

LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter

Issue 37 July 8th 2022



An Eventful Summer Programme



Acting Heads of School Update
Mr Johnston & Miss McHugh

It's my privilege to share with you this edition of the Headlines, jammed full of reports on (nearly) all the activities and events that have happened over the last week or so, and with the promise of more to come in the final, hot and busy, week of term.

In this edition:

- * St. Mary's Soiree
- * Year 13 Prom Pictures
- * PE Presentation Evening
- * District Athletics Success
- * Sixth Form Induction
- * Work Experience report
- * Geography Fieldwork..... and lots more!!

A Prayer of Reflection at this time:

O God, it is by your gift that evening follows day
and that rest restores us after our work,
We strive to enjoy your gifts and share moments of
happiness together as a community,
While we rejoice to receive these blessings, make
us mindful that they come from your gracious
hand.

Amen

Tom Johnston
Acting Head of School

Last Day of Term: Friday 15 July

Please note on Friday pupils will depart from the school site from 12:50pm therefore lunch will not be served.

Students will be able to purchase food from the Refectory at break time.

Monday 11th to Friday 15th July

Mon 11th	Tue 12th	Wed 13th	Thu 14th	Fri 15th
30° 16°	31° 17°	26° 13°	25° 13°	26° 15°



Sun hats

Sunscreen



LOTS of water

'No Blazer Week'

PE Kit MONDAY

(Sports Day)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday 11th July 2022
Sports Day

Tuesday 12th July 2022
Enrichment Day

Wednesday 13th July 2022
Head Student Presentations

Thursday 14th July 2022
Year 6 Induction Day
Year 7 Activity Day
Year 8 & 9 Trips
Year 10 Geography Field Work
Year 12 University of Cambridge Visit
Y7-10 Athletics Meet

Friday 15th July 2022
End of School Term Presentations
End of Term 1pm School Finish



Friday 2nd September 2022
Year 7 and Year 12 Pupils Return to School

Monday 5th September 2022
All Pupils Return to School



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST



St Mary's Soiree

On Thursday 7th July we held our first 'Summer Soirée' in the school hall. The evening was a huge success with such a wide variety of performances.



In the first half of the evening, the audience experienced just a snippet of the school's musical talent. There was a range of ensembles performing including the school's choir and orchestra, multiple 'rock and pop' bands, duets and soloists. Just a few of the pieces that were performed included 'I'm Still Standing' by Elton John, 'Take on Me' by A-Ha and 'Star Wars theme tune' by John Williams.



During the interval, the audience were invited to the canteen where the art department had created an exhibition of Year 11 and 13 art work. This was a fantastic opportunity to display just some of the artistic talent within our school.



During the second half of the evening, the audience were treated to the St Mary's 'Cultural Fashion Show', where a number of the 70 cultures within our school community were showcased. This was a wonderful opportunity to witness and learn about just a few of the cultures across our school and their traditional dress.

Written by Holly M., Year 11





Year 13 Prom Evening

Our outgoing Year 13 Prom Evening was a fantastic celebration of the successes and challenges our students have overcome.

We wish them all a wonderful sunny summer and look forward to seeing them again on Results Day!





Annual PE Presentation Evening



It was great to see all of the parents and students at the annual PE Presentation Evening on Friday.



A huge congratulations to all of the nominees and winners.

A particular mention goes to the winners of the Sports Performer of the Year award, which recognises the student in each year group who has shown the greatest dedication to extra-curricular sport this academic year.

Year 7 Erin M, Austin D, **Year 8** Eden S, Finlay J, **Year 9** Marie S, Lucca M, **Year 10** Ifanyi N, Andre O



Girls

Team of the Year Winners

- Year 7 Hockey
- Year 8 Football
- Year 9 Netball
- Year 10 Athletics



Boys

Team of the Year Winners

- Year 7 Football
- Year 8 Basketball
- Year 9 Basketball
- Year 10 Athletics





District Athletics Success

This week we took our talented boys and girls athletes to compete in the District Athletics Competition.



