



HEADLINES 15TH OCTOBER 2021

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter (Issue 6 2021-22)

Stronger, Together

Acting Heads of School Update Mr Johnston & Miss McHugh



Dear Parents,

This week has been one in which we have truly understood and reaffirmed our commitment to collaboration at all levels, from students motivating each other round the cross-country course for Great Ormond Street Hospital, to student council meetings and an invitation-only parents' evening in which teachers and parents agreed the support and guidance needed by individual students.

There are some important messages in this edition of the Headlines for which we need your collaboration as parents. The first is in relation to Covid measures. Whilst we have been relatively mildly affected by the impact of

positive cases, it is clear that across Bishop's Stortford there are a number of outbreaks in schools. We have detailed on Page 4 about the **Covid measures** that we will be reinforcing from Monday 18th October. In particular, we will be checking that every student brings in two masks and 50 ml of hand sanitiser.

Secondly, Miss McHugh has been leading assemblies this week about the **dangers of vaping**, and I would request that you take the time to read the summary on the next page and discuss these dangers, and the implications of making the wrong choice with your child.

Finally, our role as members of the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust has also brought the theme of collaboration to the fore. The Trust Headteachers met at St. Mary's yesterday for the first time to discuss our mission statement and development plan; deciding how we might work together for the betterment of all in the coming weeks, months and years.

A shining example of collaboration in action is the arrival of the KS2 students (all 115 of them) from Sacred

Heart, Ware—a Trust school who are suffering from the devastating effects of a fire on their premises earlier on in the term. Their temporary classrooms have been delayed so we have opened our doors to offer much of the new T Block for their sole use, a primary 'mini-school within a school'. This was no mean feat to set up and I am grateful to the teachers, site staff and host of others who worked hard to make sure that we were ready and safe for their, very excited arrival on Thursday morning.

Have a great weekend with your families.

Tom Johnston, Acting Head of School



SFACAT Heads met at St. Mary's on Thursday



A Prayer for our Schools



This week, staff and students from Sacred Heart and St. Mary's joined together in prayer at this difficult time. Please find time during your weekend to join us by saying this prayer for the school.

Prayer for our Schools

*We bless this school with the blessings of God
so it becomes the school the Lord has called it to be.*

We bless this school with an increase in knowing the presence of God.

We bless this school with release and renewal in the Holy Spirit.

We bless this school with a new found love and liberty in Jesus Christ.

We bless this school with God's protection.

We bless this school with a new power to share the good news in this community.

We bless this school in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

Amen



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

www.stfrancistrust.net

UPCOMING EVENTS

20th October

Covid Vaccines

22nd October

End of 1/2 Term 1

1st November

Students return

11th November



**SIXTH FORM
OPEN EVENING**

SAVE THE DATE

@StMarysPost16



Safeguarding Update: The Dangers of Vaping

Assemblies this week have been highlighting to the students the dangers of vaping and why we at St Mary's Catholic School treat the issue of vaping so very seriously.

Ms McHugh, Acting Co-Head of School, led the assemblies for each year group.

Vaping is defined as the action or practice of inhaling and exhaling the vapour produced by an electronic cigarette or similar device.

An E-cigarette is a battery-powered device designed to deliver nicotine in a toxin-free vapour.

Nicotine is a highly addictive drug, traditionally found in cigarettes. It is both a stimulant and a sedative to the nervous system. Stimulation is followed by low mood and tiredness, leading to a need for more nicotine.

The difference between traditional cigarettes and the act of vaping is that it is very difficult to know exactly the contents of the vaping liquid, chemical compounds or even if it contains illegal drugs.



Chemical content includes: ??????



For all of these reasons, to keep our school community as safe as we possibly can do and to protect our children from the dangers of vaping, our behaviour policy is very clear on the matter of vaping: **vaping, or having vaping-related paraphernalia in school will probably lead to permanent exclusion.**

School policies are set by the Governing Body and they expect the school to uphold these rigorously. Please do discuss the content of this article with your children and reaffirm the very clear message.

If you have concerns about your child, or more generally about vaping, please discuss this in confidence with the Learning Coordinator, Mrs Tatman or myself.

Miss D McHugh, Acting Head of School

“Sumdog” St. Francis of Assisi CAT Maths Contest

This week we look forward to a fun online maths 'numeracy' contest organised for the Trust by the adaptive maths platform 'Sumdog'.

Students from years 1 to 9 across our CAT have been invited to enter a contest to see which class can score the most points.

The contest runs from October 15th to 21st and should take each student around an hour, though experience suggests they will be keen to do far more!

If your children haven't tried Sumdog before, it is suitable for students year 1 to 9 because there are a wide variety of themed games, and the level of maths in the questions is determined by the initial diagnostic test taken when the student first logs in, and is continually adjusted according to their performance.

Here at St Mary's we will be offering our own prizes too, just in case the little ones zoom past us in the league tables!

