

# St Mary's News

St Mary's Catholic High School, Leyland  
Newsletter December 2022



## A note from Mr Thompson:

Welcome to the Christmas edition of our newsletter.

We have been blessed with a busy and action-packed term. We do our very best to ensure that every child is given the opportunity to enjoy a varied selection of activities over and above their timetabled lessons. We understand how important a full and active school life can be for young people, which helps them build in confidence so they are able to make a positive difference to society.

I'd like to pay special tribute to all the staff who work so hard to provide these opportunities for the pupils, selflessly giving up hours of their own time to enable each individual's light to shine. When you look at the range of events, it's no wonder that we're all a little tired as we reach the end of term!

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 happy and healthy 2023. Many thanks for your continued support.

Mr P Thompson  
Headteacher

## **Best of Lancashire Award**

Year 11 pupil Connor H. has been awarded 'Inspirational Young Man Award' from Lancashire County Council. Connor has been commended for his hard work, dedication and perseverance to young people in the community from a sporting perspective. Connor helps and volunteers with both youth Cricket and Football in the area ensuring that he passes on the positive experiences he has enjoyed as a youth to the next generation and giving them a fantastic opportunity within sport.

Connor has an extremely bright future ahead and I am sure he will continue with the great work in the community



**“Let Your Light Shine!” St. Matthew 5:16**

## Our Computational Thinkers are Invited to Oxford University Hosted Competition.

It's that time of year again when students in the UK are invited to take part in the annual **Bebras Computational Thinking challenge**. Pupils are set a series of tasks in which they have to show their logic and problem-solving abilities. The aim is to enthuse students in all things Computer Science, whilst also helping students and their 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.



**Y7 Best in School**

This year saw almost 330,000 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) = **Evie I, Finlay M**; Intermediates (Years 8 & 9) = **James T** & Seniors (Year 10) = **Aaron T**.

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: For the **Juniors**: Evie I, Finlay M, Olivia E. For the **Inters**: Alfie W, Emily K, Karel K, James T. For the **Seniors**: Aaron T.

## Meet our Digital Leaders

We are now delighted to be able to introduce our 2022-23 team of **Digital Leaders** who are the representatives for the Computer Science Department. The team is made up of KS4 Computer Scientists and technology enthusiasts, 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

### **Digital Leaders of 2022-2023**



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.



## **Y10 Cathedral and Synagogue visit**

On the day England had their opening match in the World Cup, a group of Year 10's visited Liverpool's Catholic and Anglican Cathedrals and Princes Road Synagogue, along with Mrs Conway, Miss Jones, Anthony and Mrs Moss.

The purpose of the trip was to explore the design and decoration of the different places of worship studied at GCSE; along with looking at the key features of the building which allow both Christians and Jews to improve their relationship with God.



As we arrived at the Synagogue and were welcomed by the community, very few pupils expected to see what they did when the main doors were opened. The gasps of wonder were clearly heard at the magnificent design and opulence seen within the Synagogue. We were given an in-depth talk and an opportunity to ask questions; and the boys even experienced the wearing of a 'kippah' during their visit as a sign of their respect to God.

We then travelled across to the Anglican Cathedral. Again, pupils were overwhelmed as they entered the Cathedral; particularly at the size of the building and the significant stained-glass windows. We were given a tour of the different transepts before having lunch and then walking down Hope Street to the Catholic Cathedral. The afternoon then gave pupils the opportunity to see the contrast in design of the Cathedrals but also compare it to the design of the Synagogue. Again, pupils were spoken to about the main features of the Catholic Cathedral, given the opportunity to ask questions before we left for home.

A short, whistle stop tour which the pupils enjoyed and will hopefully reap the benefit of when they sit their GCSE's next year.





## " Welcome to the Show"

KS4 Food and Nutrition pupils experienced an unmissable festive show at this winter's NEC Good Food Show. Inspired by festive recipes, mouth-watering treats and many new and exciting culinary treats. Famous chefs were seen and tantalising tasting took place. A thoroughly enriching day was had by all.