The students performed brilliantly, both individually and collectively. Thanks to all the athletes tremendous efforts, St Mary's were runners-up overall! Furthermore, the boys achieved a runners up position in their respective competition.

Other notable successes are as follows:

Individual Year Group Awards



- Year 9 Boys: 1st
- Year 7 Boys: 2nd
- Year 8 Girls: 2nd
- Year 10 Girls: 2nd
- Year 10 Boys: 3rd



All students who achieved a top three finish in their individual event received a medal.



A very well done to all involved!

Mr Eddleston



Sixth Form Induction Days



St Mary's Sixth Form



This week we held our Sixth Form Induction for our Internal Year 11 pupils.

The staff have been impressed with the students contributions to lessons and are very much looking forward to teaching them in September. It was great to go around the school and visit many classes and seeing the Year 11 pupils engaged in their taster lesson.

We are confident that their Sixth Form experience will be hugely rewarding and enjoyable. We promise to create an environment in which teachers know students individually, and that all students are valued for who they are.





Year 12 Work Experience

WORK EXPERIENCE

Last week, Year 12 students had the opportunity to do a week's work experience. Students went to a variety of placements from solicitors, to florists to architects.

Over the week the students built key employability skills which will be extremely beneficial to them in their future careers.

Here we find out what a few of our students thought about their placement.



Kieran O

*School of Aerospace,
Transport and Manufacturing at Cranfield University*

Kieran was assisting with the smooth running of the technical support within the Advanced Vehicle Engineering Centre carrying out tasks related to motor engineering.

"I learnt about the university's various facilities and how all the departments work together. I learnt about the role of technician. I also developed my problem solving skills while observing the technicians' thought process when given a new project brief. I helped to fit a new distributor onto an old Land Rover and got it running. I think that doing work experience at the uni gave an insight into Cranfield University as an option in the future and also as a career path being a technician as it seemed like a diverse and interesting job."



Cerys J

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

"Throughout the placement I learnt that teaching is very flexible. One plan that you have for the day may shift and change regularly, so you have to be able to adapt lessons. I also learnt the importance of online resources as the power-points for each lesson were indispensable. During my placement, I was able to use my own knowledge to answer questions that the students had. It felt good to know that I was able to assist them to complete work that had been set by their teacher. Before the placement, I was considering teaching but I was unsure of either primary or secondary. After the placement, I now believe that primary teaching would be a better fit for me."



Nathan I

ACS Aviation Industries

"I learned a lot about what it is like to work in the aerospace engineering field and how airplane parts are built and refurbished. I was able to experience how workflow works in a workspace and how different employees are able to efficiently work together on one big project. On the third day, I was allowed to use a table drill machine to make holes in metal plates that will be used in the bin dividers that I was helping to manufacture. The placement helped me to confirm that aerospace was a field that I would really like to work in when I am older."



Rosaleen C

Hertford Regional College

"I learned that you have to be professional in the working environment as other members of staff have things they need to complete by a deadline. I am most proud of the fact that my confidence built up over the three days. At the start I was very nervous talking to new people, but towards the end I was talking to the visitors and other members of staff. Also, I am proud of the resilience that I displayed when doing my tasks, as they were mostly the same every day. I built good relationships with people working at the info centre who advised me to apply for a temporary summer job next year. This will be good for getting some extra money next year before uni."





Geography News

★ Geography Fieldwork

Over the last couple of weeks Key Stage 3 Geographers have been learning outside the classroom. Some of the Year 7 classes have visited the town centre to investigate the busiest areas. Year 8 have been investigating the microclimate of St Mary's to decide where the best position for a picnic bench is and Year 9 have been carrying out environmental quality surveys around the school site. It was great to be able to investigate Geography in the real world and Year 10 can't wait to get into the river next week!



