

HEADLINES 22ND APRIL 2022

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter (Issue 27 2021-22)



New Beginnings—Summer Term

After the joy of the Easter celebrations, we have started the Summer Term 2022 in glorious sunshine this week.

Easter time always gives us the opportunity to reflect on our lives, our values, beliefs and whether our actions truly demonstrate these core principles which Jesus taught us.

In assemblies this week, Miss McHugh has celebrated the resurrection and the message of hope, courage and love this brings, challenging each student to consider their reflections as they start this new term at school.

Before Easter, the school was buzzing with the excitement of Charity Week which gave the whole community a real lift, alongside raising a significant sum of money (£8100) for the two very good causes of Caritas Ukraine and Across to Lourdes.

This term starts with the results of recent assessments being inputted by the teachers and then released to parents and students next week. This is AP3 and will provide each student a good picture of how they are doing in each of their lessons. Teachers will be using these to set specific



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



targets to improve and Tutors will be reviewing the set of grades with each student in order to encourage, celebrate and motivate students over the next phase of their studies.

If you've not yet done so, I would encourage you to review each of your child's exercise books with them—this week has been another 'Brilliant Books' week and each student should have made a real effort to focus on completed work, response to teacher feedback and presentation of work. This will give you as parents a real context for the AP3 information you will be receiving next week.

Extra-curricular clubs are back up and running—there's a list in these headlines. Please encourage your child to take part in as much as possible to get the very best of the St. Mary's experience this term.

Finally, our Year 11 and 13 students are now preparing for their final examinations. They're really impressing with their work and dedication—keep this up, stay resilient and good luck!

Tom Johnston, Acting Head of School

**“The fruit of the spirit is
love, joy, peace,
patience, kindness,
generosity,
faithfulness, gentleness
and self control.”**

Galatians 5: 22.25

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tuesday/Wednesday
26th/27th April**

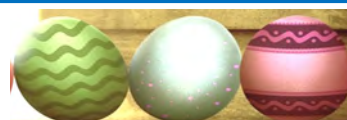
Year 11 Futures Meetings

*(Meetings to be booked using the
Parent Evening Booking system)*

**Monday 2nd May
May Bank Holiday
School Closed**



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST





Student Health Care Plan ~ Is it up to date?

Children with Medical Needs



It is essential that any student identified as having a health care need has an up to date and accurate health care plan in place.

If your child has a health care need, physical, mental health or other may I ask that you ensure the "Individual Health Care Plan" document with clear information and guidance to ensure our records are accurate and up to date.

Please do read our school policy on supporting pupils with medical needs.

I must emphasise, it is the **parents responsibility to notify the school of their child's full medical needs** in our shared responsibility to safeguard our children.

<http://www.stmarys.net/assets/Uploads/Files/Policies/H9-Medical-Conditions-Policy.pdf>

If this applies to your child and there has been a new/change in their health needs please notify the school immediately by emailing info@stmarys.net marked **FIRST AID**.

Exam Season ~ Self-Care

TAKE CARE



OF YOURSELF

We are now fast approaching the external exam season for our Year 11 and 13 students. This can be a time of great pressure. We all know that a little bit of pressure and a healthy amount of nerves can be good for us when we are preparing for exams. However when this gets overwhelming it can be very difficult to produce our best.

How do you know when your child is suffering too much pressure?

This is a difficult question to answer but trust your instincts, if you do not feel they are coping, then you are probably right. Talk to them, ask them how they are doing, if you don't believe the answer, ask again.

The web link below is a good source of advice at this potentially stressful time.

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with-life/exam-stress/>

There is also some great advice here for self-care during the exam season.

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/blog/exam-self-care/>

If you are worried about your child, please make contact with us here at school and we will try our best to help.





Year 11 Bowling Trip

What a fantastic way to end the term with the Year 11's.

I am very proud of the Year 11's and their current focus and attitudes towards the upcoming exam season. They have been working extremely hard in lessons and stretching their knowledge further at various intervention sessions.

It was clear to see that they thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon out, as did the staff that accompanied them. It was great to see some healthy competition among the students too.

Keep up the excellent work.



Mrs L Massey
Year 11 Learning Co-ordinator

Year 11 Pizza Reward



Some of the Year 11 students have been going above and beyond in the studies over the last couple of weeks.

This included a combination of collecting House Points, achieving a high attendance and attending intervention sessions.

All of these students achieved a **Gold Award** and were treated to pizza lunch before they departed for the Easter Holidays.

