our annual Advent charity drive for the Cardinal Hume Centre was delivered on Monday evening. Mr D'Cruz and myself drove our minibus to the centre in central London. This was my tenth visit over the years with our charity collection, and I was humbled by the sheer volume of contributions, much greater than previous years, which showed the sincerity of generosity and giving from you our families in the most challenging of years. The Cardinal Hume centre asked for our donations in January when their level of need is at its most high. They were exceptionally grateful and appreciative of

the exceptional kindness from our school community which I express to you. We teach our students the importance of being called for the "Common Good", this is exemplified by the values of our families and is a great attribute and strength of our school community.

"It is not the magnitude of our actions but the amount of love that is put into them that matters."
- Mother Teresa

Thank you all for all that you continue to do to support our children and our school.

Wishing you and your families a restful and relaxing weekend.

God Bless

Miss D McHugh



Covid: Reporting Results

With reference to the latest COVID guidance update for schools on LFD and PCR testing. Please be aware that as from the 17th January 2022 if your child does not have symptoms of COVID but tests positive on a LFD test there are currently no requirements to take a PCR test to confirm the result, they must self-isolate immediately this day is known as day ZERO. If your child does have symptoms of COVID a PCR test is required, once the result is known please inform the school that a PCR test has been taken along with the date of the test. The results of both a LFD and/or PCR test should be reported to info@stmarys.net

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 20th January
Year 11 Parents Evening

Thursday 27th January
Y9 Options Evening

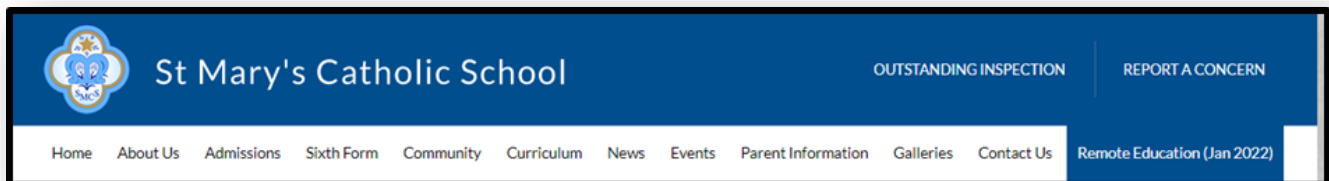
Thursday 3rd February
Year 9 Parents Evening



Personal Learning Checklists

Over the past year I have endeavoured to keep students and parents abreast of the content that will be studied over each of the half terms. This enables those that have found themselves accessing learning at home to remain up-to-date, as well as providing the information required for students to independently read ahead of their studies.

This information has been communicated in the form of our Personal Learning Checklists for years 7 - 13, and these can always be located on our website under the Remote Education tab.



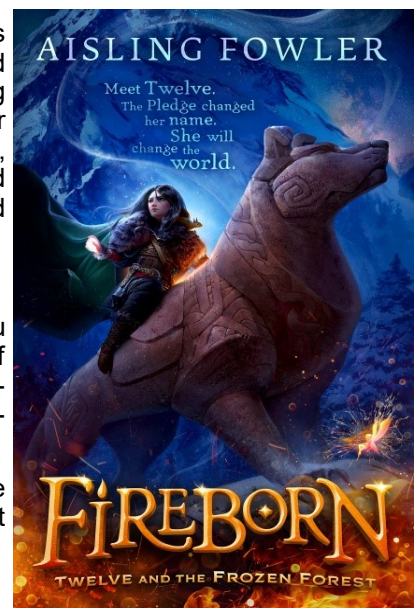
Use these checklists to talk to your young people about their day, their learning and their successes.

Mr C Palmer
Assistant Headteacher

FIREBORN! An author talks about her new book- have you read it yet?



On Wednesday 26th January some classes in year 7 and 8 will be lucky enough to attend a presentation by amazing new author Aisling Fowler, including the chance to ask her questions about her fabulous new book, Fireborn, which all of our Friday Books and Biscuits Club members have already read and enjoyed.



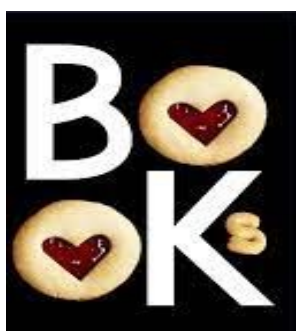
We have 7 copies of the book in the library - do read it before the event if you can! Additionally there will be an opportunity to purchase a hardback copy of the book at the discounted price of £10, and we hope to have signed bookplates for these. Please speak to our Librarian, Mrs Frino, if you wish to reserve a copy.

During the event there will also be a raffle with every student assigned a free ticket and one lucky student from each year group will win a copy of this great novel - the first in a new series.

