



# HEADLINES 28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2022

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter (Issue 18 2021-22)

## 'Partners in Excellence'



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

St Mary's Catholic School is ambitious for your child and securing your child's achievement in their education, not only academic, but extra-curricular clubs, skills and activities to enable them to thrive and grow into the ambitious, articulate, caring and considerate adults of the future. To work hard and do well for your child's education and to achieve the best possible grades is a fundamental purpose of school. Whereas many secondary schools focus only on this, at St Mary's we pride ourselves of focusing equally on your child's pastoral care and on allowing your child time and space to grow as a person. Our school is rooted in love and family spirit. You can

see this demonstrated through our headlines this week in the care and love shown for others in the exciting and innovative work of our Anti-Bullying ambassadors, leading the way on making our young people student leaders for our community.

Yesterday, 27<sup>th</sup> January brought a change in national covid measures where we are no longer required to wear a face covering, but are guided to consider wearing one in crowded, enclosed

spaces. In our school, we are mindful of 30 students in a classroom and 1,151 students on site daily, it is wise and good practice to keep masks in place and request that all our students continue to follow our school covid protocols. Whilst we figures for covid cases as a school remain relatively low, they are slowly rising, we have an obligation and commitment to keep all our school community safe and urge all our students and staff to continue to wear face coverings and to wash hands and sanitise regularly to keep us all safe. This will be reviewed after the half term where we are hopeful we can ease these restrictions in our school, God willing.

Our library and literacy drive continues to build fantastic momentum, you will see on page 6 the terrific write up from our virtual visiting author Aisling Fowler, our avid readers were in awe as she responded to their questions live in her broadcast

to us form her global tour and current stop in Los Angeles. We know that reading is the key foundation to improving and driving literacy. I encourage you as parents to lead your child by example with reading. Our young people are victims of a digital generation and need to see you as an example to develop the love of reading to motivate them in the desire to read, read, read! Our launch of "Reading Bingo" is to encourage our students to develop and continually improve their literacy and oracy and please do lead your child by modelling to them the importance of reading.

I would like to celebrate and congratulate our Year 9 students who showcased their gifts and talents in our annual "Battle of the Bands" Music competition yesterday. A highly entertaining and joyful occasion to see our students take stage with their band and performing their practiced song of choice. Please see page 3 for our winners! We are exceptionally proud of their determination, talents and creativity and so wonderful to share the joy in listening to live music at school. Please do keep an eye on the dates for your diary for our Music concert next half term where our award winning bands will be performing to our parents and wider community.

### A PARENT'S PRAYER

Thank You for my children, LORD; I know they are a gift from You. Daily I need Your strength and wisdom to train them in the way they should go. Give me patience and a joyful heart; let me be an example of Your love and forgiveness. Thank You, Father, for the honor of being a parent. Amen.

With our Y9 Options process and Y9 Parents Evening scheduled for Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February I am very mindful what an important time this is for our parents supporting and guiding their child through their choices. As a school we are truly blessed with our wonderful community with dedicated and supportive parents as partners in their child's education. With this in mind, our prayer this week is offered for you, our parents.

Wishing you all a restful and relaxing weekend.

God Bless  
*Miss D McHugh*

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](http://www.stfrancistrust.net)

### UPCOMING

#### EVENTS

3 February 2022

Year 9

Parents Evening

12—20th February

HALF TERM

(Return 21st Feb)



## Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

An Anti-Bullying Ambassador is someone who is trained to help educate their peers on bullying, lead on anti-bullying campaigns, promote a culture which celebrates and tolerates difference and help keep their peers safe both online and offline. The Ambassadors are working towards the Diana award which is supported by HRH The Duke of Cambridge, and engages young people, parents and teachers to change the attitudes, behaviour and culture of bullying by building skills and confidence to address different situations, both online and offline. St. Mary's Anti-Bullying Ambassadors have led sessions with their tutor group to educate them about the different types of bullying and shared the importance of reporting any unkindness that happens within our school community. St. Mary's community is a family, who respects diversity and promotes the importance of being kind to each other. Here are some comments which provide snapshots of how some students see their role as an Anti-Bullying Ambassador:



Since becoming an Anti-Bullying ambassador it has not only aided me as an individual but also my peers in various ways, this position allows me take an active stand against Bullying by supporting vulnerable young people around me and reporting Bullying whenever I see it.