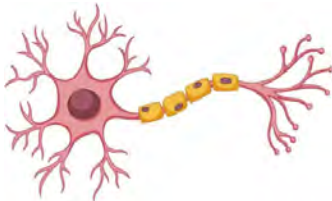


Mrs L Massey
Year 11 Learning Co-ordinator



Year 12 Psychology

Year 12 Psychology students use Play Doh to learn about neurons.

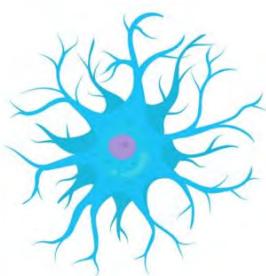


Year 12 Psychology students excitedly moulded Play-Doh to demonstrate their understanding of the structure of neurons and the process of synaptic transmission.

Each design was carefully labelled and students were able to verbally explain this important physiological process by pointing to each part of their model.

"I found it really helpful to memorise the different parts of a neuron"
– Sonny Cahill.

"It was so much fun and helped me to visualise the process of synaptic transmission"
– Egheosa Osunde





Maths Department

Busy times for Maths Department focusing on our youngest mathematicians!

We are very excited for 60 Year 7 and 8 students who have been selected to participate in the **UKMT Junior Maths Challenge** next week, 27th and 28th April. This national competition will be done online and will take place during school time. Wishing our participants all the best!



We hope you all remember the Year 7 Team Maths Challenge that was run by Herts for Learning in early March? This time, we are very happy to announce that this Thursday, 28th April, 3 teams of Year 8 students will be participating in the **livestream Year 8 Challenge** competition going against another 33 teams from the County. Good luck to the participating students!

And finally, our last announcement!

Dear Parents/Guardians of Year 7 students

Please check your emails for a letter from the Maths Department inviting your child to take part in the **trip to Harry Potter Studios (WB)** in the Summer Term. We have managed to secure 50 places for the tour and a Maths and Movies workshop. If we have a big demand, we will do our best to repeat the visit in the Autumn Term for this great opportunity to be experienced by more current Year 7 students.



Would you like to improve your maths skills?

Or perhaps consolidation of what you already know is what you are aiming for?

Fix Up 5

Scientific research shows the way to improve the fastest is to practise things you couldn't do in the past - this is called **deliberate practice**.

Fix Up 5 will give you 5 questions you got wrong before to repeat and improve on.

Below is a link to a video telling you more about Fix Up 5. Great mathematicians learn from their mistakes. Your journey starts here...

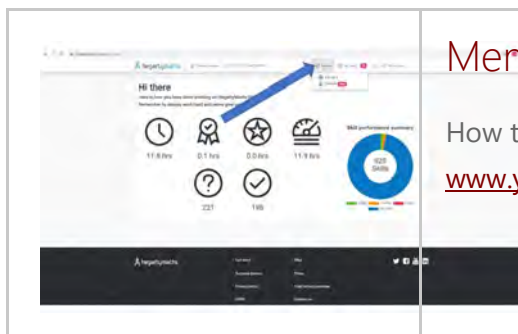
Striving for the best?

Fix up 5 on Hegarty Maths could be your answer!

Log in and start using it or ask your teacher for guidance. Act now - we cannot wait to see you get stronger!

The video link showing how to access MemRi and Fix Up 5:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NxRE2HR9zng>



Memri Fix Up 5

How to access Memri and FixUp5 on HegartyMaths

www.youtube.com



Monthly Music Magazine



COMPOSER OF THE MONTH – APRIL Rachmaninov

Sergei Vasilyevich Rachmaninov was born on 1 April 1873 into a family of the Russian aristocracy in the Russian Empire, and died in the USA 28 March 1943. He was a Russian composer, virtuoso pianist, and conductor. Rachmaninov is widely considered one of the finest pianists of his day and, as a composer, one of the last great representatives of Romanticism in Russian classical music.



The piano is featured prominently in Rachmaninov's compositional output and he made a point of using his skills as a performer to fully explore the expressive and technical possibilities of the instrument.

Increasingly unhappy with the political turmoil in Russia, Rachmaninov with his family left Moscow for Dresden, Germany, in November 1906. While in Dresden, he agreed to perform and conduct in the United States as part of the 1909-10 concert season with conductor Max Fiedler and the Boston Symphony Orchestra. In January 1914, Rachmaninov began a concert tour of England which was enthusiastically received. On the day the February 1917 Revolution began in Saint Petersburg, Rachmaninov received three offers from the US: to become the conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra for two years, to conduct 110 concerts in 30 weeks for the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and to give 25 piano recitals. In October 1932, he began a demanding concert season that consisted of 50 performances. The European leg in 1933 saw Rachmaninov celebrate his 60th birthday among fellow musicians and friends, after which he retreated to Villa Senar for the summer. In May 1934, he underwent a minor operation and completed *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* during his stay at Senar.

