

St Mary's News

St Mary's Catholic High School, Leyland
Newsletter December 2021



A note from Mr Thompson:

Welcome to our Christmas newsletter, which rounds-up many of the activities that have taken place since September.

Once it was signalled that schools could once again run a full extra-curricular programme, we were very keen to help the children catch-up on opportunities they had missed due to the pandemic. As you can see from the details below, we have an immensely talented group of children here at St Mary's, who allow their light to shine in several different ways. We also like to celebrate the fabulous achievements that individuals make away from school, of which we are equally very proud.

Great credit must go to the staff of St Mary's who devote hours of their time to activities far beyond the classroom, helping your child to develop in a number of different ways. Without their selfless dedication, school would be a far less colourful place for so many boys and girls.

Equally important are the efforts of parents and carers, often supporting by picking-up or dropping-off at unusual hours, or encouraging their youngster to have a go at something new. Thank you for all you do.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter and, on behalf of all here at St Mary's, I'd like to wish you all a very peaceful Christmas and a healthy and Happy New Year.

Mr Thompson
Headteacher

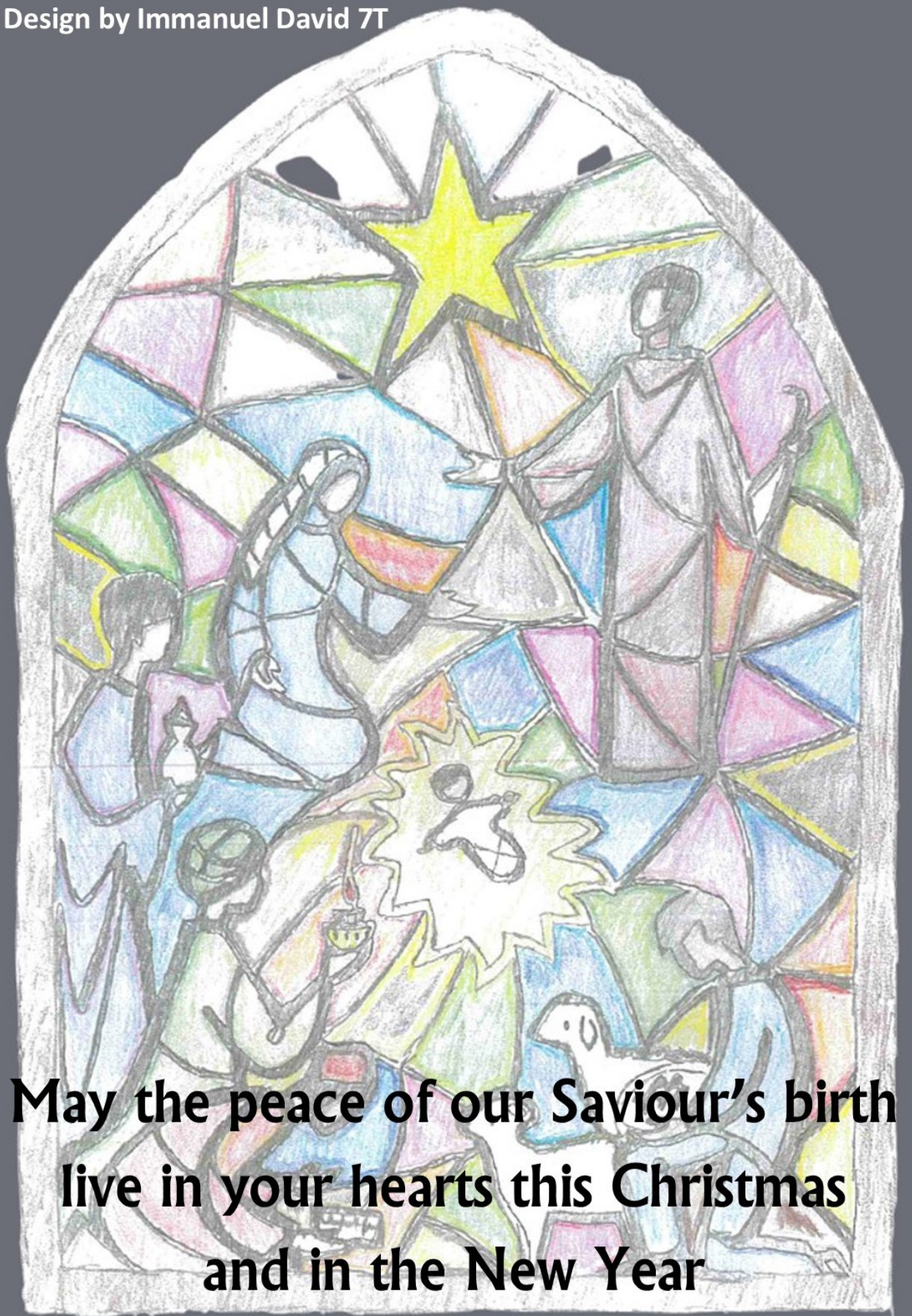
Download our Schudio app:

Schudio an app which works in conjunction with the school website. The app will allow us to communicate much more efficiently with you. Using your preferred app store, search for 'Schudio School App'. We can be found in the search bar as St Mary's Catholic High School.



	Website	www.lsmchs.com
	Twitter	@LeylandStMarys
	Facebook	@StMarysLeyland

Design by Immanuel David 7T



**May the peace of our Saviour's birth
live in your hearts this Christmas
and in the New Year**

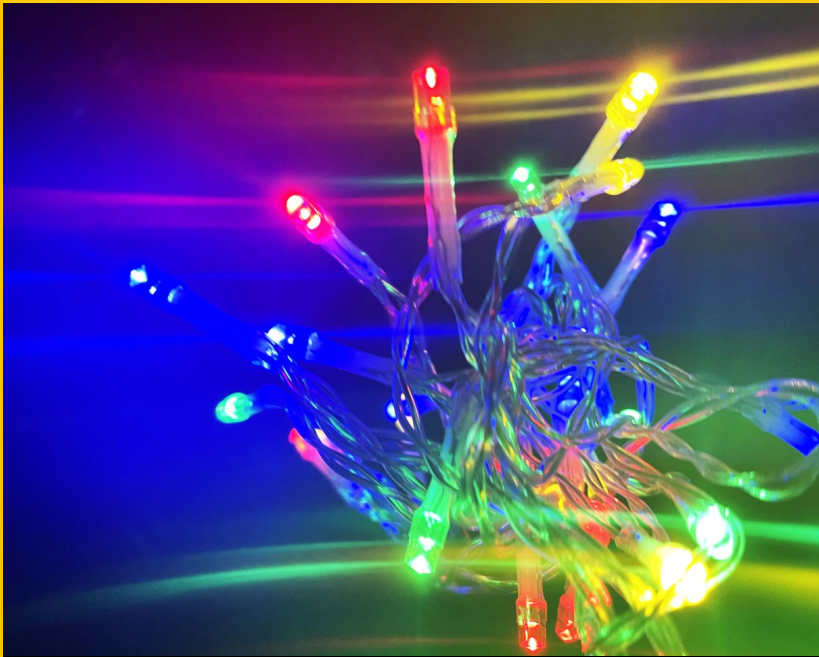


The Y10 GCSE Photography group visited the Knife Angel sculpture at Blackburn Cathedral on Thursday, 25th November and had a fantastic time in the chilly November sun, taking amazing images of the Angel. The detail of the knives seen is amazing (images from C. Staples).



Anthony Ryan Schmidt is a teen who takes incredible images of his toy cars in a life setting . The following are Y9s interpretation of altered perspective and his work





Y9 light shots in movement and light painting

School Council Visit to Local Council Offices

On Friday, 3rd December, our Y7-10 School Council Reps visited South Ribble Borough Council. The students met Councillor Trafford who is the youngest member of the council to have been elected at the age of 19. He works on children's mental health in the local community and had some brilliant talks with the students on this. The students also met Youth Councillor Megan who has inspired some of our students to join the local youth council. The students then

had a talk from Charlotte Lynch from Democratic Services about her role and an insight to how democracy works. Finally, the students had a mindfulness session from Tanya from Active Health which was a brilliant way to end the day. This was a very successful trip and we hope that our school council will work with South Ribble Council on projects in the future.