**Ama A**

During our Anti – Bullying meetings so far, we have learnt how to identify which scenarios are classified as Bullying and not. In my opinion, I think it is good to know which is which because you will know how to deal with the situations (if you have to take it further or not). Bullying happens more than you think – fortunately not in our school. However, the minor chance it does happen is still there so if you happen to witness it, speak up by telling a trusted member of staff – head of year, form tutor etc. In the St Marys community we are kind, respectful and supportive to each other. Be kind always and remember to spread it.

**Nathania D**

As Anti-Bullying Ambassadors we are here to make you feel safe around the school. We are here to make sure everyone feels safe around school and no one feels like there being left out or not as good as anyone else.

**William J**

“I believe my job as an Anti-Bullying ambassador is incredibly important to the school. Our school has multiple ways to reach out and get some emotional help and support. We have our school's SHARP system on the school's website that allows you to report a concern on a range of problems. This could be for themselves, a friend or someone else who needs it. An in-school solution are the head of years and form tutors. They are great listeners who can help you. Or you can simply report to the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors like myself. We can pass it up to your form tutor or head of year. We Anti-Bullying Ambassadors often have meetings and have given a pledge for everybody in a form to be against Bullying.”

**Victor O**

Bullying is an important matter that we cannot ignore; it is found in most secondary schools and can result in students feeling left out and hurt. Acting against bullies can make students feel safe at school. There are lots of different types of bullying some of these are physical, verbal, cyber, discriminatory, and social. Any type of bullying is not acceptable. Therefore, St Marys is acting against bullies since their anti-social behaviours affect the whole school community. That's why there are now Anti-Bullying Ambassadors to make sure that bullies don't get away with what they're doing. There are two Anti-Bullying Ambassadors in each form. They report bullies, and they inform everyone about the effects bullying can have on people. They have also done something called the Anti-Bullying form status pledge. It has been signed by every student in form. This can be used against bullies. You can also report Bullying using the pastoral support and the advice section on the school website.

**Dominic K**



## Battle of the Bands



For the first time in two years we were able to hold our Year 9 'Battle of the Bands' on Thursday this week. The competition was fierce and even though one or two bands were missing some members due to covid, they continued to perform at an excellent standard. Many thanks to our four Year 12 judges Nina, Georgia, Charlie and Oskar who were faced with a really tough decision choosing their gold and silver award winners.

There were six bands in total with 30 students participating and the songs ranged from 'Back to Black' by Amy Winehouse, 'Smells Like Teen Spirit' by Nirvana and 'Sweet Caroline' by Neil Diamond which got the whole of Year 9 joining in! The school hall was packed with students who had all come to support their peers and hear some great music.

The winning band was made up of Micah J (Electric Guitar), James B (Bass Guitar), Will U (Drums) and Harry F (Piano).

The silver medals went to Lara M (Vocals), Grace B (Vocals), Elizabeth L (Piano), Johanna D (Piano) and Sofia P (Drums).

Well done to all the performers and we look forward to having the winners and runners up in our Spring Concert on the 15<sup>th</sup> March.

**Miss J Matthews**  
Head of Music





### Indian Club



Namaste, during Indian culture club this week we had the opportunity to learn about and try on some traditional Indian party clothes. We also watched a couple of clips from 'A Little Princess' which has strong connections with India. We tried different Indian Snack of Bombay mix which can also be purchased in Tesco international aisle.

Ms D Velani



### Free School Meals

#### VOUCHERS COMING YOUR WAY:

Parents of students in receipt of free school meals should be receiving an email at the beginning of February to cover lunches during February half term and the Easter holidays.

Please let Mrs C Wilkin know if you still have not received an email by the end of next week.





## Monthly Music Update



### Music Clubs

<b>Monday:</b>	Orchestra
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Choir
<b>Wednesday:</b>	GCSE Catch Up
<b>Friday:</b>	Pop & Rock Group



### MUSIC LITURGY IN FEBRUARY: CANDLEMAS 2ND FEB.



Candles and Candlemas may date back to pagan times - much like many other traditions now adopted into the Christian faith. Pagans used to light candles on the day between the winter and spring equinox (the beginning of Spring), as a Festival of Light.