★ Celebrating St Mary's 125th Anniversary



As part of our celebrations of 125 years of St Mary's Catholic School Key Stage 3 have been exploring the National Library of Scotland's map collection to find out how the site of our school and Bishop's Stortford have changed over the past 125 years.

Here is the link where you can make side by side comparisons of historical and current maps:

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/side-by-side/#zoom=17&lat=51.87040&lon=0.15320&layers=6&right=ESRIWorld>

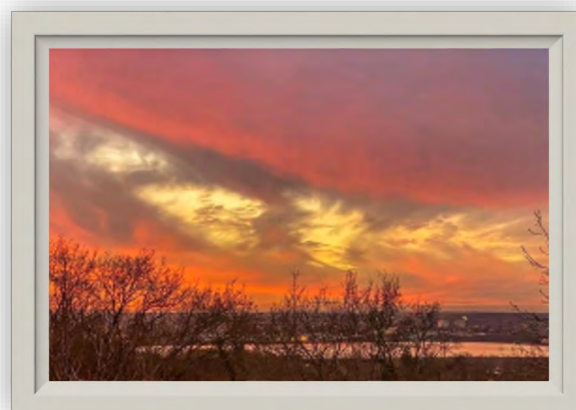
There were some great predictions about how the school might change over the coming years too, with possibilities of wind turbines, living walls and vertical forests in order to become more sustainable.

★ Young Weather Photographer of the Year



Thank you for all of the fantastic entries for the Young Weather Photographer of the Year, judging was very difficult.

Liliana G's 'Burning Sunset' over Lea Valley Park is the winning entry of our internal competition. Well done!





Online Safety Resources



Online safety resources Net Aware is an online tool created in partnership with O2 that informs parents and carers about popular sites, apps and games that children use. They can also sign up to our online safety newsletter to keep up with digital trends.

For more information visit www.net-aware.org.uk

Keeping children safe online – workshops and webinars The NSPCC offers workshops and webinars for parents and carers, which cover the positive aspects of children using the internet, as well as the potential risks and concerns that families might have. To organise a session, please contact parentworkshops@nspcc.org.uk

Angela McGorrell
Pastoral Care and Safeguarding Lead

Word Millionaires



14 more Word Millionaire certificates have been awarded this term, along with badges for every student who has read and quizzed on a million words this year.

There are 44 KS3 word millionaires in total.
Well done everyone!



Here is the complete list:

Year 7

Jeremy B, Thomas B, Erin B, Erin C, Daisy C, David DC, Joana E, Olivia F, Rozalia G, Amelia J, Dominic K, Gabriel L, Amelie M, Orla M, Ethan M, Alex M, Luke O, Hannah P, Maisie P, Sophie S, Anna S

Year 8

Asantwa A, Ilaria B, Isabella F, Rebecca G, Olivier L, Sofia M, Anna N, Joel O, Kyode O, Daniel S, Imogen S, Angus V, Daniel W

Year 9

Skye A, David B, Theo D, Patricia E, Molly G, Ieva G, Fabian J, Addison K, Rebecca S, Amelia T





Summer Reading Challenge

Summer Reading Challenge!

We are challenging all students to read and quiz/review at least two books of their choice over the summer.

Please encourage your child to take part (some tips of how to encourage reluctant readers have been included).

There will be a certificate and 5 house points for every student who completes the challenge!

Further details of how to complete the challenge are available digitally on Teams (in the English area) or can be collected as a paper sheet from the library in the final week of term.

So you have a reluctant reader...?

Reading for pleasure is possibly the single-most important activity your child can do to improve achievement in school. Research has shown that reading helps cognitive development; a recent IoE study revealed that students who read at home do 'significantly better' across the curriculum – including 9.9% better in maths – than students who don't read. Linked to this is the fact that reading is the best way to improve vocabulary, essential for success in every subject.



Reading also has social and emotional benefits. It increases self-esteem and studies show that students who read are more empathetic. Growing up is tough - reading can help young people explore complex problems from the safe fictional world of a book.