Digital Leaders

For too long now C19 has had an impact on our ability to mix year groups and limited interaction between pupils and our visitors, but for the first time in two years, we are now delighted to be able to reinstate a team of **Digital Leaders** who are the representatives for the Computer Science Department. The team is made up of KS4 Computer Scientists who not only have excellent subject knowledge but also a wealth of practical skills.



Our Digital Leaders will be kept busy throughout the year supporting both Mr Orme (Network Manager) and Mr Elliott (Network Technician) with practical hardware maintenance, supporting younger peers with network access and software queries, running extra-curricular clubs, and also working as part of our primary liaison team by delivering sessions to KS2 learners.

The role provides a fantastic opportunity to take a position of responsibility in school, whilst allowing them to develop their computing and interpersonal skills.

Adobe Cloud Creative – Pupil Access Outside of School

Technology provides our pupils with an abundance of apps at their fingertips which can really enhance their teaching and learning experiences, whilst often adding that extra pizzazz when presenting a piece of work!



To add to this wealth of resources, school have invested heavily in the new Adobe Cloud Creative suite. This provides pupils access to a wide range of industry standard software which, given that it is cloud based, they can access outside of school.

Primarily this will be introduced to pupils via Computer Science and Technology subjects such as iMedia and Photography, but it is by no means limited to these subjects. The programs offer the necessary tools to edit images, animate, record sound, video editing and much more.

Pupils are able to access these by downloading the Cloud Creative App. Once logged in they are able to select and install those specific programs which are of use to the individual e.g. Illustrator, Photoshop, Dreamweaver, Audition, Premier Rush to name but a few.

Great news for all book fans at St Mary's. Mr Murphy has got a new scanner in the LRC and that means you can take out a book and keep it for two weeks. Pop along to the LRC and Mr Murphy will sign out the book of your choice.



New arrivals in the LRC, books and magazines of all shapes and sizes. Come along to the LRC and see Mr Murphy for more details.

Our Computational Thinkers are Invited to Oxford University Hosted Competition.

In November each year schools across the UK are invited to take part in the annual Bebras Challenge. Pupils are set a series of tasks in which they have to show their logic and problem solving skills. The aim is to enthuse students in all things Computer Science, whilst also helping students and their



Our Year 7 Gold Winners

teachers identify hidden talents within the subject. Students are encouraged to simply do their best each year and try and solve as many problems as they can in the time allocated.

This year saw almost 250,000 pupils taking part in the challenge across the various age categories. We are delighted at the efforts of all of our pupils who took part, but particular mention to the pupils who scored '**Best in School**' within their age category:

Juniors (Year 7) = **A. Horton**

Intermediates (Years 8 & 9) = **J. Tunstall**

Seniors (Year 10) = **A. Ashworth**

Each year the 'Gold' category acknowledges the performance of those pupils scoring in the **top 10% of the country!** These pupils are invited to the next round of the online competition which takes place in February. This next round is hosted by **Oxford University**, and I am delighted to reveal that the following pupils have been invited to take part:

Category		
Juniors (10-12)	A.	Gardner
Juniors (10-12)	E.	Knight
Juniors (10-12)	A.	Wilson
Juniors (10-12)	A.	Horton
Juniors (10-12)	J.	Rogers
Inters (12-14)	J.	Tunstall

A huge congratulations to these pupils... and don't worry we'll start prepping after Christmas!

Chaplaincy News



Remembrance Sunday:

The month of November is dedicated by the Catholic Church as the Month of Holy Souls. During this time, we remember and pray for, those that we have known who have died. Within this month, we also remember all those who served in WW1 and WW2. As a School community, we were invited by the Mayor of South Ribble to lay a poppy wreath at Leyland War Memorial. Special thanks go to our Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl who represented our School.