#### **WHAT IS CANDLEMAS?**

Candlemas commemorates the occasion in Luke 2 when Joseph and Mary brings baby Jesus to the temple. According to Jewish law, a woman who had given birth to a boy had to wait forty days before joining in temple or synagogue worship, and needed to be ritually purified at that time to be able to re-join her community. The Law demanded as well that the infant was to be consecrated to the Lord and sacrifices be made. There also happened to be a couple of prophets in the temple that day, Simeon and Anna, who had some good things to say about the baby.

#### **MUSIC FOR CANDLEMAS**

A piece that is regularly performed at Candlemas is 'When to the Temple Mary Went' by J. Eccard  
Please listen to this YouTube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yil9MECndYQ>

### Dates for your diary

**Tuesday March 15th:**

Spring Concert

St Mary's School Hall 7pm

Tickets available online

### Composer of the Month: February



**George Friderick Handel**

23 February 1685 – 14 April 1759)

Handel was a German - British **Baroque** composer well known for his operas, oratorios, anthems, concerti grossi, and organ concertos. He received his training in Halle and worked as a composer in Hamburg and Italy before settling in London in 1712, where he spent the bulk of his career and became a naturalised **British subject** in 1727.

In 1727 Handel was commissioned to write four anthems for the Coronation ceremony of King George II. One of these, **Zadok the Priest**, has been played at every British coronation ceremony since. The words to *Zadok the Priest* are taken from the King James Bible.

During the summer of 1741, The 3rd Duke of Devonshire invited Handel to Dublin, capital of the Kingdom of Ireland, to give concerts for the benefit of local hospitals. His *Messiah* was first performed at the New Music Hall in Fishamble Street on 13 April 1742, with 26 boys and five men from the combined choirs of St Patrick's and Christ Church cathedrals participating.

In 1749 Handel composed *Music for the Royal Fireworks*; 12,000 people attended the first performance. In 1750 he arranged a performance of *Messiah* to benefit the Foundling Hospital, a children's home in London. The performance was considered a great success and was followed by annual concerts that continued throughout his life.

Handel was buried in Westminster Abbey. More than three thousand mourners attended his funeral, which was given full state honours.

#### **Youtube links:**

Zadok - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-QwwFWTB5c>

The Messiah - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JH3T6YwwU9s>

The Firework Music - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fNqJ8mED1VE>



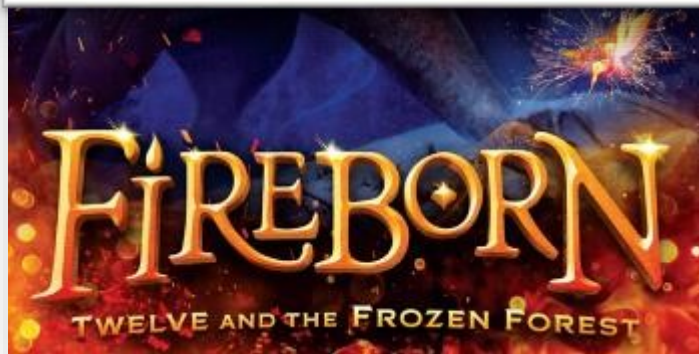
### Library News



The **Bishop's Stortford College Festival of Literature** starts next Monday, and the school is lucky to have access to all the virtual talks for Secondary school students. This year includes David Olusoga, Alex Wheatle and Emily Haworth Booth. Thank you to our colleagues at the College, especially Andrea Vaughan and Sara Bloomfield.

If your child would like to watch any of the author talks online, they can contact Mrs Frino in the library for details of the weblink (the link is for students of our school only).