Here is a video of the Rhapsody performed at the BBC Proms in 2013.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OHJKg4FHUzc>



Music Clubs

Monday: Orchestra
Tuesday: Choir
Wednesday: GCSE Catch Up
Friday: Pop & Rock Group

Do you sing or play an instrument and would like to share your talents?

Would you like to take part in a fun experience which also gains you credit for your St Mary's Award?

The Music Clubs we offer at St Mary's cover the wide range of musical skills of our students.

So far this year these groups have performed in the School Carol Service in December, Battle of the Bands in February, and The Spring Concert in March where over 70 students took part.

We are now back in rehearsals preparing for the Whole School Masses in May and the Summer Concert in July celebrating the school's 125th Anniversary.

We still have spaces for singers, especially those with lower voices, and instrumentalists, especially brass and string players.

Rehearsals are fun activities where we cover lots of different styles of music which are chosen to develop your own particular musical skills.

Why don't you come along and give it a try?



Summer Term Clubs 2022

ST MARY'S CLUBS		CHANGES/NEW CLUBS in orange. Lunch clubs in white	APRIL/MAY
MONDAYS			
CLUB	VENUE	SUPERVISOR	YEARS
BENCHBALL	SPORTSHALL	MRS D SWYERS	YEAR 7, 9, 11
DRAMA	HUME	MISS HAYLES	7 TO 9
DT CATCH UP	DT	MR HUNT	10 & 11
ORCHESTRA	M1	MS MATTHEWS	ALL
MATHS CATCH-UP	K1/K5/J2	MATHS STAFF	11
ATHLETICS	FIELD	PE dept	7 TO 11
Year 11 History Catch up	E4	MR DOLMAN	Y11
TUESDAYS			
CLUB	VENUE	Supervisor	YEARS
GCSE ART Coursework	C7	MISS NAIRN	10 & 11
GCSE Science Revision	Hblock	SCIENCE DEPT	11
Choir	M1	MRS SALTER KAY	all
KS3 FUN ! (See posters for details)	K1	MRS KNIGHT	Year 7 to 9
Polish Club	K5	MRS NESTEROVSKA/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	MS 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
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	9 and 10
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	MS VELANI	all
CRICKET	FIELD	PE DEPT	7 TO 11
CARNEGIE BOOK SHADOWING	LIBRARY	MRS FRINO	Y9/10
THURSDAY			
CLUB	VENUE	Supervisor	YEARS
CARNEGIE BOOK SHADOWING	Library	MRS FRINO	7 AND 8
Manga Club	Library	MRS FRINO	7 AND 8
Arts and Crafts	C2	MRS LEE	7 to 9
Invitation only HW Club	B1 and B3	MRS HENDERSON/MRS WILSON	8 and 9
FRIDAY			
CLUB	VENUE	Supervisor	YEARS
BENCHBALL	SPORTSHALL	D SWYERS	8,10,12,
Library Books and Biscuits	Library	MRS FRINO	All
Rounders	field	PE DEPT	7 to 11
Rock and Pop Bands	Music Block	MISS MATTHEWS	All
VARYING DATES			
DUKE OF EDINBURGH	E5	MR DOLMAN	Y12



Prayer for Ukraine



Prayer for Ukraine and Candle in the Window

Loving God,

We pray for the people of Ukraine, for all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them.

We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.

We pray for the world, that in this moment of crisis, we may reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need.

May we walk in your ways so that peace and justice become a reality for the people of Ukraine and for all the world.

Amen

CANDLE IN THE WINDOW

We also invite you and your family to LIGHT A CANDLE and place it on a street-facing window, every Thursday evening at 8pm, as an act of prayer and support for the people of Ukraine, and as a sign of hope for peace.



SPAM Emails - what to do if you receive them



Dear Parents

As we increasingly use information technology and particularly email, SPAM emails are an unfortunate part of this.

At St Mary's Catholic School we have a robust system for dealing with these unwanted emails and below is how you **as a parent can support in three simple steps:**



Recognise Spam emails. Spam comes in different varieties. Recently they have been from a member of staff with link to or attachment related to "Invoice" or "Payment"



Do Not Open the spam email
Instead **Forward** the SPAM email to Info@stmary's.net



Delete the spam email

Once the IT team receive this we will carry out the necessary processes to ensure that the email account creating SPAM emails is blocked and the email traffic created is minimised.