The problem, of course, is convincing young people of the importance and joy of reading. As the parent, I understand how difficult this can be in a world of electronic distractions.

Here are some tactics to try with students at home:

- ◆ Find books with a connection to something they love.

If they are football fans, look for footie fiction for teens – try *Booked* by Kwame Alexander; *Football School Star Players* by Bellos; or Dan Freedman or Tom Palmer's books. If they like military/action/war, then try the *Dog Tag* series by CA London or Andy McNab's teen books. If they like to watch Youtubers, try Zoella's book club. And if they are into gaming, try fast-paced chapter books or 'choose your own adventure' stories.

- ◆ Have a look on our website for our 'KS3 Reading Recommendations' list:

<http://www.stmarys.net/assets/Uploads/Files/Curriculum/Recommended-Reads-KS3.pdf>

- ◆ Any type of reading is helpful, so try graphic novels.

Graphic novel versions of *The Recruit* by Muchamore, *Silverfin* by Higson and *Stormbreaker* by Horowitz are popular. Likewise, it is absolutely fine to read *Wimpy Kid* books if this is what sparks the interest of your reluctant reader.

- ◆ Try Barrington Stoke books: these are produced with tinted pages, special fonts and spacing, thicker paper and editing to reduce comprehension barriers and/or issues resulting from dyslexia:

<https://www.barringtonstoke.co.uk/>

- ◆ If your child is ready, you might select a 'grittier' book, then verbally hum-and-haw about whether or not they are old enough to read the book. Tell them maybe they should wait six months as 'there is some language and some blood'. Pretty soon they will be begging you for the book, and you can eventually give in, saying 'since you are now in Year ..., I guess it is okay'. Charlie Higson's *Enemy* series is a gritty series written for teens, as is *Zom-B* by Darren Shan.





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Summer Reading Challenge

#DedicatedtoExcellence



- ◆ Visit the library with your child when you go into town. Ask your child to meet you in the library and then take your time selecting a book to read yourself.

- ◆ Try a 'phone free' hour every day.

- ◆ Be enthusiastic about what they are reading:

Ask them to describe a character or to read aloud an exciting bit. You might read a teen/YA book yourself; the plot-driven nature of many of these books means they are relatively easy reads – perfect after a day at work.

- ◆ Let your children see you reading for pleasure, and talk about what you read and how you choose books.



- ◆ If you have younger children, ask your older (reluctant reader) child to read aloud to the younger child. This is a big confidence booster and it helps with sibling bonding. Michael Morpurgo is a particularly good shared read, as his books have something for everyone; I recommend *Kensuke's Kingdom* for sibling read-alouds. If there are no younger siblings, reading to a pet for 10 minutes a day can work well!?

- ◆ Continue to read aloud to your children (even if they are fluent readers). It can be an opportunity to encourage children to read things that they wouldn't normally read.

- ◆ Offer incentives: for example, a summer reading rewards programme - if they read a certain number of books or pages, they could get taken on a special trip to a theme park. This works well for summer or times when a 'breakthrough' is required but try not to always rely on it as it can lead to children only reading for rewards and not pleasure.



- ◆ Another idea is to find the book version of a movie:

Stormbreaker, Eragon, Harry Potter, The Book Thief, I am Number Four, The Princess Diaries, The Chronicles of Narnia, Percy Jackson, The Hunger Games, Divergent, Maze Runner, Fault in Our Stars, Twilight and Inkheart and Wonder are all films based on children/YA books. Both of you can read the book, go to the movie together -- then discuss the differences.

- ◆ Have them pick up a device – an e-reader!

Then check with your local library about borrowing e-books or try the Kindle daily deal.

- ◆ Try audio books: libraries have free, downloadable audio books plus Audible has a wide range of teen books. Many teens like the idea of being able to do something active while listening to a book. By listening to an audio book, your teen will pick up new vocabulary, hear complex sentence structures and engage with stories.