Join Sumdog's free
St Francis CAT
online maths contest



Years 1-9 Oct
15th to 21st



Enter for FREE at
sumdog.com/MATContest

Enter the contest to:

- Encourage a sense of community across your trust
- Build children's confidence with personalised, curriculum-aligned maths practice
- Motivate all pupils with participation prizes and a special winner's trophy



Mrs C Wilkin, Assistant Headteacher



Covid Update—IMPORTANT—please read

Vaccinations

As previously communicated, the NHS Immunisations Team will be at St. Mary's on Wednesday 20th October to conduct the Covid-19 vaccinations for 12 to 15 year olds. The NHS will be collecting consent information and St. Mary's will not be informed of who has given consent or not. If there is 'nil consent' your child will not be vaccinated. The nurses will only vaccinate those who have given consent. Therefore, it is important that you discuss this with your child so they are aware if they have consent. I attach a copy of the letter to the Headlines for your reference. The NHS letter is included again at the end of these Headlines. **Click [HERE](#) to give the NHS consent for vaccination. Unique Code: EE117594**

Continue Routine LFD Testing

The new Lateral Flow Device tests (LFD) are nasal swab only and are in the process of being distributed to the students, meaning everyone should have enough tests until after the half term break. It is important that they complete a test the day before they return and inform the school via a SurveyMonkey link which will be distributed next week. If a reply has not been sent on the link, then we will ask those students to undertake an LFD on site upon their return prior to returning to class. Routine testing, and getting a PCR if there are signs of ANY symptoms (even if an LFD returns a negative result), is CRUCIAL to our control measures on site.

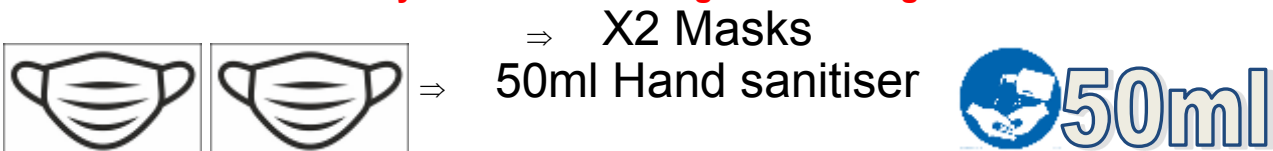
A reminder of the main Covid-19 Common Symptoms:

- * High temperature
- * New, continuous cough – coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- * Loss or change to sense of smell or taste

What to do if you or your child has symptoms. If your child has any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, even if they're mild, and even if the LFD is negative—PCRs catch early signs where LFDs do not:

1. Get a PCR test (test that is sent to a lab) as soon as possible: Get a PCR test to check for COVID-19 on GOV.UK
2. Your child should stay at home and not have visitors (self-isolate) until you get a negative test result – they can only leave home to have the test.

Covid Measures. Every student must bring the following to school EVERY DAY:



Please look for forgotten Library Books!

There are two weeks left on the 'book amnesty' at the library. Please ask your children to look for any overdue books they have at home and bring them back before half term.

This particularly applies to Year 9 and above. After half term, I will be checking through the system and issuing minus house points and reminders. Please also return any overdue library books they might have, or ask them to see me if they would like to renew anything.

Mrs L Frino, Librarian





Inter-House 3km and 5km Cross-Country: Results!

The sun was shining on the students as they completed the 3km and 5km courses this week. They all worked hard to complete the course with some of them even doing so with a smile on their face! Well done to all. Below are the individual and overall results.

We are excited to share with our parents that this will run in conjunction with a national event organised to raise money for Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH), a charity that is very close to our hearts to help the families of those children who are very ill.

We would like to invite parents to make a voluntary contribution via the following Just-Giving page:



CLICK [HERE](#) TO KINDLY SUPPORT THIS EVENT

Every day, more than 600 seriously ill children and young people from across the UK arrive at the hospital. Every day, doctors and nurses battle the most complex conditions. St. Mary's would like to raise as much money as possible and any help that we can give as a school will make a huge difference to seriously ill children and their families. We are aiming to inspire our students to undertake this x-country run to raise vital funds for GOSH and to teach our students according to our Gospel values that we are called to serve others. Your kindness and generosity will be the encouragement and motivation for all our students to participate, have fun and help raise vital funds to help other children and their families.



The Results are in!

