

LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter

Issue 34 June 17th 2022



“Speak All About It!”



Acting Heads of School Update
Mr Johnston & Miss McHugh



On Monday, we held our inaugural ‘Oracy Day’. Miss Keane, English Teacher and Literacy Coordinator led the staff training and provided resources so that every teacher—regardless of the subject they were teaching—was able to focus on this in lessons on the day.



Students were asked to choose targets to help them improve their speaking and listening skills in form time and teachers planned inspirational lessons that explicitly taught oracy skills (the art of speaking and listening). Students were able to practise these throughout the day.

There was a real buzz around the school as staff and students embraced the opportunity to focus on improving the quality of talk.

Oracy is an important skill to develop in the classroom as it enables students to participate in deep learning activities and exchange ideas, explore new areas and challenge assumptions. It really develops confidence in the students as they learn

to understand the power of being an effective communicator. This in turn ensures students become better learners across the curriculum and will help in future employability.

Students were challenged to use ‘PV LEGS’:

Poise—head up, shoulders back, feet still

Voice—Pronounce words at a good volume

Life—passion, emotion, tone, pitch, emphasis

Eye contact—connect visually

Gestures—facial expression, hand emphasis

Speed—don’t rush, use pauses for effect

Please encourage your child to share their experiences from the day and make suggestions for ways to improve when we hold our next Oracy Day by following this link: [Click here](#)

Trust Primaries Event

We hosted the Trust primary schools and others on Thursday for their first Year 5&6 Netball and Football tournament since the pandemic. This was brilliantly organised by our PE department and student leaders. I spoke to a number of the Headteachers who joined their students and everyone was having a great time in the sun!

In this Edition...

There is a lot packed into this newsletter this week, and it’s fantastic to see the students being so involved in the richness of life at St. Mary’s.

- Internal Exam Schedule
- Uniform Donations
- Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
- Athletics Successes... and more!

I wish you a relaxing ‘Father’s Day’ weekend with your families. God Bless.

Tom Johnston, Acting Head of School



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST



UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 23rd June 2022
Y& Maths Trip to Harry Potter



Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Thursday 16th June was Corpus Christi, or the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, which will be celebrated at Mass on Sunday. This is the celebration of Jesus being truly present in the Holy Eucharist. In the Gospel we hear about how Jesus transforms five loaves and two fish into a meal for thousands. This helps us to reflect on how a similar miracle happens each and every time we attend Mass and receive Holy Communion.

We pray together:

Most Holy and Almighty God,

We thank you and praise you for giving us the most precious body and blood of Your only son, Jesus Christ.

Through the institution of the Sacrament of Holy Communion we are able to nourish our bodies and souls. We thank you for having made Yourself our food and for uniting us with You in this beautiful Sacrament.

In receiving the body and blood of Jesus, we live in You and through You. We praise you for offering Yourself as a continual sacrifice to Your Eternal Father for our salvation. Although we are not worthy to receive You, You sacrifice Yourself for us daily. And so, we request your most Holy intercession: Most holy body and blood of Christ, may we share in the power of His Cross and Resurrection by celebrating the Eucharist.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



Y12 Global Sustainable Development Competition

Following careful consideration, the Geography department is pleased to announce the winners of our internal Global Sustainable Development competition are: Francy, Rosaleen, Mary and Rebecca who collaborated to produce an informative and thought provoking podcast about sustainable development. They demonstrated effective teamwork and presented an articulate discussion, well done!

It was a very difficult decision and the following students also created some excellent work and are very close runner ups: Shemariah for a well-argued essay incorporating contemporary research; Isabella for an essay which showed the long term impacts of our behaviour changes during the lockdowns; Emma for a poignant choice of image and for highlighting the inequalities exacerbated by the pandemic; Jessica for her amazing artwork symbolising a brighter future; Annabelle for her creative presentation of arguments; Cynthia for her well planned and presented podcast; and Georgia for highlighting how our consumer societies present barriers to sustainability in her essay.

Fantastic work Year 12, we are so impressed with your efforts and passion for sustainable development!

We wait with anticipation for the results from the University of Warwick competition!

Mrs Hughes – SL Geography



Carnegie Book Shadowing



On Thursday 9th June, students from KS3 took part in an inter-schools Carnegie event, which took place at Herts and Essex. The Carnegie medal is a literary award that is given to an outstanding new book for children or young adults every year.

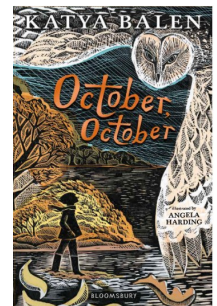
Shadowing is when students read some or all of the books on the award shortlist. During the after-school clubs, we were reading the books and reviewing them.

Students from Leventhorpe, Hockerill, Birchwood, Herts and Essex, and St Mary's all took part. We were put into groups made up of people from each school. We all voted for our favourite book, and then discussed the shortlist within our groups. After that, we took part in a quiz, competing with our groups, answering questions about the books we'd read.

It was a fun afternoon, it was a good chance to meet people from other schools, and we all agreed that we'd read books that we otherwise wouldn't have.

