



HEADLINES 10TH SEPTEMBER

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter (Issue 1 2021-22)

Let the Sun Shine!

Heads of School Update Mr Johnston & Miss McHugh



Dear Parents and Students,

Miss McHugh and I will alternate the writing of these weekly Headline updates, and this week it is my turn to summarise the week and give some key messages. We would like to thank parents, staff and students for their messages of support as we embark upon our new role, as part of the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust.

As I write this article after a week of beautiful sunshine and heat, the heavens have opened, and the rain is pouring down—a sign that autumn is on the way and the remnants of summer that we have experienced this week are to be enjoyed while they last!

It's been a busy and energising week at school. We facilitated the LFD testing for over approximately 750 students on Monday, and have now concluded the second tests for all students on site. Thanks must go to Mrs Woskett (First Aid) and the admin team for arranging these so effectively. It is reassuring to know that—at the time of the test—everyone remaining on site was tested negative and we could start the year in confidence. It remains to be seen just how the rise in infection numbers will play out, but—as always—we will follow the advice of the professionals at Public Health and put into action the recommendations whilst maintaining our Covid-control measures at school. On that note, **it is important that each student takes an LFD test at home each Wednesday and Sunday** and informs the school if there is a positive result (and Public Health guidance to take a PCR test).

We have also welcomed a number of new staff over the last two weeks. Later on in these Headlines, you will meet three new leaders to the school who introduce themselves and their roles. In coming Headlines, we will introduce our other new staff. A warm 'St. Mary's Welcome' has been extended to all, and they

are already feeling like part of the family.

Aspens, our new caterers have overseen one of the busiest weeks in our Refectory for a number of years—the quality and range of food available, delivered by the Chef and team has been impressive. I also met the building consultants this week to discuss and finalise the plans for the renovations to our kitchen and Refectory facilities. We have been awarded almost half a million pounds to undertake this work and we are planning on starting this in the new year.

Finally, our theme for this half-term is 'Endeavour' and our Student Leaders, Heidi and Luke are in charge of this and will lead the students and staff in achieving their aims of increasing student voice, more events across the school, ensuring a democratic school and promoting determination and leadership at every level. I am sure they will be brilliant, and they introduce themselves under this article.

Have an enjoyable weekend with your families.

Tom Johnston Head of School

'Endeavour' Student Leaders: Luke and Heidi (Year 13)



"Hi, my name is Luke and I co-lead the Endeavour team as a member of the student leadership group. I attended St Joseph's Catholic Primary School. I am doing 4 A-levels: Maths, Further Maths, Chemistry and History, of which I hope to study Maths and Chemistry in university - maybe as a double honours, maybe as a part of a course that combines the two naturally like Chemical Engineering in a university like Oxford, Imperial College London, or Durham. My hobbies include playing music (piano, flute, and tenor sax), reading, and running, as they have helped me stay productive, especially during the lockdowns in the last year. As a member of the Endeavour team, I hope to provide a better opportunity to hear the views of students through surveys and a broader student council, which I could use for input on how the school can be organised."

"Hi I am Heidi, and I co-lead the Endeavour team. I attended Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School. The A-Levels I chose to take include English Literature, Government and Politics and Philosophy and Ethics. My hobbies include reading, cooking and running as they're productive activities that I consider to be down-time when I am away from my school work. After Year 13, I wish to study English Literature and creative writing as it's always been something I have loved, and is an output for my creativity into something still academic. The goal I wish to achieve as a student leader is providing a stronger student voice, taking into account every opinion through a sixth form council and gaining ideas from students on what to introduce to school events"



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

"First do what is necessary. Then do what is possible. And before you know it you are doing the impossible"
Saint Francis

Introducing some of our new staff!

#DedicatedtoExcellence

Mr Butler, Head of Sixth Form, Teacher of D&T



"In my previous role I was a Director of Studies at a large, oversubscribed and highly successful Inner London school. I have a real passion for Design & Technology and take great enjoyment at seeing learning succeed. I bring a wealth of pastoral experience from Year 7 all the way through to Year 11. I firmly believe that all students can achieve and I encourage them to become lifelong learners, challenging and supporting them to realise their potential, where effort, hard work and success is expected, encouraged and celebrated, and creativity is nurtured.

As Head of Sixth form I will be looking to expand and promote the curriculum beyond the classroom."

Mr Bradbury, Assistant Headteacher, Teacher of History & Geography

"My name is Lee Bradbury, I started as a teacher in 2008 and have worked in several schools across the course of my career. I became a teacher for two very simple reasons:

- 1. I love my subject (history) and enjoy telling people about it (whether they want to hear about it or not!).*
- 2. Because I had a fantastic experience at school as a pupil, but I'm aware that not everyone does, therefore I wanted to work to ensure that school is a place to be enjoyed rather than endured.*

In my spare time I am a keen runner and enjoy spending time running whenever I can. I also like to spend my spare time reading, usually historical fiction.

In my first year at St. Mary's I plan to get into as many classrooms as possible to see the outstanding teaching and learning that we have here. My hope is that by doing this and sharing the best examples of teaching and learning with staff and pupils, we can continue to ensure that St. Mary's offers outstanding opportunities for its pupils and staff."



Mr Wright, Learning Coordinator Y8, Teacher of Science, Health & Social Care



"Hello I am Jon Wright and I am the new Learning Coordinator, Science and Health and Social Care Teacher at St. Mary's Catholic School.

I am so pleased and honoured to have joined this school and Catholic community, previous to this position I worked at an independent school where I also taught PE and PSHE for 14 years, and was a successful Head of Year for over 10 years, so I understand the importance of outstanding pastoral care and developing student academic achievement. I am passionate about education and want the students to strive for personal excellence in whatever they do, be happy attending school regularly, and aim for the highest standards in whatever they wish.

