

LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter

Issue 33 June 10th 2022



Demonstrating Knowledge, Skills & Faith



Acting Heads of School Update
Mr Johnston & Miss McHugh



We celebrated with our Year 11 students this week as they embark upon a period of study leave whilst they continue to sit their GCSE examinations. As always, it was a joyful event with a BBQ, shirt-signing and mutual support; we all recognise the hard work and determination this set of students have to succeed and are proud of their focus and drive. We look forward to welcoming them back in September into Year 12 after 'Results Day' in August.

Year 13s also continue to make us proud as they tackle their A Levels, and we have started to undertake a series of internal assessments as the academic year draws towards completion. This is a chance for the students to demonstrate the knowledge and skills they have developed over the course of their studies this year, and at the same time start to prepare for future formal examinations in full 'Exam Conditions'. This year we

have taken a blended approach, with students increasingly sitting assessments in the Hall as they move up through the school.

Of course, development of knowledge and skills is important as an outcome of a school career, and at SMCS of equal importance is spiritual development. This Sunday is the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, thinking about the mystery of the Holy Spirit.



As a mystery, we may never comprehend the totality of the Holy Trinity, yet we accept its reality in faith, and recognise this with the sign of the cross each time we pray or ask for the Lord's help.

Almighty and everlasting God,
who hast given unto us Thy servants grace
by the profession of the true faith,
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and,
in the power of Thy Divine Majesty,
to worship the Unity;
to worship the Unity;
we beseech Thee,
that by our steadfastness in this same faith,
we may evermore be defended from all adversities.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Have a great weekend with your families
Tom Johnston, Acting Head of School

End of Year Assessments

Date w/c	Year Group	Location
13th June	8	In Lessons
20th June	9	Maths / English / RE/ Science in Hall <i>Other subjects assessments in lesson time</i>
27th June	10	Hall
4th July	12	Hall

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday 13th June 2022
Oracy Day

Thursday 16th June 2022
Catholic Primary Netball and Football



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST





Win £1,000 to help your school rebuild their library



Here's why school libraries need our help

Reading for pleasure – which has been shown time and time again to be the single biggest indicator of a child's future success – is falling off the agenda after two years of disruption and lost learning.

It's time to #rebuildthelibrary

We're giving five schools £1,000 of National Book Tokens each, plus membership to the School Library Association, to help them rebuild their range of books and encourage reading for pleasure now and for generations to come.



Nominate your school and win National Book Tokens!

When you nominate your school to win one of the five £1,000 prizes, we'll also enter you into a draw to win a £100 National Book Token to spend in your favourite bookshop or online.

Click: [Enter and share](#)

Library News for Leavers—Mrs Frino



PLEASE!

Parents of students in Years 11 and Year 13 who are leaving St Mary's this year, please check if you have any school library books at home and make sure your children return them to Mrs Frino.

You can make a big difference to future students by bringing back stock. It means we can add new books to the library instead of replacing old ones!

Would you like to buy a book for the library as a leaving gift to St Mary's?

You can make a £5 payment via Parentpay using the item 'Y11/13 Leaver book gift to the school library'.

A special bookplate with your child's name will be added to a new book in the library, as a permanent record of their contribution to the school.



Wellbeing Wednesday ~ Board Games



As part of our Wellbeing Wednesday sessions, we would like to give our students the opportunity to play board games during form time.

If you have any old board games in your house that you no longer need, then please can these be donated to school. Students may bring these in and leave them in classroom C8.

Many thanks for your support.





Art Department News

A Year of Fantastic Artwork from Across the Key Stages

The Art Department would like to congratulate students this year for producing some outstanding work in all areas. From Year 7 who have been looking at Dragons and Lizards all the way through to Year 12 and 13 who have been working on personal portfolios and final pieces St Mary's students have shown an outstanding commitment to their artistic studies. We also congratulate Year 11 and 13 on such a successful end to their GCSE and A Level courses.

Well done, from Miss Nairn, Mrs Morgan-Wren and Mrs Skinner

Examples of excellence seen below are just a snapshot of what our outstanding students have been creating.



Artists:
Clockwise from top left...
Abrianna H Yr 13, **Keira K** Yr 13,
Rebecca H Yr 9, **Raymond E** Yr 10,
Ruby H Yr 9, **Carlos C** Yr 7,
Adam C Yr 8, **Georgia M** Yr 8
and **Caroline W** Yr 10.