Chaplaincy News



Saint George

Feast Day – 23rd April

Patron Saint of England, Georgia, Portugal, Beirut, Malta, Palestinian Christians, skin disease sufferers, the Scouts

Born: Around 280 AD, to a Christian family in Lydda, which is now in Israel

Life: Little is known, other than, that he was probably a Roman soldier, whose witness to his Christian faith under the persecution of Emperor Diocletian inspired the Emperor's wife, Alexandra, to become a Christian and then suffer martyrdom herself.

Martyred: 23 April 303, at Nicomedia, Bythina, which is now in Turkey

He was declared a saint by Pope Gelasius in 494 AD, who described him as one of the saints "whose names are justly revered among men, but whose actions are known only to God."

Prayer to St George

With courage, you stood up to those in power, to tell them that what they were doing was wrong.

Pray that we, too, may have courage to stand up for what is right, with God's help. You were not ashamed of your faith.

Pray that we, too, may be proud of our faith, and may cheerfully show the love of Jesus in all that we do.

St George, pray for us.

(CAFOD)



St. George's
DAY





COVID Measures: Reminder



As we step into spring, we're encouraging residents to be kind and stay healthy by following simple steps to live life safely with COVID-19, stop the spread and protect others.

For up-to-date information go to <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/covidliving>

The simple steps people are encouraged to follow are:

- Be kind – respect people wearing masks or keeping their distance from you. They may well be very vulnerable to infection
- Be informed – know your level of risk and get good, trusted advice on managing it
- Be vaccinated or boosted – ensure you and those around you are vaccinated when invited
- Be safe – manage your risk when socially mixing (hands, face, space, fresh air)
- Be prepared – if you get Covid, stay at home and get early treatment should you need it
- Be supported – as well as your family and friends, HertsHelp can offer support

COVID-19 vaccination

Vaccination continues to offer the best protection for ourselves and others around us from becoming seriously ill from COVID-19. There are lots of walk-in options available locally for first, second doses and boosters, you can find your nearest vaccination centre and also book an appointment at: <https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/>

The national booking system for healthy 5- to -11 year olds to receive their COVID-19 vaccination opened 2 April. Parents and carers can book appointments at larger vaccination centres and in some community pharmacies. Appointments will also be available at some GP run sites, if so they will contact you directly and you can book through your practice.

Vaccinations are already available for clinically vulnerable 5- to 11-year-olds, and children in this age group who live with someone who has a weakened immune system. Until now vaccinations for this 'at risk' group of children have been available through GPs and special schools, but parents and carers are now also able to book these through the national booking service from 2 April.

For more information on vaccinations for this age group visit: <https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/vaccine-information-for-young-people>

Stay at home if you have symptoms

Guidance remains that if you have symptoms of COVID-19, **(a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste)**, you should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, regardless of a positive test result.

[Get advice about staying at home and avoiding contact with others](#)

There is support available locally to help people who need to self-isolate, call HertsHelp on 0300 123 4044, email info@hertshelp.net or visit www.hertshelp.net

We'd like to once again say thank you for continuing to play your part and for helping to keep yourselves and others safe.



We are hiring!



Teacher & Learning Coordinator (Head of Year)

Full-time position required from September 2022

You can view the job details by clicking [here](#)

Closing date: Monday 25th April 10.00am.

St Mary's
Catholic School



Estates Assistant (Caretaker)

Full-time position, Year Round

You can view the job details by clicking [here](#)

Closing date: Monday 25th April 10.00am.

St Mary's
Catholic School



Food & Nutrition Teacher

Part Time (0.6 FTE) required from September 2022

You can view the job details by clicking [here](#)

Closing date: Monday 25th April 10.00 am.

St Mary's
Catholic School



Headteacher

You will by now have received the letter to parents and carers regarding Mr Celano's role working full time as Chief Executive Officer for St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust and consequently our Headteacher recruitment.

You can view the formal advertisement by clicking [here](#)

Closing date: Monday 2nd May 2022, 9.00 am.

Please contact Rebecca Faulkner r.faulkner@stfrancistrust.net to arrange a visit, submit an application, or for further information.

St Mary's
Catholic School



St Augustine's Catholic Primary School

Class Teacher—Lower Key Stage 2

Full-time Teacher required from September 2022

You can view the job details by clicking [here](#)

St Augustine's
Catholic Primary School



St Augustine's Catholic Primary School

Learning Support Assistant—EYFS

Full-time LSA required from September 2022

You can view the job details by clicking [here](#)

St Augustine's
Catholic Primary School



St Augustine's Catholic Primary School

Class Teacher—PPA Cover

The role is for 2-3 days a week on a **maternity cover fixed term contract**. required from September 2022

You can view the job details by clicking [here](#)

St Augustine's
Catholic Primary School