## Pupil and Eco Council

We are making strides forward with the creation of both Pupil and Eco councils with over 40 applications across all year groups. There have been some amazing applications submitted and Mr Riley and the Pupil Leadership team are looking forward to shortlisting.

During November, all pupils were involved in UK Parliament week which opened some real debate about current affairs, the week finished by school meeting Katherine Fletcher our local MP for South Ribble.



## **'We Will Rock You'!**

**Cast of the school production fulfil their promise and bring the house down!**



COVID 19 unequivocally has a lot to answer for. So to be able to open up our doors and invite the families and friends of St Mary's in to see the pupils' talent, skill and hard-work in the first full school production since lockdown, was incredibly heart-warming to see. What's more, with *'We Will Rock You'* bursting with energy and vigour, we couldn't think of a better way to kick off school productions again than with a bang!

Set in a futuristic world dominated by technology where its clonish inhabitants all think, dress and act the same, the musical follows a group of rebel Bohemians on their journey to 'break free' and restore individualistic expression through the power of rock and roll. With music being forbidden by the tyrant of the new world, Killer Queen, musical instruments, musicians and songs are a thing of the past. But in their quest to find ancient musical relics, Bohemians Brit and Oz believe they've found 'the one'.

From Gaga Kids to Bohemians, it was fantastic to see the involvement of pupils from every year group. As ever, St Mary's celebrated catholic ethos shone through with outstanding team effort and encouragement throughout the entire rehearsal process from every cast member. Their dedication was truly impressive and the hours of line-learning, choreography and preparation has been remarkable; their commitment and enthusiasm, without a shadow of a doubt, paid dividends.

On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October, just six weeks after starting rehearsals, the show was a huge success with a highly engaged audience who laughed, cheered and applauded throughout the entire performance (causing great excitement and anticipation in the cast). From powerhouse vocals, to air guitars and whole -cast dance routines, every pupil should be extremely proud of their accomplishments, especially as it was the first time venturing out on stage for some cast members. It has been a delight to watch the pupils grow in confidence throughout the whole process, leading to an astounding performance framed by the wonderful Music, Art and Design Technology departments who helped tie the performance together with sound, lighting and set – empowering the pupils to be the rockstars they are! The cast fully embodied the message of the play and our school motto: when the odds are against you, never give up. Let your light shine.

My final thanks go to the audience. The devotion of the pupils warranted an electric live audience, so a massive thank you goes to those who attended the show. We cannot wait for the next show which is going to be even bigger and better than ever. See you there! Mrs Watson.





### **Year 10 History GCSE**

The year 10 History students visited the Thackray Medical Museum in Leeds. This allowed pupils to see what it was like in an Industrial 18<sup>th</sup> Century Street, including how it smelt! It also allowed pupils to see how medicine developed over time and will be a valuable experience as they continue through the course. Many Thanks to Mrs Blundell, Mr Cane, Mrs Schofield, Mrs Lawson and Mrs Stearstree for accompanying.

### **Year 7 Humanities – History Project**

Year 7 have been studying the History of migration to Britain. We have looked at how the Early Settlers, Romans, Vikings and Anglo-Saxons have shaped our nation and their lasting impact. Mrs Blundell and Mr Cane were amazed by all the amazing projects that were produced. Pupils were asked to create an artefact from one of the eras we have studied. Here is a small sample of the amazing work produced.



### **Youth Speaks**

In November, Year 10 pupils Ethan HM, Dani H and Konnie S competed in the annual "Youth Speaks" speeches competition. There were some fantastic speakers from other schools in the area, but none were enough to beat the St Mary's trio. Their passionate speech about Hate Crime managed to win the competition for their age group, bringing home a rather large trophy now on display by the entrance to school. Dani and Konnie also won individual prizes for their efforts. A massive well done to all 3!"

