



HEADLINES 11TH FEBRUARY 2022

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter (Issue 20 2021-22)

God is Love, and those who live in God, Live in Love!



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

This week we are celebrating our literacy and numeracy achievements. You will see on page 2 our senior winners of the annual national UK Maths challenge. The students enthusiasm and passion for maths and problem solving to such a high level is commendable! You will see our work on literacy celebrated on pages 3 and 4 with our drive to increase students literacy skills with reading and oracy being celebrated with some great achievements. Special praise to Mrs Frino, our librarian for launching our highly successful Harry Potter night event. Many of our avid readers thoroughly enjoyed the event and the opportunity to share their passion and love for reading. There will be lots more opportunities to engage our readers and mathematicians over the term ahead.

Our school community today was a hive of activity with our Sixth Form Charity Cupid team delivering Red Roses with messages of love, appreciation and positivity to our students. Our staff wellbeing team are working collaboratively with our students to promote positive messages of wellbeing, encouraging our students to talk, share kindness and affirmation as a school community in our duty to look after each other. This underpins our Gospel values and to recognise that God is love, and love comes from God (1 John 4:7) and creating a school culture of love, respect and support enables our children to learn, thrive and succeed. Walking around the school site today, it is wonderful to see so many smiling faces and happy students celebrating the gift of friendship and nurture for one another, it makes me exceptionally proud to be part of such a blessed community.

May I wish you and your families a very restful and relaxing half term break.

God Bless

Miss D McHugh
Acting Head of School



**Please continue to TEST EACH WEDS & SUNDAY
and follow all Covid guidance.**

**Every student must bring the following
to school EVERY DAY:**



UPCOMING EVENTS

**Monday-Friday
14th-18th February**

HALF TERM

**Return to School
Monday 21st February**



**St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST**

www.stfrancistrust.net



UKMT Maths Challenge

25th Anniversary UKMT Maths Challenge



United Kingdom Mathematics Trust

In January, 160 of our year 7 and 8 students have participated in the Maths Challenge celebrating 25 years of UK Mathematics Trust, an organisation that was founded in 1996 to advance the education of young people in mathematics, encourage problem solving, team work and in general, develop curiosity and passion for the subject.

Throughout the years, we have been participating in many challenges organised by UKMT, never on such a big scale though! Our year 7 and 8 students had a great opportunity to experience the challenge and get a feel for what the UKMT national competitions are about. It has been such a pleasure to listen to them afterwards discussing the problems and their solutions – they have so much enthusiasm and passion for Maths! We are so proud of them all and wish them all the best in forthcoming events!



UKMT Senior Maths Challenge

Last term, our year 12 and 13 students took part in Senior Maths Challenge that was organised by the UKMT. 40 of St Mary's best mathematicians sat the challenge putting their brains through rather challenging work out. And the results were brilliant. We had 7 high scoring students who got nominated to the next stage: **The Andrew Jobbings Senior Kagaroo** competition. The results came in January and we are so pleased to announce that all seven of them were awarded a Merit getting themselves a place in the top 25% of participants at the national level. Brilliant work everyone!!!

Last week, our year 10 and 11 students participated in the Intermediate Maths Challenge, too. We so cannot wait for the results!



Mrs M Brewin
Second in Maths



Word Millionaires



This week we celebrated all the Key Stage 3 students who are already Accelerated Reader 'Word Millionaires'.

They have all read and quizzed on over a million words since the start of the school year in September – a fantastic achievement.

Many other students have logged over 500,000 words, so the Accelerated Reader team are looking forward to awarding more certificates before the Easter holidays. Keep reading and quizzing everyone!

Word Millionaires as of February 2022:

Year 7: Olivia F, Amelia J, Ethan M, Anna S, Hannah P

Year 8: Kayode O, Angus V

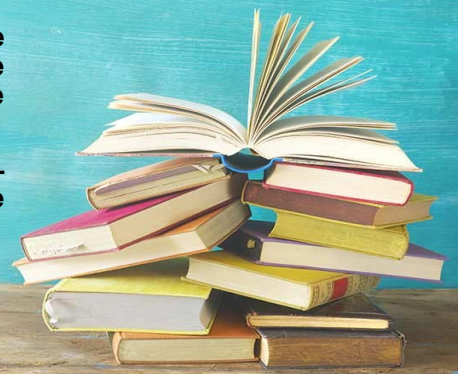
Saint Mary's Reading Challenge Cup: Top 5 Classes



7A	4,469,839
9B	2,800,176
7B	2,791,737
8C	2,581,506
8E	2,015,492

Placements in the league are changing every week, so there is everything to play for in the coming weeks.