LOVE-RESPECT-FLOURISH

#DedicatedtoExcellence



PAPER BAGS



Stunning work from Year 12 Personal Portfolios:

Artists Featured

- Layla D
- Jessica M
- Isabella N
- Cynthia N
- Antonia S
- Rebecca T
- Michelle W





Nurse & Helpers Needed

Across is a charity created specifically to provide transport and support to enable those with special care needs to go on pilgrimages to Lourdes. The charity also enables groups to organise holidays to other destinations in Europe for those with special care needs.

If you are interested in travelling with Across please call the office on:
020 3542 1800 OR Email:
Pilgrimages@across.org.uk



Dates Needed
18th - 27th August
1st - 10th September
8th - 17th September
29th Sept - 8th October
20th - 29th October

Appeal for Nurses & Helpers

Dear Across Supporters

We are looking for helpers and nurses to travel to Lourdes to help make "the impossible possible" for our wonderful VIPs. We have various pilgrimage dates available and have subsidies available for nurses and young helpers (aged 16-25 in full time education).

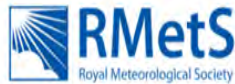
Please call the office on 020 3542 1800 for more information.

Lisa O'Connor, Office Manager



Geography Competition Time

Young Weather Photographer of the Year Competition



The Royal Meteorological Society is running a weather photography competition!

Wherever you are there will be weather!

If you have an amazing weather photo, or are able to take one between now and 28th June then enter it into the competition. See the link here for information about how to enter (you will need an adult to do this for you) and prizes available <https://www.rmets.org/weather-photographer-year-2022>.

Email your photo with a caption to Mrs Hughes at c.hughes@stmarys.net for a chance to win our internal competition and you will be awarded points towards your St Mary's Award too!



The competition deadline is 28th June.

Good luck, we can't wait to see your entries!

Services for Young People—Holiday Activities

Services for Young People

Services for Young People are offering holiday activities on weekdays from 25th July to 12th August in the following locations:

- Herts Young Mariners Base, 231 Windmill Lane, Cheshunt, EN8 9AJ.
- Hatfield Young People's Centre, Breaks Manor, Link Drive, Hatfield, AL10 8TP.
- Ware Young People's Centre, Marsh Lane, Ware, SG12 9QB.

Young people who are in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) can **meet other young people** and get involved with **fun and informal activities to help with a healthy lifestyle** including sports, arts and games. **A free and healthy meal will be provided at each session.**

The Parent/Guardian will need the FSM code to book a place. The codes are sent directly to schools.

For young people who are not in receipt of FSM but where there is significant hardship there are a limited number of places.

Any parent whose child would like to book a place please contact me directly.

Mrs McGorrell
Pastoral Care and Safeguarding Lead



Chaplaincy News



A Gift of a Mother – Mary, Mother of the Church

Jn 19, 25-27

*Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "**Woman, behold, your son.**" Then he said to the disciple, "**Behold, your mother.**"*

And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

In 2018, Pope Francis inserted the celebration of the Memorial of Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of the Church into the General Roman Calendar on the first Monday after Pentecost. This placing of this feast, on the day after the celebration of the birth of the Church at Pentecost, shows the importance of Mary as Mother of God and Mother of his Mystical Body, the Church.



At St Mary's, we have a special relationship with Our Blessed Lady, as she is patron and mother of our community too. Pope Francis encourages us to turn to Mary, under this 'most tenderest of titles', to seek her prayers and intercessions. May we too, like the beloved disciple, take Mary into our homes and be inspired by her openness to God's will and her attentiveness to the needs of others. One way we can do this is by praying a decade of the **Rosary** or the **Memorare** as a family. We can also be encouraged by the testimony of others who have turned to Our Lady and found grace and help. As a school community, we would like to ask your prayers for our school at this important time as our students sit their examinations and as we seek to appoint a new Head Teacher.

The Memorare

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.





We are hiring!



**CLICK HERE
FOR LATEST VACANCY INFORMATION**

**WE ARE
HIRING!**

Tips for Managing Exam Stress

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Stay organised with to-do lists and study timetables



Give them time off chores and non-urgent family stuff

Take regular study breaks



Encourage them to keep doing the activities they did before exams

Have a dedicated study space



Help them set up a study space and make sure the rest of the family understands

Have a long term goal



Chat with them about what they want to do after exams

Get as much sleep as possible



Remind them to go to bed at a regular time each night

Remember your health: eat well and stay active



Go on study break walks with them and try to cook wholesome meals

Talk to the people around you



Make a time to chat to them and let them vent

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!



Free Piano

Piano needs a new home!

A parent of an ex student wants to donate her piano to the school but unfortunately we don't have the space for it. If anyone can give a Piano a new home, it will need to be collected from Bishop's Stortford before the end of June.

Contact Miss Matthews, Music Department, for further information.

info@stmarys.net

