



HEADLINES 17TH DECEMBER 2021

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter (Issue 14 2021-22)

“Advent - Season of Hope & Joy”

Acting Heads of School Update Mr Johnston & Miss McHugh



This week has given many reasons to celebrate as a school community. On Wednesday evening we were privileged as a school community to be in our local Parish church with over 140 students taking part in a wonderful Advent Service. We had 94 singers in the Y7 choir who sang Silent Night beautifully in English and in Polish. Our solo performers, our Orchestra, choir, readers and Alter Servers represented the school and their families with such reverence and prayer to enable the congregation to take time this Advent to pray together as a community.

Today, our inaugural “Cultural Capital Day” has been sheer brilliance in the range of activities and opportunities on offer for our students, as young people to gain knowledge and understand-

ing of the cultural capital they need to succeed in life. We have celebrated theatre company workshops, Piano Music recitals, visits from our Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Alumni to inspire our current students and the most wonderful global fashion show representing and celebrating the richness of diversity that makes our tapestry here at St Mary's. Photos and highlights of the day will be shared with you next week.

In the Headlines this week, you will find the specifics in terms of appointed times of testing and when your child should attend as we prepare for the start of our Spring term 2022. I thank you in advance for your support and understanding. The shape and nature of next term is far from certain. We will send updates as soon as we have them and will be following government guidance closely.

As we prepare for our end of Term on Tuesday 21st December, we have our annual school Feast Day and our Advent Student Liturgies which will be a prayerful and purposeful end of term



for our Students. In this, our fourth Sunday of Advent, may we remind ourselves:

Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

The Lord is the King of Glory who established the earth.

I wish you and your families a restful and relaxing weekend.

God Bless

Miss D McHugh

Deirdre McHugh



Christmas Jumper Day

For a £2 charity donation to the Cardinal Hume Centre, payable via ParentPay, students can come to school wearing their Christmas Jumper (with usual school uniform) on Tuesday 21st December 2021.

 **Cardinal Hume Centre**
Turning Lives Around



UPCOMING EVENTS

21st December
Christmas Jumper Day

Term Ends 1pm for Students

5th January 2022
Students return to school
This will be WEEK A



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

www.stfrancistrust.net



Advent Service



On Wednesday 15th December we held our annual Carol Service in our local Parish, St Joseph & The English Martyrs R C Church

It was a huge success with a full live audience, plus queues out of the door and a large virtual audience! The music department was heavily involved, with performances from the choir, the orchestra, a rock band, a flute duet, and a vocal solo.

There were a variety of pieces performed including, 'Carol of the Bells', 'That First Noel', 'Mary's Boy Child', and traditional carols such as 'Away in a Manger' and 'Once in Royal David's City'. Overall, the evening was a wonderful evening of prayer and music as part of our Advent Journey.

Written by **Holly M** (Year 11)



IMPORTANT: Covid Measures - PLEASE READ!

So that we can uphold the Government's request to test every student when they return to school on

Wednesday 5th January

There will be a **staggered return** for all pupils to the school site and the timings for each year group will be as follows:

- 8:30am Year 7 (Hall) Year 8 (Hume)
- 10:00am Year 9 (Hall) and 10 (Hume)
- 10:45 am Year 11 (Hall) and 12 (Hume) Year 13 (Sixth Form Study Centre)

Once pupils arrive onsite they must go to the location identified above where they will conduct their own LFD test.

A survey link will be sent home to **all parents on Monday 3rd January** to complete to confirm that:

- Their child has completed an LFD test on **Tuesday the 4th January before they return to school site** on Wednesday 5th January
- They give **consent** for their child to test again on school site on **Wednesday 5th January**.

The bus companies have been informed that only Year 7 and 8 can travel on the bus on the morning of Wednesday the 5th January but all pupils will be able to travel home using their usual school bus service at the end of the school day.

If your child has had COVID during the Christmas period or within the last 90 days on the 5th January then it is advised that your child does not complete a test due to the possibility of a false positive being received.

Mrs G Tatman

Assistant Headteacher

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

Every student must bring the following to school EVERY DAY:



**CORONAVIRUS
STAY ALERT
TO STAY SAFE**

Go to [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

STAY ALERT • CONTROL THE VIRUS • SAVE LIVES



HM Government



Test and Trace

Kids at **secondary school** or **college?**

They're **less likely** to have **Covid-19 symptoms** and can breathe the virus onto others without knowing.