Please encourage your children to keep reading over the half term holiday.



WE LOVE READING

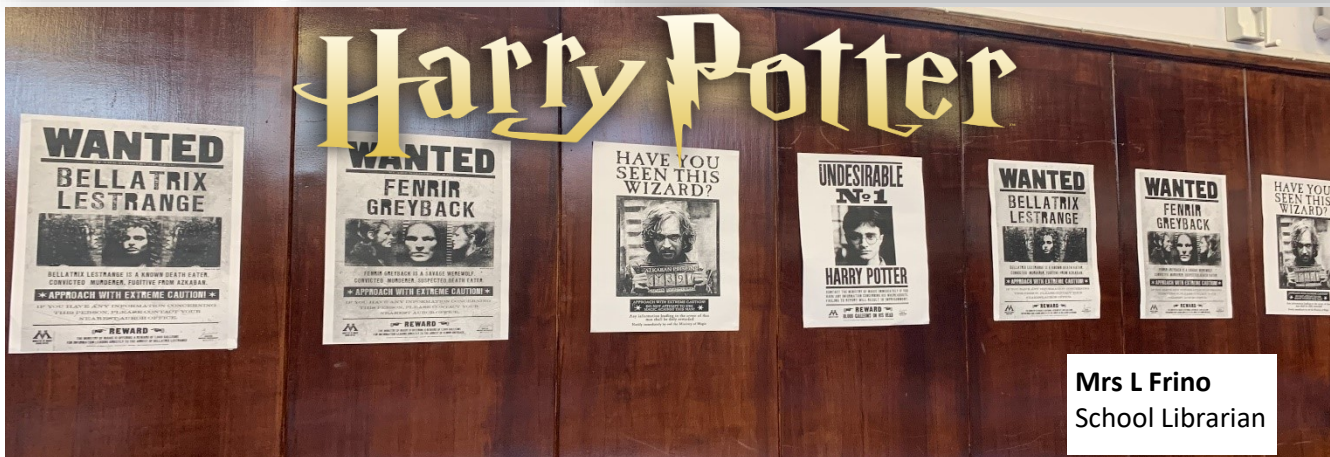
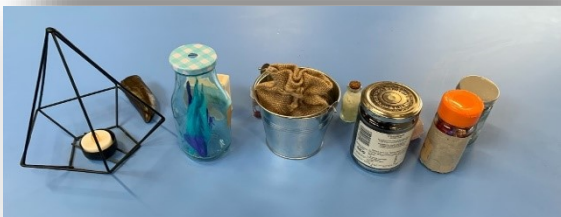




Literacy Focus: Harry Potter Night

On Friday 4th February we celebrated Harry Potter Night at St Mary's. Students took part in a selection of games and challenges, tying in with this year's national theme of 'Magical Journeys'. A thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all. It is fantastic to see so many students sharing their love of reading. A finished St Mary's Marauder's Map is now on display in the library, and there are also entry forms for a competition to win Harry Potter Lego sets!

Well done to everyone who participated and special thanks to Mrs Gohra-Grzywacz for the amazing cookies!



Mrs L Frino
School Librarian



Year 9 - GCSE Options



GCSE Options



Students/parents need to submit their choices via the digital link sent out by Mr McMillan on email. The deadline is **today, Friday 11th February 2022.** All information is on the school website

<http://www.stmarys.net/parent-information/options-evening/>

Hertfordshire Careers Hub Survey



Our school is part of the Hertfordshire Careers Hub and one of their strategic actions is to enhance the level of technical and vocational routes available to young people in the county. They have asked, to mark National Apprenticeships Week, that we share this survey link to you to complete to help gauge your thoughts, as a key influencer, about the credibility of technical and vocational routes for your child. The survey should take no more than 10 minutes to complete and all responses will be held anonymously. Some of you may remember completing this survey in previous years. If this is the case we ask that you re-complete as there are a few additional/amended questions.

Your cooperation is very much appreciated.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/st-marys-catholic-22>





Sporting Success!



This week we took our year 8 and 10 football teams to play against Leventhorpe School. As a reward for the pupils excellent commitment to training, we took large squads to both these games.

I'm delighted to report that the year 8 team won 4-1. In the first half it was a close affair, but we scored three goals in the second half that secured the win. Our year 10 team earned a hard fought 1-0 victory with an excellent penalty save from our goalkeeper in the first half to help secure the win for St Mary's.