### Virtual author visit from Aisling Fowler

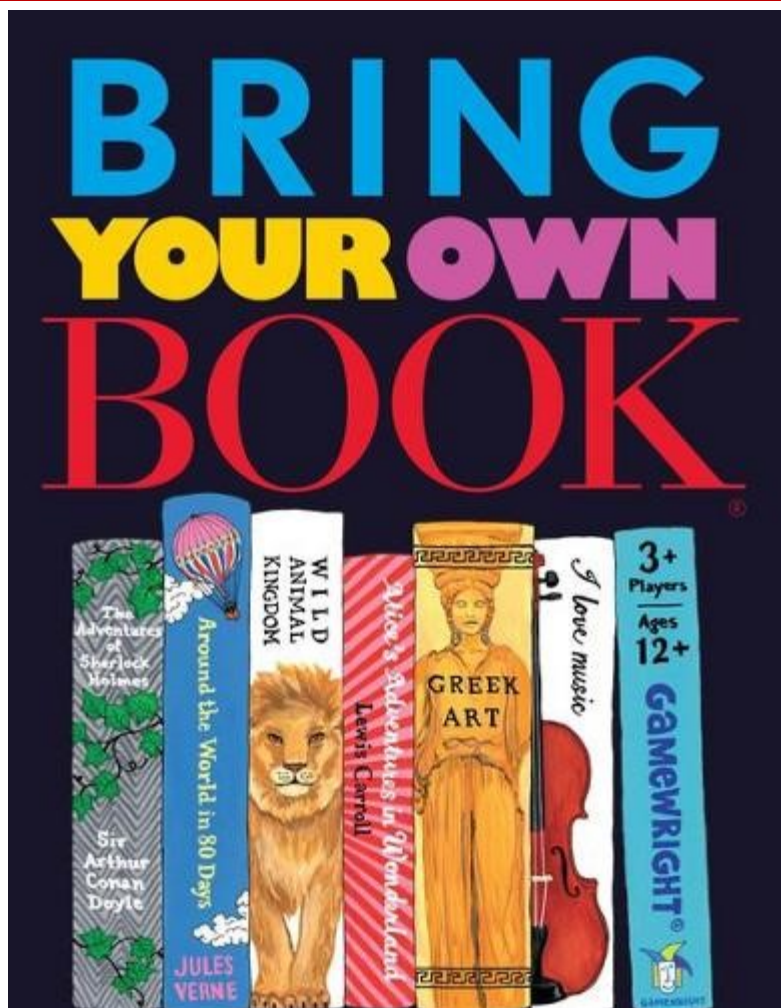


Over a hundred students from Years 7 and 8 attended a 'virtual author visit' on Wednesday morning from Aisling Fowler. She talked about the inspiration behind her new fantasy book, 'Fireborn' and led the students in some tasks to get their own creative juices flowing. Four lucky students won signed copies of the book. There are copies available to borrow from the library, or to buy for £10 (discounted hardback price).

Many thanks to Ms Fowler, who was calling us from Los Angeles, where it was the middle of the night! And who knows, maybe we have a future author in our midst?



## Literacy News



### From next week:

All students will be expected to have a physical reading book in their bag at all times (rather than a book on a device). This will be checked by tutors as part of their essential equipment in form times.

Please support your child's literacy by checking they have a book that they enjoy reading in their bag every week. If they do not, please encourage them to visit the school library (open during break, lunch and after school) so they can seek the librarian's support in finding a book they love.



### Reading Bingo Launch:

Please help promote your child's reading with the new Reading Bingo competition! Please ask your child about this new initiative and encourage them to follow the instructions below in order to win a prize for their reading!

### Instructions:

- Students need to pick a 'reading bingo card' (appropriate for their reading age) from the library and see how many books they can read from the list.
- Once they have finished reading each book, they should take this list and the book to their Accelerated Reading Teacher/the librarian/form tutor/Miss Keane for some quick questions and a house point!
- Once they have read all the books on your bingo card and had each book signed off, they should bring this card to Miss Keane to claim a prize!



# WE LOVE READING





## Chaplaincy News:

### The God Who Speaks – Scripture Festival 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> February 2022



The Diocese of Westminster Agency for Evangelisation has organized a 'mountain-top' experience to help people come closer to Christ through participating in the Scripture Festival. Exciting and enriching activities have been organised over the three days from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, including 'Behold the Word Performance' at 11 am on Saturday, when Michelle Moran and Abbot Christopher Jamison will host a creative journey through the Good News performed by Steve Murray-Hanson, a talented mime artist.