Watch this link to find out more!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k0yQugvp6w>

Mrs L Frino,
School Librarian



Every Friday after
school in the Library



Sumdog Avatar Design Competition (Y7 & Y8)



We know our students love Sumdog! It has already been great for helping maths Maths and Spellings competitive fun and we look forward to other Hertfordshire and St Francis Trust competitions this spring. Now Sumdog want students to help them make their website even better! Year 7 and Year 8 students are being invited to have a go at designing their own avatar. There are prizes from Sumdog as well as for the best entry in each year group in school. All entries will count towards the competition element of the St Mary's Award. The deadline for handing in entries to maths teachers or directly to Mrs Wilkin is Monday 24th January.

Here's what Sumdog have to say: **Ask your students to draw their own avatar on our [drawing template \(PDF, 79KB\)](#) or on a piece of paper – if they could have anything at all in the platform what would they want to see? A representation of themselves? A cool outfit? A new hairstyle? From 10th – 31st January 2022 we're running our Sumdog Avatar Competition to find out how your pupils would like us to make our avatars even better. From some early research we know children want to feel represented in their avatars within games they play and so our aim this year is to make that happen on Sumdog.**

This will be a great way for your pupils to shape the future of Sumdog and see their ideas come to life – there will also be some exciting prizes up for grabs!

<https://www.sumdog.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Sumdog-Avatar-Competition-Drawing-Template-1.pdf>

Mrs C Wilkin
Assistant Headteacher

Reading Challenge Cup

The Accelerated Reader teachers are excited to announce the new SMCS Reading Challenge Cup!

KS3 students will be part of a "football style" reading league (19 groups in total).

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. A cup will be awarded to the top group at the end of this year, with prizes also at the end of this term. Individual readers have the chance to earn rewards for becoming a 'Million Word reader'.

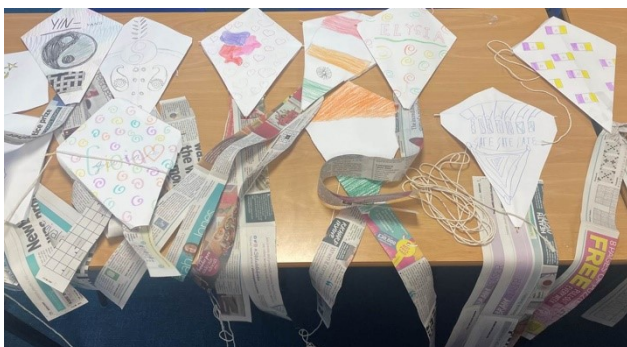
Current leaders after just one week are 8C, who have read over a million words, just since the beginning of this term!

We wish all of our teams the best of luck.



MrS Walker

Indian Club



Students attending the Indian club had a lovely time on Wednesday afternoon. They learnt about the Makar Sankranti: a kite flying festival to celebrate the end of winter and start of Harvest which is celebrated on the 14th Jan! (let's hope it puts an end to our cold spell too!)

They also sampled a few Indian snacks which can be bought from Tesco (BS) international section. These went down very well.

Mrs D Velani



Year 11

Congratulations to all the Year 11's on receiving their Mock Results this week. It was lovely to see the positive atmosphere this created, and the students being really excited to share their results with their peers. It is clear to see the progress they have made since the start of the academic year.

Today we had our Futures Day and students received their AP2 data and Reports. The structure of the day was as follows:

Key Dates

- Friday 14th January 2022 Futures Day
- Friday 14th January 2022 AP2/ Reports
- Thursday 20th January 2022 Year 11 Parents Evening (Online Event)
- Monday 21st March 2022 Spring Mocks
- Monday 16th May 2022 GCSE Exams begin

Period 1 – University and College Talk

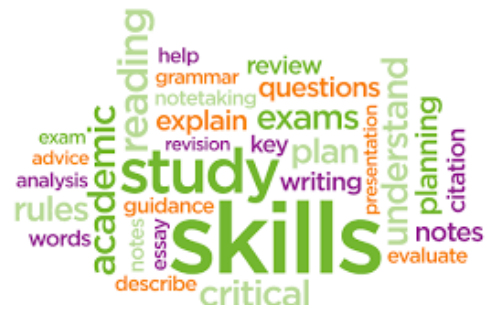
Period 2 – Apprenticeship Talk (virtually) Hall and Revision Techniques

Period 3 – AP2 & Reports and careers

With the Spring Mocks in March, and then the GCSE Exams in May/June, we have given students a revision booklet to facilitate the planning of their revision, for their Spring Mocks. Please encourage them to utilise and complete this in order to help structure their revision and time effectively.

Just a reminder that Parents Evening is taking place next Thursday 20th January; this will be an online event. All appointments will need to be booked through the parent booking system. This is a great opportunity for the Year 11's to receive quality feedback from their teachers, to maximise their progress.