Well done to all those involved.

Mr S Eddleston (PE Teacher)



Basketball success: Well done to Yr 7 – 10 basketball teams last week who all performed brilliantly competing in the District league.

Well done to Zac F, Kelan M, Max S, Maya M and Chiara L for competing in the Hertfordshire Schools Cross-Country competition on Saturday 5th February. All students ran well and done the school and themselves proud.

Mr S Wright (Head of PE)



Date for Diary:
Inter house Football and Netball
Thursday 24th March 2022





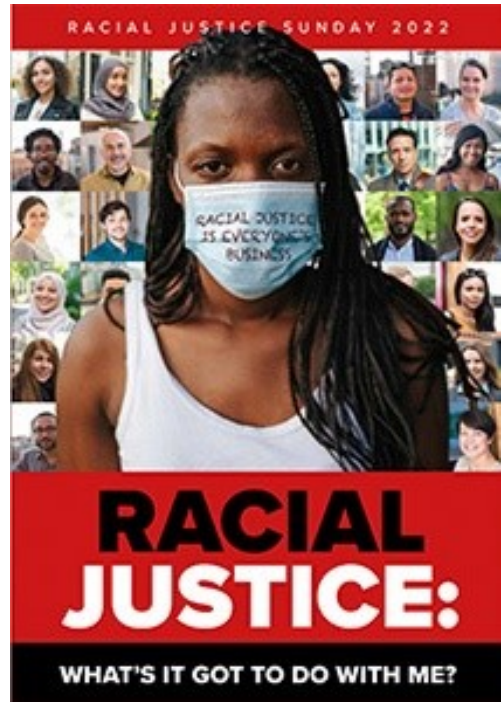
Chaplaincy News:

Racial Justice Sunday 2022

The theme for Racial Justice Sunday this year is "In the Image and Likeness of God" celebrating different presentations of the Holy Family from different countries and cultures. The Catholic Bishop's Conference of England and Wales have prepared a number of beautiful posters featuring Our Lady and the Child Jesus from a diverse cross-section of countries and cultures, which highlight the rich diversity of our Catholic community and encourages reflection on how we are all made in the image of God. The posters also carry a prayer taken from Pope Francis' document Fratelli Tutti. You can download these posters at: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/rjs22/>
The prayer is:

*Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty,
reflected in all the peoples of the earth,
so that we may discover anew
that all are important and all are necessary,
different faces of the one humanity
that God so loves.
Amen.*

In 2021, the Diocese of Westminster produced a conversation on 'Being Black and Catholic'. Four people from London, from different walks of life, shared their personal stories of being black and Catholic. You can listen to these stories and reflect on the fundamental Christian message that every person is made 'in the image and likeness of God' - <https://youtu.be/mCax8kPRJoE>



Saint in Focus: St. Josephine Bakhita

Patron Saint of 'B' House



Josephine was born in 1869 in the village of Olgossa, in the Darfur region of Sudan, Africa, growing up in a prosperous home, having a happy childhood. At the age of 8, Josephine was kidnapped by Arab slave traders, and made to walk 600 miles to a slave market, where she was sold as a slave. After many years of torture and suffering as a slave, in her early 20's, Josephine was declared free and was baptised. She chose to become a nun, spending 45 years working as a cook and doorkeeper for the convent and preparing young nuns for their missionary work in Africa. Before she died a student had once asked her "What would you do if you were to meet you captors?". She said "If I were to meet those who kidnapped me, and even those who tortured me, I would kneel and kiss their hands. For, if these things had not happened, I would not have been a Christian and a religious today". Sr. Josephine was regarded as a saint by the people of Schio in northern Italy, because of her constant smile, her friendliness and helpfulness. Even in later life, as old age and sickness confined her to a wheelchair she kept her cheerfulness.

"The whole of my life has been God's gift." – St. Josephine Bakhita

Given the difficulties and challenges of her life, how could St Josephine make such a declaration? How could she view her life as a gift? Perhaps, it is similar to the way Christians view the events of the suffering and death of Jesus – through the lens of the resurrection and through the great redemption He won for us. The challenge is for us to find that 'lens of faith', to be able to view our

lives and our histories and discover the mysterious plan of God in our lives. Having discovered our life as a gift, can we be courageous and generous in offering it in service of others?