Boys' results									
Yr7 Rank	Form	Yr8 Rank	Form	Yr9 Rank	Form	Yr10 Rank	Form	Yr11 Rank	Form
1	B	1	J	1	T	1	B	1	B
2	K	2	B	2	K	2	M	2	A
3	A	3	K	3	M	3	T	3	T
4	J	4	M	4	B	4	A	4	J
5	R	5	A	5	A	5	K	5	M
6	M+T	6	T	6	J	6	J	6	K

Girls' results									
Yr7 Rank	Form	Yr8 Rank	Form	Yr9 Rank	Form	Yr10 Rank	Form	Yr11 Rank	Form
1	T	1	A	1	J	1	K	1	J
2	K	2	M	2	K	2	B	2	K
3	B	3	T	3	A	3	J	3	A
4	R	4	K	4	B	4	A	4	B
5	J	5	B	5	T	5	M	5	T
6	M	6	J	6	M	6	T	6	M
7	A								

Overall									
Yr7 Rank	Form	Yr8 Rank	Form	Yr9 Rank	Form	Yr10 Rank	Form	Yr11 Rank	Form
1	B	1	A	1	K	1	K	1	J
2	K	2	M	2	J	2	B	2	B
3	J	3	B	3	T	3	J	3	A
4	T	4	K	4	M	4	A	4	T
5	R	5	J	5	B	5	M	5	K
6	A	6	T	6	A	6	T	6	M
7	M								



Mr S Wright,
Subject Leader PE



Chaplaincy News:

St John Paul II Feast Day

We celebrate the feast of St John Paul II on 22nd October. This great saint had a special love for Our Lady and for the youth of God's Church. For an entertaining animation on the life of this great saint see [here](#), or click on the picture below!



Some of St John Paul's own prayers including the one below can be found [here](#):

Mother Mary, Be with us more and more.

Meet us more and more often because we need it so much.

Speak to us by your motherhood, by your simplicity and by holiness.

Speak to us by your Immaculate Conception!

Speak to us continually!

And obtain for us the grace—even if we are distant— of not becoming insensitive to your presence in our midst.

Amen

Feast Day of St Luke

Monday, the 18th of October is the feast day of St Luke, the evangelist. During this year of the Word, *The God who Speaks*, there are a special collection of resources and guides on St Luke's Gospel on the **God who Speaks** website. Click [here](#) for more details.

Also, The Bible Timeline Course, lead by Mauro Iannicelli is currently available free of charge online. This 12 week course will lead you to a deeper understanding of the Bible, from start to finish, Old and New Testament. Click [here](#) for more details.

November Prayer Lists

In the month of November, we remember our loved ones who have died and ask God to grant them eternal rest in his presence. Next week, lists will be distributed to form groups for students to fill in the names of those they would like us to remember in our prayers on our November list. We encourage our students to write down the actual names rather than 'granny' or 'grandad'. Please support them with this.



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 & 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

WEEK 2

We are hiring!

Current Vacancies Teaching Staff:

Food and Nutrition Teacher (Part-Time) required from January 2022 - closing date 17th October 2021

https://www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/food-and-nutrition-teacher-part-time-0-52-fte-nqt-mps-ups-fte-pounds-26-948-42-780-required-from-january-2022-hertfordshire-cm23-2nq-1501169?preview=1

Part-time Teacher Art (Maternity Cover) Closing date of 1st November 2021

https://www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/p-t-teacher-of-art-maternity-cover-0-6-fte-required-february-2022-nqt-mps-ups-fringe-pounds-26-948-pounds-42-780-pro-rata-actual-pounds-16-168-pounds-25-668-hertfordshire-cm23-2nq-1500777?preview=1

Current Vacancies - Support Staff:

Exam Invigilators - Closing date 30 October 2021

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





NHS Covid Vaccination Letter



Hertfordshire Community
NHS Trust

School Aged Immunisation Service
Sandridge Gate Business Centre
Ronsons Way
St Albans
Hertfordshire
AL4 9XR
Tel: 01727 732062
hct.immsenquiries@nhs.net

September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

The COVID-19 vaccination will reduce the chance of suffering from COVID-19 disease. Like all medicines, no vaccine is completely effective, and it takes a few weeks for the body to build up protection from the vaccine. Some people may still get COVID-19 despite having a vaccination, but this should lessen the severity of any infection. The vaccine cannot give COVID-19 infection and will reduce the chance of becoming seriously ill. Like all medicines, vaccines can cause side effects. Most of these are mild and short-term, and not everyone gets them. The team will be administering Pfizer.

Following the advice of the Chief Medical Officer and Public Health England (PHE), the COVID-19 mass vaccination programme has been extended to include all 12 to 15-year-olds in Hertfordshire. The School Aged Immunisation Team (SAIS) have been commissioned to deliver the programme in all secondary schools in Hertfordshire. The team will visit your school on:

School Name: St Marys Catholic School

School Date: Wed, 20 Oct 2021

A response is required. You must accept or decline this vaccination by completing the online form.

Please click this link [Covid Consent Form](#) and complete the form.

You will need this unique code number **EE117594** which identifies your child's school.

The electronic link will close at **12pm on Tue, 19 Oct 2021.**

Please note this form will not work on some mobile phones and tablets.

If you have difficulty completing the form, please call 01727 732062 to give a verbal consent.

It is important to discuss and complete the consent form with your child. For further information regarding the COVID-19 vaccination, please visit www.nhs.uk/covidvaccination. Please make sure on the day of immunisation your child is well and encourage them to eat breakfast.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Graham
Immunisation Team Lead Mainstream Schools