- ◆ Listening to audio books as a family is another good idea. Sharing a story together is a fabulous way to bond or while away hours spent travelling in the car to staycations?



- ◆ Visit a bookstore and allow your child to select a book of their choice. The visually appealing marketing and layout of best-selling books can attract even reluctant readers.

- ◆ Try biographies/autobiographies that interest your child, for example, *Maddie Diaries* by Ziegler & *The Greatest* (Muhammed Ali) by Walter Dean Myers.

- ◆ Non-fiction books linked to a child's interests are a great way to spark a desire to read.

- ◆ Gentle encouragement works best.

Ms Keane
Literacy Coordinator



Services for Young People Hertfordshire Holiday Activities

Summer holiday activities 2022



Services for Young People

HAPpy Summer 2022 Project



A reminder that the bookings portal is now open for this summer's HAPpy Projects. Priority is given to young people in receipt of free school meals, however we will also be allocating spaces for young people experiencing particular hardship and/or who would benefit from this opportunity.

Young people will be able to socialise safely with their peers and access support from HCC SfYP youth workers, as well as take part in interactive workshops and activities aimed at exploring ways to maintain a healthy lifestyle and boost wellbeing, whilst also enjoying a free hot meal.

The activities are for **young people aged 13-16**, and will focus on healthy lifestyles and young people will have the opportunity to:

- Take part in sports, dance, art activities, physical games and team challenges
- Meet and socialise with other young people
- Join our fun and informal healthy lifestyles workshops

Get a free healthy lunch every day.

**The activities will run for four hours a day, five days a week:
Monday to Friday, 25 July - 12 August 2022.**

Click on these links to find out more and book onto your local programme:

[Welwyn Hatfield, Hatfield Young People's Centre](#)

[Broxbourne, Herts Young Mariners Base](#)

[East Herts, Ware Young People's Centre](#)



Positive Pathways Summer Activity Programmes



SfYP is delivering Positive Pathways activity programmes for young people across Hertfordshire over the 2022 school summer holidays. The activities are free for all **young people aged 11-17**. The programmes will be led by qualified and experienced SfYP Youth Workers and will focus on how young people can stay safe, form positive relationships, and identify and achieve their goals in life.

The programmes include:

- ✦ Fun and interactive workshops
- ✦ Activities such as team sports and music
- ✦ Developing confidence, self-esteem and resilience
- ✦ Finding out about new opportunities in the area

Find out more [here](#).



Youth Service Essex Holiday Activities

YOUTH SERVICE

Essex County Council

Summer Fun 2022, Essex

Join us for an action packed three days of learning, idea sharing, challenge, and games.

Absolutely free to attend. We have created a three day programme centred on the theme of interaction and challenge. On completion of the three days, you have the opportunity to complete an optional two day/one night walking expedition, camping in the great outdoors!

Taking place on 22nd and 23rd August 2022. This expedition will be recognised as the Bronze DofE Award expedition. All of the expedition skills taught during the three days will ensure the participant has acquired the necessary skills to complete the expedition element.

What's involved?

Open to all 13-19 year olds in Essex (up to 25 years with SEN).

Join us 10am-4pm Monday to Wednesday to take part in...

- Outdoor cooking
- Navigation
- Crazy golf
- Outdoor/expedition skills
- Virtual reality
- Sports
- First Aid
- Team building
- Making art
- Planning a route for your expedition team
- Expedition rucksack and kit, emergency procedures, tents



Locations - Book your place, via this link <https://youth.essex.gov.uk/young-people/summer-fun-programme-2022/>

The three sessions will take place 10am-4pm Monday to Wednesday at our youth centres across Essex.

Full joining instructions will be emailed to you one week before the programme start date.