Mr D D'Cruz Chaplain

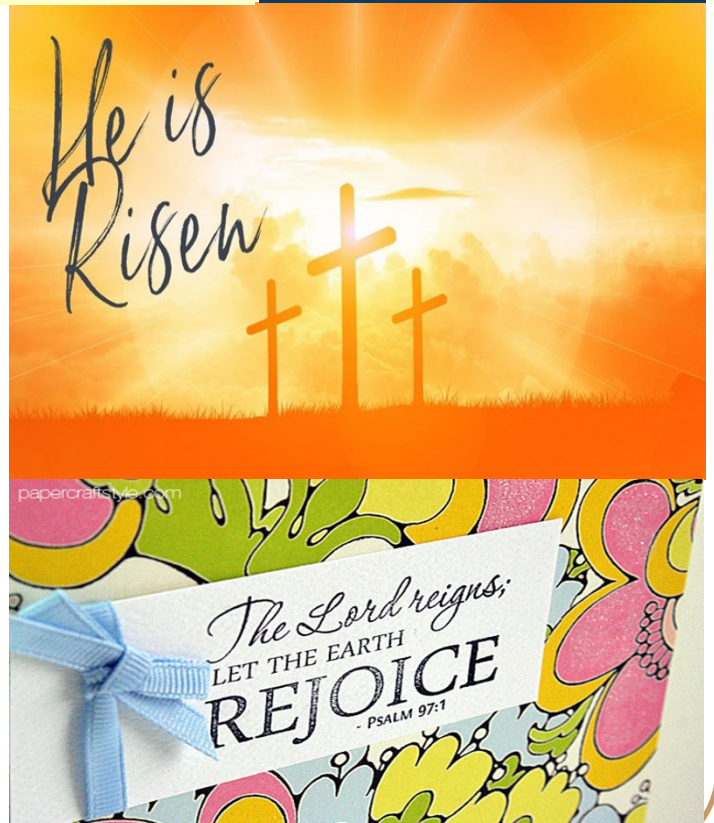


Enrichment and Design Opportunity! St Francis of Assisi Easter Card Design

- 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



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

Mrs C Wilkin
Assistant Headteacher



PSHEE Headlines: Half Term 4



Every student in Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHEE) receives a wide variety of engaging, challenging lessons, which challenge their own opinion and the opinions of others.

The students have the opportunity in their learning to question social issues, behaviour and world policies, in addition to developing their own thoughts, morals and ambitions.

Lessons are taught by enthusiastic teachers who have skills in their subject area, whilst ensuring that we adhere to the Catholic teachings of the Church and allow all pupils to achieve excellence whilst a pupil at this school and in their future careers.

This half term includes the topics below:

Year Group	Half Term 4
7	Physical Health and Mental Wellbeing: Physical Health, Personal Hygiene, Oral Hygiene, Periods, Risks of smoking and drinking, confidence, self-esteem
8	Relationships & Sex Education: Positive peer relationships, discriminatory language, tolerance, explicit images and crime, FOMO, relationship changes
9	Physical Health and Mental Wellbeing: Risks of both Dieting & Obesity, Drugs & the Law, Addiction, Safe Use of Prescription Drugs,
10	Relationships & Sex Education: Consent, How Drugs & Alcohol Affect Behaviour Physical Health and Mental Wellbeing: Consequences of Drugs, Maintaining your own Health
11	Physical Health and Mental Wellbeing: Organ Donation, Making Healthy Choices, Risky Behaviour, Maintaining Own Health, Study skills, Abusive Relationships
12	Relationships & Sex Education: Coercion, Consent, Study skills
13	British Values and Careers: Child Labour, Politics, Homophobia, Savings, Study skills