You can find out more and book tickets (free) at <https://rcdow.org.uk/scripturefestival/>

You can also visit 'The God Who Speaks' website, <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/>, where you can find many useful resources and links to help develop your relationship with God through his Word. May I recommend a visit to the 'Mosaic Experience' page of the website, <https://art.godwhospeaks.uk/>, where you can have an interactive experience with a very specially commissioned work of art on the 1600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Jerome's death.

### Saint in Focus: St. Thomas Aquinas, Patron saint of students (1226-1274)

*Feast Day: 28<sup>th</sup> January*



St Thomas Aquinas was born to a wealthy family in Roccasecca, Italy. Thomas had eight siblings and was the youngest child. He was sent to study in a Benedictine monastery at the age of 5 and remained with the monks until the age of 13. His family wanted him to become a Benedictine monk, however, Thomas found the lifestyle and spiritual service of the mendicant Dominican order more attractive than the sheltered and traditional way of life of a Benedictine

monk. When his family found out, they imprisoned him for a year. They even tested his resolve to remain celibate. However, after a year, his mother arranged for him to escape out of a window and Thomas was able to resume his studies for priesthood. He went on to write many influential theological and philosophical works, the most famous being his *Summa Theologica*. Towards the end of his life, he had some mystical experiences which led him to stop writing and say, "I can do no more. Such secrets have been revealed to me that all I have written now appears to be of little value." Often called "The Universal Teacher," Saint Thomas Aquinas died at the monastery of Fossanova on March 7, 1274. He was canonized by Pope John XXII in 1323.

**CHALLENGE:** Find out more about St Thomas Aquinas and his writings. Create a Poster to summarise your findings and give them to Mr D'Cruz to earn House Points. **Deadline: 31<sup>st</sup> January.**

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/saints/saints-stories-for-all-ages/saint-thomas-aquinas/>

<https://youtu.be/N5fFicWP4vI>

### A Student's Prayer by St. Thomas

*Come, Holy Spirit, Divine Creator,  
true source of light and fountain of wisdom!  
Pour forth your brilliance upon my dense  
intellect,  
dissipate the darkness which covers me,  
that of sin and of ignorance.*

*Grant me a penetrating mind to understand,  
a retentive memory,  
method and ease in learning,  
the lucidity to comprehend,  
and abundant grace in expressing myself.  
Guide the beginning of my work,  
direct its progress,  
and bring it to successful completion.*

*This I ask through Jesus Christ,  
true God and true man,  
Living and reigning with You and the Father,  
forever and ever.*

*Amen*





# Gaelic FOR Girls

**Goffs-Churchgate Academy**  
**6 Week Course**  
**FREE TO ATTEND**  
**Starting 25th January 2022**



**LEARN HOW TO PLAY GAELIC FOOTBALL**  
Fully Qualified Coaches with DBS  
**AGES 11+**

**NO PREVIOUS  
EXPERIENCE NECESSARY**



**FULLY FUNDED 6 WEEK COURSE**  
**5:50PM - 6:50PM**

**25TH JAN**

**1ST FEB**

**8TH FEB**

**22nd FEB**

**1ST MARCH**

**8TH MARCH**

**GOFFS CHURCHGATE ACADEMY**  
**COLLEGE Rd, EN8 9LY**

 **@stjosephshertsgaa**

 **@stjosephshertsgaa\_oficial**

 **@gaastjosephs\_wx**

**BOOKING AHEAD REQUIRED**

**CONTACT:**  
**STJOSEPHSWALTHAMCROSS.GLOHERTS@LGFA.IE**

**PHONE: (AFTER 6PM)**

**DAVE - 07817 591 082 LINDA - 07709 561 284**

FUNDED BY



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Menu in our Aspens Refectory

Autumn Winter 2021

STREATERIES

Aspens

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>STREET</b>	 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
<b>VEGGIE</b>	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
<b>SIDES</b>	BBQ Beans	Pomegranate Couscous Mezze Salad	Smokey Roasties Roasted Roots	Spinach & Coconut Slaw	Chips Peas

WEEK 2

Subject to change based on supply

We are hiring!



St Francis of Assisi CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

Exam Invigilators (casual)

- St Mary's Catholic School, Bishop's Stortford
- Closing date: 2nd February 2022 at 10am
- Interviews: 7th February

Enquiries: [recruitment@stmarys.net](mailto: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/vacancies/>