- 25th, 26th, 27th July - Basildon Youth Centre, 16-20 Southernhay, SS14 1EL
- 25th, 26th, 27th July - Chapel Hill Youth Centre, Chapel Hill, Braintree, CM7 3QZ
- 1st, 2nd, 3rd August - Colchester Townhouse, 39-42 East Stockwell Street, CO1 1SS
- 1st, 2nd, 3rd August - The Hermit, 15 Shenfield Road, Brentwood, CM15 8AG
- 8th, 9th, 10th August - Clacton Green Lodge, 180 Old Road, Clacton, CO15 3AY
- 8th, 9th, 10th August - Galleywood, Watchhouse Road, Chelmsford, CM2 8PT
- 15th, 16th, 17th August - Harlow
- 15th, 16th, 17 August - Halstead Youth Centre, Parsonage Road, CO9 2ES

The Expedition - 22nd and 23rd August 2022

Start, Finish and overnight camp at Essex Outdoors, Well Lane, Danbury CM3 4AB.

On completion of the three days you have the opportunity to complete an optional two day/one night walking expedition, camping in the great outdoors! This expedition will be recognised as the Bronze DofE Award expedition.

Expedition teams will independently navigate their way through the Essex countryside, putting into practice their newly acquired expedition skills. Each expedition team (up to 7 participants) will be assessed against DofE's 20 conditions:

[The 20 Conditions of the Expedition section - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award \(dofe.org\)](#)

What is included

Registration on The DofE Award programme

All of the expedition skills taught during the three days will ensure the participant has acquired the necessary skills to complete the expedition element.

The use of tents, roll mats, maps, compasses, cooking stoves and rucksacks

Participants need to bring - financial support is available

Please indicate on the form whether you require support with any of the below items:

Travel to and from Essex Outdoors, Well Lane, Danbury CM3 4AB

Walking shoes or boots are ideal (these can be purchased for as little as £20). Trainers can be worn, except converse/pumps/plimsoll's

Sleeping bag

Waterproof jacket and trousers (we do have a supply of waterproofs in some sizes)

Food for the two day expedition

A expedition kit list will be provided

Other sections of the DofE Award

If you wish to complete the expedition element, we will register you on the DofE Award (free of charge) so that your expedition experience can be recorded. This also provides you with a fantastic opportunity to continue through the whole DofE Bronze Award beyond the summer. The DofE Award includes three other sections which are completed independently, including the skills section, physical section and volunteering section.





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#DedicatedtoExcellence

We are hiring!



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

**CLICK HERE
FOR LATEST VACANCY INFORMATION**

WE ARE
HIRING!



Hertfordshire
Music Service

Join the County Youth Choir Summer 2022 course

Hertfordshire Music Service invites you to join the County Youth Choir for a long weekend of singing! Featuring an array of repertoire, new and old, serious and fun, accompanied and unaccompanied.

No previous experience is needed, but an eagerness to learn quickly is useful.

Age range: 13 - 18



Friday 22nd - Sunday 24th July 2022 - 10.00am to 5.00pm

Mid Herts Centre for Music & Arts, Birchwood Avenue, Hatfield, AL10 0PS.

Sunday 24th July 2022 - 4.00pm to 5.00pm.

Concert at St. Michael's Church, Birchwood Avenue

Course cost: £90 (bursaries available)

To sign-up for the course either visit our [online sign up form](#) or email us at countymusicenquiries@hertfordshire.gov.uk for further information.

Follow @HertsMusic



Hertfordshire Music Service

hertsmusicservice.org.uk



HERTFORDSHIRE
CONSTABULARY

Herts Police Anti-Social Behaviour Survey

Our colleagues at Hertfordshire Police, along with local partners, are keen to understand how we can better keep young people safe and address concerns over Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB).

As part of National ASB Awareness Week, Hertfordshire Police are inviting young people to take part in an anonymous survey.

The survey can be accessed here bit.ly/youth-asb or via this QR code:



SCAN ME

MAKING COMMUNITIES SAFER

#ASBAwarenessweek