I also intend to help inspire the students to become model citizens, who are mature, respectful and ethical individuals, so that they have the skills, knowledge and experience to become the future leaders of the 21st century world. As a practicing Catholic, I also know the importance that faith and spirituality have on developing your son or daughter, and I am excited and pleased to help shape them on that journey. I look forward to seeing and speaking with you over the coming term and year at St. Mary's Catholic School."



Student Planner App Update and Information

This year, we've gone 'virtual' with our student planner. It is proving to be a really flexible and dynamic tool, which (once we get used to it) will make coordinating school life easier and more efficient. I will regularly update you and provide information about the use of IT across the school—here are some hints and tips about using the app!

Mr Ssemwanga, Director of IT

You can now send messages to the school office or to a teacher via the Student Planner App

1. Ask the student to log into their App
2. Choose the "Parent Teacher Messages" option on the App main screen
3. Compose your message by choosing the correct options
4. Send the message
5. Receive a confirmation email.

Sending a message to the School Office

Pending Absence note
Choose this option if you did not manage to call the school on the day when your child was absent

Permission Slip
Choose this option if you need to collect your child during school time

Other Communication
Choose this option for all other forms of communication with the school

Sending a message to a teacher

Pending Absence note
Choose this option if you know the teacher to whom the note is directed

Other Communication
Choose this option for other communications with the teacher

Choose school

Please note students can read and retain all communication written in their planner

Open Evening 2021—Sept 2022 Entry Only

Ofsted
Outstanding Provider

St Mary's Catholic School
(Established 1896)
OFSTED Outstanding in all judgements

Wednesday 22nd September 2021
4.30 - 8.30pm

This event is for YEAR 6 pupils and a parent by ticket only, please book your place by visiting our website

www.stmarys.net

St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

twitter.com/StMarysRCDOw

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Mon 13th Period 1
PSHEE

Thu 16th 7.30pm
Y13 Welcome Evening

Weds 22nd 1pm
Early Finish

Weds 22nd 4.30-8.30pm

OPEN EVENING

Thurs 23rd

11.30am Student late start



New Renovations: Improvements to our Estate!

Mr Russo, our Estate Manager and Mr Cage, our Premises Caretaker and their team have been working tirelessly over the summer and previous term to secure significant improvements to our site, and the opening up of the new T Block (Victorian Building) and A Block renovations to create improved D&T facilities and Student Reception area. This has resulted in a fabulously improved environment for learning at St. Mary's!



Top: New Main Reception (Windhill entrance)

Above: Classrooms in T Block in full use!

Left: D&T facilities renovated, modernised and ready to use!



Chaplaincy News: *Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary* Our Patron Saint

“Mary was born to be the mother of the Saviour of the world, the spiritual mother of all men, and the holiest of God's creatures. Because of her Son's infinite merits, she was conceived and born immaculate and full of grace. Through her, Queen of heaven and of earth, all grace is given to men. Through her, by the will of the Trinity, the unbelieving receive the gift of faith; the afflicted are tendered the works of mercy; and the members of Christ grow in likeness of their Head. In Mary all human nature is exalted.”



Excerpt from The Holyday Book by Fr. Francis Weiser, SJ

Reading: Matthew 1:18-23

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: his mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.’

²² All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ ‘The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel’ (which means ‘God with us’).

Pause to think about your own needs and for any situations in our world today that need our prayers. We turn to Mary, our Mother and Mother of the Church, and pray together:

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me.



Amen.



#DedicatedtoExcellence

News from 'Aspens'—Our new Caterers!

We're proud to introduce Craig, the Development Chef and the team providing fresh, interesting meals at very good value. Alongside a selection of filled baguettes, sandwiches, salads, fruit and drinks, here's the menus for the forthcoming week in our Aspens Refectory:

Autumn
Winter
2021

STREATERIES



| | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|---------------|---|--|---|---|---|
| | | | | | |
| STREET | Spicy Andhra Chicken Curry | Sweet Potato & BBQ Pulled Jackfruit Burger | Roast Chicken & Stuffing Bap Gravynaise | Mongolian Lion's Head Beef Meatballs | Hand Battered Fish & Frackle |
| VEGGIE | Keralan Egg Molee Curry | Veg Chilli Nachos Homemade Salsa | Quorn Roast & Stuffing Bap Gravynaise | Korean Spicy Rice Bowl with Fried Egg | Homemade Fishless Cake Lemon Yoghurt |
| SIDES | Turmeric Rice Masala Roasted Cauliflower | Garlic & Herb Wedges Rainbow Slaw | Fennel Seed Roasties Roasted Carrots | Beggar's Noodles Sweet Chilli Broccoli | Chips Peas |

WEEK 1





School Transitions: Managing Anxiety and Worries in Children and Young People



Who is this workshop for?

Parents of a child/young person and/or young people who are struggling with the transition into a new school year or a new school.

Parents and young people can attend.

What will be covered?

- What anxiety looks like
- How to identify and explore worries
- Strategies for managing anxious thoughts
- Strategies for managing physical symptoms related to anxiety
- How to implement a step-by-step plan to manage anxious behaviours
- Practical tips on school transitions
- General emotional wellbeing tips



Dates

All workshops are via MS Teams



Monday 20th September 2021
12.30pm – 2.30pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/school-transitions-managing-anxiety-worries-in-children-young-people-tickets-169450243239>



Wednesday 29th September 2021
10am – 12pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/school-transitions-managing-anxiety-worries-in-children-young-people-tickets-169450856176>