Foodbank Support:

The build up to Christmas is always very exciting and equally very busy. However, with the ongoing challenges of COVID, there are many families within our local area who might struggle this Christmas time.

As a school community, we wanted to reach out to families, as well as homeless members of our local and Archdiocesan community, to show Gods love and to

know that we care.

Pictured are 16 luxury hampers all containing

Christmas treats for the receiver to enjoy. Special

thanks to students and staff who donated food items, along with the

Chaplaincy team for putting the

foodboxes together.



Cemetery Clean:

As part of our service to the community, the Faith in Action team volunteered to give an evening after school to clear leaves from headstones at St Mary's cemetery. The students involved thoroughly enjoyed the activity so much so, that we have created a monthly rota of volunteers! Thank you to all involved!

Sports News



This half term has seen the re-introduction of extra-curricular clubs. A large number of clubs have taken place with over 320 pupils in attendance! Fantastic to see pupils taking part once again.

Netball

This year so far has seen yet another fabulous amount of girls down to Netball practice! Year 11 games are now completed with the team winning their league, going unbeaten in all central venue league fixtures – congratulations girls! Year 9 and 10 games are well under way with some great results to show for



the girl's efforts, whilst our Year 7 and 8 games start in January 2022. We look forward to what the new year will bring, fresh fixtures, regenerated enthusiasm and, as always, a real love for the game! Well played so far ladies!

Cross Country

On Saturday, 20th November, our Year 7-11 boys and girls Cross Country teams competed at the annual South Ribble Cross Country event at Hutton. Well done to all pupils that took part. There were some excellent individual performances, most notably from:

C. McCrone – Y10 = 3rd
J. Perks – Y10 = 9th
J. Winstanley – Y10 = 5th
B. Chesworth – Y10 = 7th
M. Allchurch – Y9 = 4th
H. Linley – Y9 = 5th
M. Shattock – Y8 = 9th
T. Chesworth – Y7 = 4th



A huge well done to C. McCrone, J. Winstanley, B. Chesworth, M. Allchurch, H. Linley, and T. Chesworth who have qualified to represent the South Ribble team at the Lancashire Cross Country Championships on 5th February at Witton Park, Blackburn. J. Perks and M. Shattock have qualified as first reserves.

Badminton

Badminton has been extremely popular this term. Due to this, KS3 and KS4 were split over two nights. This has led to over 40 pupils at each session ranging from Year 7 through to Year 11. Due to popularity, this will continue to run after the Christmas break.

Success in out of school sport

We love to share successes out of school. This half term there have been plenty! Congratulations to all, brilliant achievements. Keep up the hard work.



R. Duckworth recently won the kickboxing GB Grand Slam in Telford in the plus 57KG senior



D. Halliwell competed in the IGA Gymnastics Nationals competition in Milton Keynes and took home a collection of medals. She won Gold in bar and beams as well as Silver in floor and vault.



C. McCrone won the U15 Girls English Junior Squash Title in Nottingham at the end of October.

She was presented with her trophy by professional squash player Declan James.



PE Inter house – Super Learning Day

In October our annual Year 9 PE Inter house competition took place. The focus of this was for our pupils to show core values through sporting activities (Respect, sportsmanship, fair play and many other core principles). Pupils took part in a variety of activities. The boys were able to take part in a combination of either football, basketball, table tennis or curling. The girls were able to take part in a combination of either dance, netball, table tennis or curling. Other roles were on offer throughout the day, including media reporting and photography. The day went superbly with all pupils taking part. We ended with a presentation whereby our pupils received certificates and prizes for their contribution during the day.



Sports Tour

Before the October half term, 62 pupils accompanied by 6 staff went on a football and netball tour to Villarreal (Spain). The group stayed in a fantastic hotel, were coached by elite netball and football coaches and in the case of the footballers, also had the opportunity to play competitive games against local Spanish opposition. The group also had the opportunity to use the hotel amenities and on one day spent 'down time' at the local beach. Pupils and staff were also fortunate to have a stadium tour of Villarreal CF, home of the current Europa League Champions. Plans will be submitted to Governors, for another potential sports tour at Easter 2024. More information to follow later on in the academic year...