Ask them to take rapid lateral flow tests over the holidays and report the results at [gov.uk/report-covid19-result](https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result)

Help keep everyone safer this Christmas



Chaplaincy Corner



Our Y12 Students have been leading the way in preparing our charitable donations for the Cardinal Hume Centre. We are exceptionally humbled by the generosity of our students in serving others less fortunate this Christmas.

Faced with the gloom of the 'omicron' let us keep our focus on the ALPHA and OMEGA! The message of Christmas is one of love. We are reminded frequently during this Advent season, that God does not abandon us, that he loves us and that he is with us. Let us cast our fears on him who loves us and let us live as children of light. May the Joy, Peace, Hope and Love of Christmas fill our lives as we contemplate the expanse of God's love condensed into the tiny frame of the child Jesus. May God bless you and your families this Christmas and keep you close in



FEAST DAY!

We have a fantastic day of activities and speakers planned for Monday, the 20th December, during which we celebrate our Feast Day, one of the highlights of our 125th Anniversary. The children will have the opportunity to listen to Guvna B speaking about developing our talents in the context of faith, to his wife Emma who will help our students consider ways to keep a healthy self-image in a world flooded with other messages via social media, and spend time using their gifts and talents in different ways. Students will also spend time in prayer and reflection in our parish church with the Diocesan Youth Ministry and a team from our local parish. It promises to be a truly enriching day.

Mr D D'Cruz
Chaplain and Teacher of RE



DRAMA @ ST MARY'S

*National Theatre
Connections
Audition*

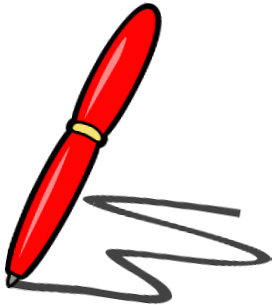
YEAR 9 STUDENTS ONLY

AUDITION ON JANUARY 5TH, 2022 @ 3:15-4PM
HUME THEATRE

SEE MR. MCHUGH FOR MORE INFORMATION.



'Twisted Tales' - English Department



Students have been busy entering a national creative writing competition called **'Twisted Tales'**

retelling familiar stories from the perspective of the villain in 100 words.

Here are a couple of entries from **Evie D in Year 8** and **Molly G in Year 9**:



One Little Wolf: a re-telling of "The Three Little Pigs" from the wolf's perspective by Evie D Y8:

There was once one little wolf. He grew up with his family, his mum, dad and his little sister.

A long time ago, animals lived in peace and harmony. All was great 'till the pigs became greedy, with eyes bigger than their bellies. The animals fought for years and years for the world they wanted. The pigs had won the battle but not the war. The pigs ruled all. They came to take the wolf's home and had killed his family.

He escaped.

Back to present day, the pigs are greedier than ever.



A re-telling of 'The Little Mermaid' from Ursula's perspective by Molly G Y9



I'd always loved my baby brother;
he just didn't appreciate me.

He was always favorited, the little golden boy.

But I tried, I did.

I was going to be a great queen and help those in need.

I started by making deals: I help them, they repay me later. And if they couldn't, I'd take a different payment. Only fair.

Then, father had the audacity to announce my brother as king!

I was "too dangerous"!

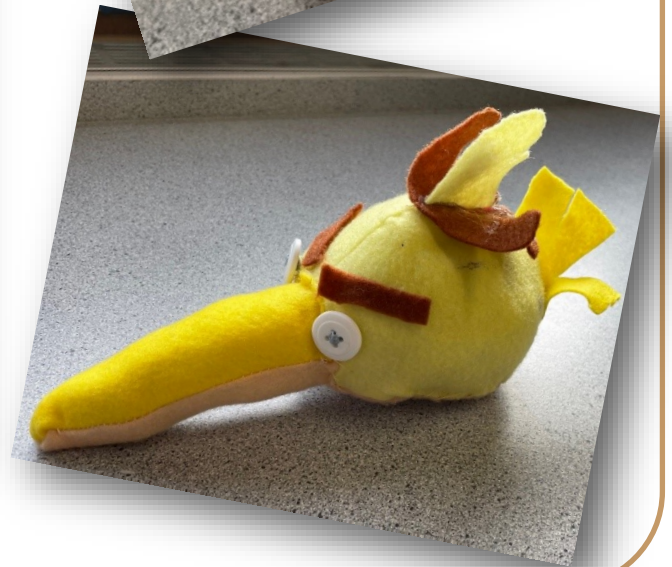
My own kin banished me! I'm alone, treated as a monster, barred from my home!

