



HEADLINES 7 JANUARY 2022

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter (Issue 15 2021-22)

Happy New Year 2022

January Update on the Start of the New Term

Firstly, I hope that, whatever your personal circumstances, you were able to enjoy the Christmas period. A sincere 'Happy New Year' to everyone in the St. Mary's community; we are hopeful that, in 2022, we will turn a corner in the approach to the pandemic and return increasingly to a more normal situation. As ever, we remain determined to stay as safe as possible whilst maximising students' experience on-site and in the classrooms. I would like to thank our teachers and support staff in particular at this time for their professionalism, flexibility in the face of challenge and commitment to every student, every lesson, every day.

We currently have a handful of staff absences, which we are managing with the help of both our cover supervisors and some external supply staff. Although we anticipate this will be a changing picture, almost on a daily basis, we aim to continue to remain open for all year groups, all of the time. If anything happens that means we will need to review this position, we will be in touch as soon as practicable to ensure that everyone is informed with as much notice as possible. I reiterate, we do not expect, despite the current challenges, to be doing anything other than remaining open for all students. However to assist this, unfortunately some events, such as the planned House swimming competition that was due today but postponed, may have to be re-scheduled.

On this, we are very grateful for the cooperation and mature approach our students took to the staggered return to school and on-site testing. We are very reassured that so many students took a test in advance and knowing that everyone on-site has started the term with a negative test is very reassuring for all the students and staff. We now have a very small percentage of students who are self-isolating (c. 3% of students) and as such are at Stage B1 of our Remote Education Policy. Please see the '[Remote Education](#)' page of our website for more information about the delivery of learning for those who are self-isolating.

Our Covid-19 control measures remain remarkably similar to those before Christmas—we had retained the masks and continue to do so for now. All students have been issued with a set of LFD tests and we ask that everyone continues to test each Wednesday and Sunday—even if your child has had a recent case of Covid-19. Guidance has recently changed on this, and we request that everyone tests from this point onwards even if you are within the 90 day period of recent infection, and follow guidance if a positive result is returned. Parents' Evening this half-term will now be planned as virtual events, which includes the Year 9 Options Evening. Mr McMillan will send out further correspondence to relevant parents in the coming days and weeks.

We have just been informed that the NHS intend to return to St. Mary's on 19th January for follow up on the Covid-19 vaccinations for 12-16 year olds. They (NHS) are fully responsible for the delivery of these vaccines, including collecting consent and all administration, so I ask you to read the letter that accompanies these headlines very carefully and sign up using the instructions they have given. Further information about vaccines can be found [here](#) including details about how to sign up for one and who is eligible.

Some students in the Sixth Form are due to sit external examinations in the coming few days and weeks. Details of these will be sent out by Mrs Tatman in the very near future. We wish these students all the very best as they approach the first set of public examinations undertaken by students at St. Mary's since January 2020! Let's hope this continues so that our Year 11 and 13 cohorts are able to ensure their hard work is recognised in the examinations in the summer.

There will be a slight change with effect from Monday 10th January, the formal start to the school day will be from 8.40am at registration. Students will continue to be able to come onsite from 8.15am when students may work in the library. Students arriving after 8.45am will be late for school and will receive 3 negative House-points. There will be a warning bell at 8.35am for students already onsite to let them know it is time to go to form rooms.

Finally, at this start of the new year, in challenging times and a near constant state of flux, I'll leave you with this quote by St. John Henry Newman:

"To live is to change, and to be perfect is to change often"

Have a great weekend with your families.

Tom Johnston
Acting Head of School



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST



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#DedicatedtoExcellence

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

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



Polite Reminder—Parking

We are very pleased to welcome our young people back to school after the Christmas break.

This is a polite reminder, when bringing and collecting your child at the start and end of each day please can I ask you to continue to be mindful of our local residents when pulling into and parking within the local residential areas.

Mrs Tatman, Assistant Headteacher

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 13th January

Year 13 Parents Evening

Friday 14th January

Year 11 Futures Day

Thursday 20th January

Year 11 Parents Evening

We are hiring!

Learning Support Assistant (15hrs per week, term time only)



St Mary's Catholic School, Bishop's Stortford

Closing date: 17th January

Enquiries: 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/> Please email recruitment@stmarys.net to submit your application documents or to make an enquiry.



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST



Science Book Review

**ROYAL SOCIETY
YOUNG PEOPLE'S
BOOK
PRIZE 2021**

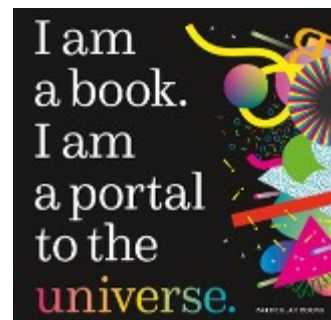
In November and December, students across Key Stage 3 took part in an exciting Science book review scheme, organised by the Royal Society. They worked in small groups to rate a selection of six new books, each written to inspire young people to read about Science.

Each group learned to use criteria such as 'ease of reading' and 'look and feel' to assess the books, and they practised expressing and exchanging opinions to agree on a winning book.

The ratings have been collated and the school's overall winner has been submitted to the Royal Society. It is *I am a book. I am a portal to the universe.* by Stefanie Posavec and Miriam Quick.

The book presents a wide range of facts in a unique and interactive way. For further information on the prize see <https://royalsociety.org/grants-schemes-awards/book-prizes/young-peoples-book-prize/>

The national prize winner is to be announced at a ceremony in February – it will be interesting to see if our school's favourite comes out on top!



All six shortlisted books are available to browse and borrow from the library.

Well done to all the students who took part!

Mrs L Frino,
Librarian

Rotary Interschool Quiz



Attention all students aged 14-18 who like Quizzes!!

Rotary Interschool Quiz

The Rotary Interschool Quiz will take place at Bishops Stortford College at 7pm on Monday 14th March.

We need a team of 4 students, at least 2 of whom must be younger than 6th Form. This University Challenge style general knowledge quiz is a fun and challenging way to represent your school and compete against all the other local schools. Expect questions on all sorts of general knowledge including history, geography, literature, science and current affairs. Do not expect much on football or popular music, but you never know!

I would like to run a preliminary round within school, to help select the team, and there will then be some lunchtime sessions for the team to get used to working together and test each other.

Please email Mrs Wilkin on c.wilkin@stmarys.net by Friday 21st January to register your interest or if you have any questions.

Taking part in the initial St Mary's Quiz round will count towards your St Mary's Award in the Competitions strand.

Mrs C Wilkin, Assistant Headteacher



January 2022 After School Clubs

ST MARYS AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS		CHANGES/NEW CLUBS IN YELLOW	JAN/FEB 2022
MONDAYS			
CLUB	VENUE	SUPERVISOR	YEARS
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
MODEL UNITED NATIONS	F1	Mr Walker	YEAR 12-13
TUESDAYS			
CLUB	VENUE	Supervisor	YEARS
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
Lego Club	K1	Mrs Knight	7 and 8
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
PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITIONS AND SENIOR DEBATING	F1	Mr Walker	Years 11-13
WEDNESDAY			
CLUB	VENUE	Supervisor	YEARS
CANDLE MAKING CLUB	Art dept	MRS KNIGHT	7 & 8
GCSE HISTORY revision	E4	HIST DEPT	11
A LEVEL 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	F1	Mr Walker	All
THURSDAY			
CLUB	VENUE	Supervisor	YEARS
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
Open Homework Club	F1	Mr Walker	All
FRIDAY			
CLUB	VENUE	Supervisor	YEARS
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