Girls' Football

Girls' Football has started on a high this term. The U14's and U16's have taken part in a number of football competitions against other schools in the South Ribble District, including both 5 a-side and 7 a-side tournaments. The girls performed superbly throughout, demonstrating talent, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout.

Well done to C.Swann, I. Berry, R.Cuthbert, S.Nicholson and C.Chester who battled hard during two trial nights and have made it into the South Ribble U15 District Team. Good luck to some of our younger girls who are currently trialling for the U13's South Ribble District team.



Boys' Football

It has been a very busy term with football fixtures, with all of our year groups playing in the South Ribble League, against other local schools. The Year 7 football team have made a positive start to their league campaign, winning the majority of their



matches. Star player has been H. Clarke who has led the line extremely well and scored lots of goals.

The Year 8 football team have been fantastic to watch so far this season, winning all of their league and cup games. In October, they also managed to get through to the Chorley Hospital Cup Final, beating St Michael's 4-0 at Victory Park, at the home of Chorley FC. At the time of writing, they have also made it through to 2nd round of the Lancashire Cup, where they will be play Montgomery of Blackpool. Mr Riley has high hopes that the team can continue to win more silverware, by the end of the season.

The Year 10 team have also had a great start to the season, winning all of their league games and sitting top of the league. The highlight of the season so far, was the 2-0 away win v Priory in November, in what was a fabulous advert for schoolboy football. Unfortunately, in late November the team lost in the second round of the Lancashire Cup 2-3 away to a strong Ribblesdale Team (Clitheroe). It was a tale of missed chances, as the team did very well to fight back from 0-3 down, but in the end left themselves too much to do to force extra time. The player of the season so far has been C. Evans, who has been immense at left back.

Sports Leadership Academy

All of our Sports Leadership Academy members (ten Year 9 pupils in total) are working extremely hard, completing their Lead2Employability award. They are working superbly behind the scenes, in helping run extra-curricular activities in and out of school. The aim is for all of them to complete 200 hours of volunteering by the end of the academic year, to be given a 'Gold Award'. Being part of the Sports Leadership Academy is also a fantastic opportunity to 'stand out from the rest', which could lead to further pupil positions of responsibility in the future. Keep up the great work!

[@LSMPEDEPT](https://www.instagram.com/LSMPEDEPT)



St Mary's Catholic High School, Leyland
HOLIDAY LIST
2022/2023

Autumn Term 2022

<i>Staff Inset Day</i>	:	<i>Thursday 1 September 2022</i>
<i>Staff Inset Day</i>	:	<i>Friday 2 September 2022</i>
<i>Re-open on</i>		<i>Monday 5 September 2022</i>
<i>Staff Inset Day</i>	:	<i>Friday 21 October 2022</i>
<i>Mid Term Closure</i>	:	<i>Monday 24 – Friday 28 October 2022 (incl)</i>
<i>Closure after school on</i>	:	<i>Friday 16 December 2022</i>

No. of Openings: 69 + 3 INSET days

Spring Term 2023

<i>Staff Inset Day</i>	:	<i>Tuesday 3 January 2023</i>
<i>Re-open on</i>	:	<i>Wednesday 4 January 2023</i>
<i>Mid Term Closure</i>	:	<i>Monday 13 – Friday 17 Feb 2023 (incl)</i>
<i>Closure after school on</i>	:	<i>Thursday 6 April 2023</i>
<i>Staff Inset Day</i>	:	<i>Friday 21 April 2023 (as twilights)</i>

No. of Openings: 62 + 2 INSET days

Summer Term 2023

<i>Re-open on</i>	:	<i>Monday 24 April 2023</i>
<i>May Day Closure</i>	:	<i>Monday 1 May 2023</i>
<i>Mid Term Closure</i>	:	<i>Monday 29 May – Friday 2 June 2023 (incl)</i>
<i>Closure after school on</i>	:	<i>Friday 21 July 2023</i>

No. of Openings: 59

Total No. of Openings: 190 + 5 INSET days