And here comes another lost soul... Wait? Is that Ariel?

Design & Technology

Year 7- Photos of our students "Block Head" characters they made in the workshop.

Year 9 - Photos of our department trebuchet demonstration and the student "Angry Bird" projectiles that they made in textiles.

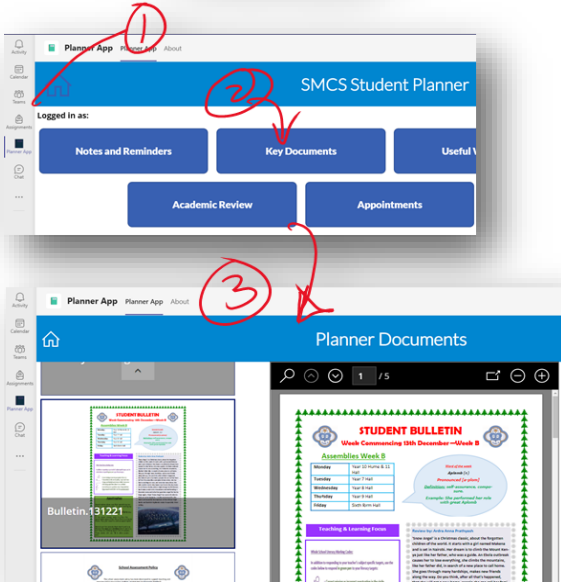




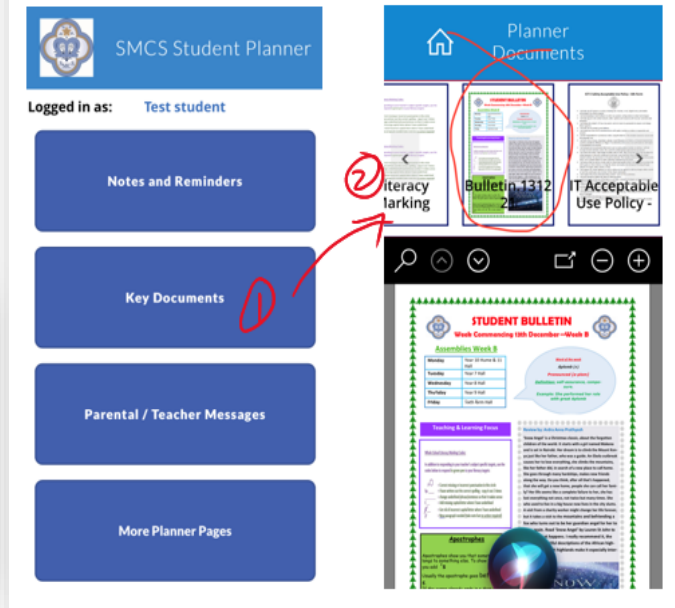
Student Planner

Please encourage students to use their student planner to access the student bulletin and other key documents which are at their fingertips

On their Desktop computers
(Via MS Teams)



On their mobile devices
(via Power Apps)



Menu in our Aspens Refectory w/c 5th January 2022

Autumn
Winter
2021

STREATERIES

Aspens

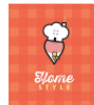
MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY



STREET

Roast Chicken
& Stuffing Bap
Gravynaise

Mongolian
Lion's Head Beef
Meatballs

Hand Battered
Fish
& Frickle

VEGGIE

Quorn Roast
& Stuffing Bap
Gravynaise

Korean Spicy Rice
Bowl with
Fried Egg

Homemade
Fishless Cake
Lemon Yoghurt

SIDES

Fennel Seed
Roasties
Roasted Carrots

Beggar's Noodles
Sweet Chilli
Broccoli

Chips
Peas

WEEK 1