Mrs C Walker

PSHEE Coordinator

ST MARYS AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS		CHANGES/NEW CLUBS IN BLUE	FEB-MAR 2022
CLUB	VENUE	SUPERVISOR	YEARS
MONDAYS			
DRAMA	HUME	MR BAMLETT	7 TO 9
DT CATCH UP	DT	MR HUNT	10 & 11
ORCHESTRA	M1	MS MATTHEWS	ALL
MATHS CATCH-UP	K1/K5/J1	Mrs Atanassova/Mrs Brewin/Mrs Vermaak	11
Netball	COURTS	PE dept	7 TO 10
Football	FIELD	PE dept	7 TO 11
Year 11 History Catch up	E4	Mr Dolman	Y11
Year 11 Spanish catch up	Library	Mrs Frino	Y11
Warhammer/Magic the Gathering	K3	Mr Walker	all
TUESDAYS			
SPANISH FILM CLUB	T12 LUNCHTIME	MISS MILLS	7 AND 9
GCSE ART Coursework	C7	Miss Nairn	10 & 11
GCSE Science Revision	Hblock	Science Dept	11
Choir	M1	Mrs Salter Kay	all
KS3 FUN ! (See posters for details)	K1	Mrs Knight	Year 7 to 9
Polish Club	K5	Mrs Nestorovska/Mrs Brewin	Year 7 to 9
Sports fixtures	field/away	PE dept	all
Invitation only Homework Club	B1 and B3	Mrs Henderson/Mrs Wilson	8 and 9
GCSE Maths Catch-up	K block	Mrs Velani/ Mr Antwi	11
GCSE RE Revision	K Block	RE dept	11
Japanese Culture Club	D3	Mrs Riddler	Years 7-9
BASKETBALL	SPORTSHALL	PE dept	7 & 8
JUNIOR DEBATNG	LIBRARY	Mrs Frino	Years 7-10
America Club	K3	Mr Walker	ALL
WEDNESDAY			
CANDLE MAKING CLUB	Art dept	MRS KNIGHT	7 & 8
GCSE HISTORY revision	E4	HIST DEPT	11
A LVEL HIST/POLITICS CLINIC	E5	MR DOLMAN	13
GCSE GEOGRAPHY CATCH UP	D2	MRS HUGHES	11
GCSE SCIENCE DROP IN	H2	MR NICOL	11
GCSE BUSINESS CATCH UP	C1	MR MCELHINNEY	11
NT Connections DRAMA CLUB	HUME	MR MCHUGH	7,8 AND 9
DT CLUB: FORMULA 1/Eco-design	A BLOCK	MR HUNT	9
GCSE MUSIC CATCH UP	M1	MISS MATTHEWS	10 and 11
INDIAN CULTURE CLUB	K5	Mrs Velani	all
BASKETBALL	SPORTSHALL	PE DEPT	9 and 10
Chess and Board Games Club	K3	Mr Walker	All
THURSDAY			
Graphic Novel/Manga Club	Library	Mrs Frino	7 to 9
National Tutoring Programme	F6	Mrs Knight	10
Arts and Crafts	C2	Mrs Lee	7 to 9
Invitation only HW Club	B1 and B3	Mrs Wilson and Mrs Henderson	8 and 9
MINECRAFT	K3	Mr Walker	All
FRIDAY			
National Tutoring Programme	E1	Mr Walker	11
Library Books and Biscuits	Library	Mrs Frino	All
Rock and Pop Bands	Music Block	Miss Matthews	All
VARYING DATES			
DUKE OF EDINBURGH	E5	Mr Dolman	Y12

CHECK IN WITH YOUR FRIENDS

If one of your friends doesn't seem OK, checking in on them can make a huge difference. One in every five children struggles with their mental health, so let's make sure we support each other through any difficult times.

**BE A GOOD
LISTENER**

**ASK HOW
YOU CAN
HELP**

**SHOW
EMPATHY**

**SEND A
NICE
MESSAGE**

BE KIND

**★ BE ★
SUPPORTIVE**

**IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT A FRIEND
TELL A
TRUSTED
ADULT**



I SAW THIS AND
THOUGHT OF YOU!



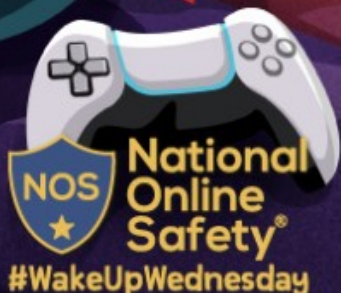
WANTED TO LET YOU
KNOW I'M THINKING
OF YOU!



I'M HERE WHEN YOU
NEED ME.



MISSED YOU AT
SCHOOL TODAY.
EVERYTHING OK?



**National
Online
Safety®**
#WakeUpWednesday



Menu 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 & Fricke
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

Teacher of MFL - Spanish with French and/or Italian (Full Time)

Starting Easter or September 2022

Suitable for NQTs (ECTs)

You can view the job details by clicking here: [Teacher of MFL ADVERT](#)

Closing Date: 21st February 10 a.m. Interviews week commencing 21st February.

Teacher of English with Drama (Full Time)

Starting September 2022

Suitable for NQTs (ECTs)

You can view the job details by clicking here: [Teacher of English ADVERT](#)

Closing Date: 28th February 10 a.m. Interviews week commencing 28th February.

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: [Assistant Premises Manager ADVERT](#)

Closing Date: 1st March 10 a.m. Interviews week commencing 1st March.

Apply in writing using the forms available on our website www.stmarys.net