Article written by Year 9 Student

The winner of the Carnegie medal was announced yesterday (16th June) and it was Katya Balen for 'October, October'. If your child is interested in taking part in Shadowing next year, please encourage them to contact Mrs Frino. For more information about the award, see <https://carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/>



Year 12 Taster Day Trip to Hertfordshire University



On Thursday 9th June, Year 12 attended a Taster Day at Hertfordshire University to learn more about the next phase of their studies. Hertfordshire University opened up their facilities so that our pupils can discover more about specific course and subject areas. Pupils were able to attend a wide range of lectures, workshops, flight simulators and challenges throughout the day. These taster sessions will be important to help each of our Year 12 pupils to gain as much exposure to University life and courses. During the rest of the term Year 12 pupils will be starting to visit more Universities so that they are well informed and are able to make the right choices when applying through UCAS.




Internal Exams

Year 9 (&10)	Monday 20-Jun	Tuesday 21-Jun	Wednesday 22-Jun	Thursday 23-Jun	Friday 24-Jun
9:00 AM P1		Year 9 Exam - RE			
10:05 AM P2		Year 9 Exam - English Starts at 10:20am	Year 9 Exam - Maths Starts at 10:20am		
11:25 AM P3					11:25AM START
12:30 PM P4			Afternoon Exams: Year 9 Exam - Science		Year 10 Geography
2:05 PM P5					

Year 10	Monday 27-Jun	Tuesday 28-Jun	Wednesday 29-Jun	Thursday 30-Jun	Friday 01-Jul
9:00 AM P1	First Exam - 9AM Start	First Exam - 9AM Start	First Exam - 9AM Start	First Exam - 9AM Start	First Exam - 9AM Start
10:05 AM P2	French Spanish	Computing D&T Italian	Business Drama Music	Food & Nutrition PE	History
11:25 AM P3	Second Exam - 11:25AM Start	Second Exam - 11:25AM Start	Second Exam - 11:25AM Start	Second Exam - 11:25AM Start	Second Exam - 11:25AM Start
12:30 PM P4	Religious Studies	Maths	Science (Paper 1)	English	Science (Paper 2)
2:05 PM P5					

Year 12	Monday 04-Jul	Tuesday 05-Jul	Wednesday 06-Jul	Wednesday 13-Jul
9:00 AM P1	First Exam - 9AM Start Year 12 - COLUMN B Computing Film Geography	First Exam - 9AM Start Year 12 - COLUMN D Art Biology H&SC	First Exam - 9AM Start Year 12 - COLUMN C Business English Lan Further Maths	Year 10 Art (38) All day 38 students in C6 and C8
10:05 AM P2	History Maths	Psychology RE D&T Core Maths	Italian Media	
11:25 AM P3	Second Exam - 11:25AM Start Year 12 - COLUMN A Chemistry English Lit Maths	Second Exam - 11:25AM Start Year 12 - COLUMN E Economics Physics Politics Psychology Sociology French	Second Exam - 11:25AM Start CATCH-UP Session for absentees	
12:30 PM P4	PE Spanish			
2:05 PM P5				

- ### Test-Taking Tips

 1. Read all directions carefully.
 2. Read all questions carefully.
 3. Be sure you know what is being asked.
 4. Look at all choices before you answer. 
 5. Eliminate answers you know are wrong. **XXX**
 6. Paraphrase the questions.
 7. Think carefully.
 8. **✓** Check your work.

Do your Best!



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#DedicatedtoExcellence



THURSDAY 7TH JULY 2022

HUME THEATRE @ 6PM

ST MARY'S

Soirée

CONCERT & CULTURAL

FASHION SHOW

See Eventbrite for tickets

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/368157528077>



We are hiring!

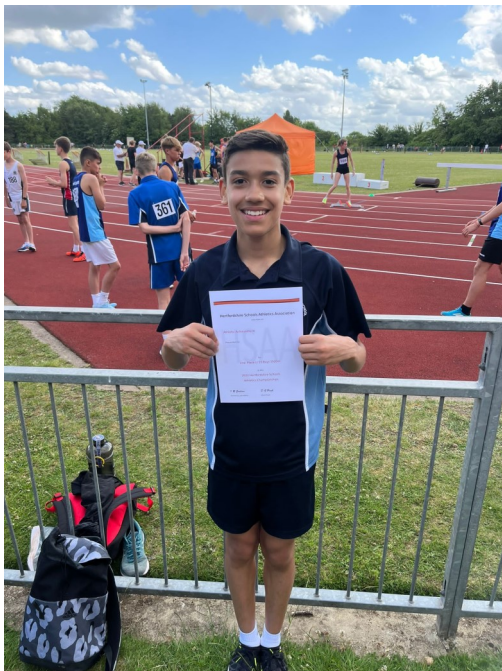


CLICK HERE FOR LATEST VACANCY INFORMATION

WE ARE HIRING!

Hertfordshire County Athletics Championships

Well done to the following students who participated in the Hertfordshire County athletics championships on Saturday 11th June:



Thomas B, Faith E, Paschal I, Fynn P, Marco T, William U, David D, Daniel S, Jack M, Jakub N, Sonny C and Zak F.

A particular mention goes to Zak F for coming 2nd in the 1500 metres with a new personal best of 4.53.



Hertfordshire Schools Athletics Association



Uniform donations



Do you have any uniform that no longer fits and is in good condition? If so we would really appreciate it being donated to the school so that we can recycle it.

- Reduce, reuse, recycle –
- Help save the Planet
- Reduce Greenhouse Gases
- Save Landfill Space
- Help Those in Need
- Reduce Costly Consumerism