Mrs L Massey
Learning Coordinator



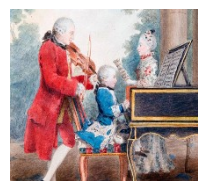
Monthly Music Update



Music Clubs

- Monday:** Orchestra
Tuesday: Choir
Wednesday: GCSE Catch Up
Friday: Pop & Rock Group

Composer of the Month: January



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
born 27th January 1756

Born in Salzburg, in the Holy Roman Empire, Mozart showed prodigious ability from his earliest childhood playing keyboard and violin, he began composing from the age of five and performed before European royalty, embarking on a grand tour and then three trips to Italy. At 17, Mozart was engaged as a musician at the Salzburg court but grew restless and travelled in search of a better position.

While visiting Vienna in 1781, he was dismissed from his Salzburg position. He chose to stay in Vienna, where he achieved fame but little financial security. During his final years in Vienna, he composed many of his best-known symphonies, concertos, and operas, and portions of the Requiem, which was largely unfinished at the time of his early death at the age of 35. The circumstances of his death are largely uncertain, and have thus been much mythologized..

One of his most famous compositions is his 40th Symphony. Listen to this YouTube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BJPmYURJk4c>

Mrs K Salter-Kay & Miss J Matthews
Music Department

Dates for your diary

Battle of The Bands (Y9) : Friday 28th January 2022
(this event is for students only)

Spring Concert: Tuesday 15th March 2022





Chaplaincy News: Synod Journey



Father,

*We thank you
for the love you have shown us
in the gift of Jesus, your Son.
We thank you for the gift of the
Church,
through which you show us
that you are always with us
and are always at work in our lives.*

*As we journey together to Synod
help us to become the Church that
you are calling us to be.
May your Holy Spirit be powerfully
at work among us.
Strengthen each of us and guide
Our school.*

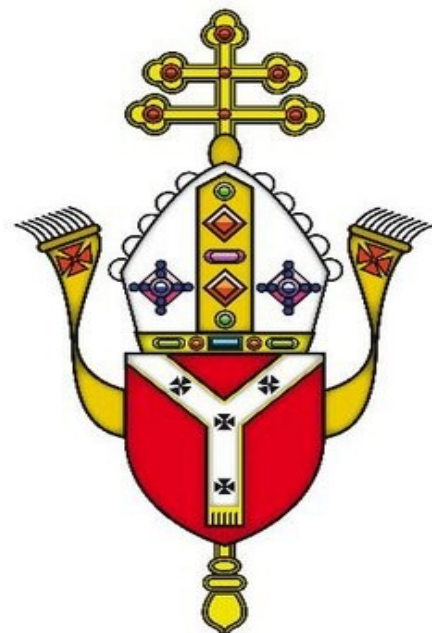
*Help us to respond
to the challenges of our times in
new ways
to bring your love to all our sisters
and brothers.
We make this prayer through Jesus
Christ Our Lord.*

Amen

2022 is shaping up to be a very formative year for our school, and as we continue in our spiritual journey for our students, we reflect on where we are and what our priority areas are for the year and years ahead. The word Catholics across the globe are thinking about this year is undoubtedly the word “synod.” Last year, Pope Francis launched a two-year Universal Synod, taking place in every Catholic diocese around the world.

With the theme of “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission”, this process calls on all of us think, pray, and discuss; to discern what the Holy Spirit is telling us, what kind of Church God is calling us to be, and how we can better reach out to the margins, engage with all people and groups in our society, so we can continue our journey of faith together.

The School continues to consider its response to Pope Francis’s invitation to join in the Synodal Process. We need to take this opportunity to contribute to the Conversation which is taking place throughout the Church. Our thoughts and views will be passed to the Diocese, and then be fed into the response from the whole of England and Wales, which will in turn inform the discussions which takes place at the Meeting in Rome in October 2023. As a staff body we have explored our role in shaping the church for our young people, we have heard from our students in their RE lessons their views and thoughts and this is how we are building upon our work as a school to ensure spiritual development and growth is at the heart of all that we do.



Mr D D’Cruz
Chaplain



HEADLINES 14TH JANUARY 2022

#DedicatedtoExcellence



HM THE QUEEN'S *Platinum Jubilee*



The Town Council is calling for residents of Bishop's Stortford to supply a record of their memories' of HM The Queen's 70 year reign to be included in a time capsule.



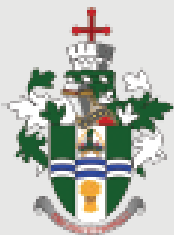
The entries can be written text or stories, drawings, photographs, newspaper clippings or small items etc.

Submit your memories' at the
Tourist Information Centre or via

Email: tic@bishopsstortford.org

until 4pm on 31 January 2022

www.bishopsstortfordtc.gov.uk/jubilee-time-capsule



Bishop's Stortford
Town Council
01279 715000





Next Week's Menu in our Aspens Refectory

Autumn Winter 2021

STREATERIES



	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

Subject to change based on supply

WEEK 2

We are hiring!



St Francis of Assisi CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST



Learning Support Assistant (15hrs per week, term time only)

St Mary's Catholic School, Bishop's Stortford
Closing date: 17th January
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/>