# Chaplaincy News



## **CAFOD FAST DAY**

Around the world, one in three people have gone hungry in the past year. In October, various members of our Chaplaincy team donated their lunch time and helped to brighten up the world by fundraising for CAFOD's World Food Crisis appeal. Students and staff were encouraged to

'swap' their usual lunch and purchase delicious soup and bread. Special thanks to all who donated to this special event.

## **Remembrance Sunday**

Remembrance Sunday is a national opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life. We remember the Armed Forces, and their families, from Britain and the Commonwealth, the vital role played by the emergency services and those who have lost their lives as a result of conflict or terrorism. As a Catholic School, we were invited to join the Leyland Remembrance Sunday parade. Our head boy and head girl, together with our deputy head boy and deputy head girl presented a Poppy Wreath at the Leyland Cenotaph.



## **Living out our faith**

As a Catholic School, we encourage all our students and staff to put their 'faith into action'. Jesus taught us to 'love one another, as I have loved you'. Pictured are a group of students donating their time after school to clean the leaves from our local parish cemetery.

## **Macmillan coffee morning.**

Macmillan is a very special charity which does amazing work for many people. Students in form N in KS3 and KS4 were invited to donate or bake cakes to support their house charity, Macmillan. It was such a great day raising money for Macmillan and all of the cakes had sold out before the end of break!





# Sports News



## Netball

This year so far has seen yet another fabulous number of girls down to Netball practice! We have had some great successes so far within the South Ribble Central Venue League's. Year 9 placed 3<sup>rd</sup> overall, Year 11 placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and our Year 10 team came out on top in 1<sup>st</sup> place! A massive congratulations to all of the girls for their efforts and results.

Our year 7 and 8 games start in January 2023. 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!



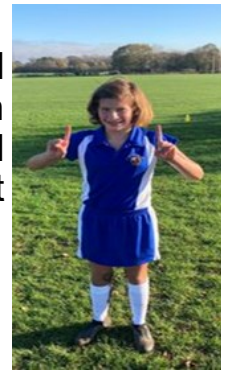
## Cross Country

On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November, our Year 7-11 boys and girls 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:

S. Lomax - Y7 = 1

M. Allchurch – Y10 = 6<sup>th</sup>

W. Hodges – Y7 = 7<sup>th</sup>



## U16 Athletics

At the end of September our U16's Athletics team competed against other South Ribble schools at the Athletics Championships at UCLAN. Stand out performances were H. Geary winning the Javelin and M. Orme coming 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 800m. (both pictured left)

## 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, including supporting a Primary School 'Tag Rugby' event that has been held recently, over three consecutive Thursdays. The aim is for all the pupils 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!



## **Boys Football**

It has been an extremely busy term with football fixtures, with all of our year groups fulfilling their fixtures in the South Ribble League.

The Year 7 football team have made a positive start to their league campaign, in a very competitive league. They currently sit 2<sup>nd</sup> in the league however, other



schools have games in hand and could overtake them. Star player has been J. Heyes. The Year 8 team have struggled in the 'A' League this year however, R. Mashiter has been the stand out performer.

The Year 9 football team have been in scintillating form and sit top of the South Ribble 'A' League. They are also through to the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of the Lancashire Cup and at the time of writing, have made it through to the 4<sup>th</sup> round of the English School's Cup, beating some very good teams along the way. The Year 10's had a fantastic result in their last league game of the season, beating Worden 4-3 in a thrilling encounter. The Year 11's have had some mixed results in the league this year, dominating games but unfortunately not taking their chances. They have however, made it through to the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of the Lancashire Cup, after beating Garstang and Holy Cross in the first two rounds.

## **Girls Football**

Girls' Football has started on a high this term with large numbers turning up to training each and every week. Recently, the U13's and U15's teams have taken part in 7a-side tournaments against other schools within South Ribble. The girls performed superbly throughout, achieving some well-deserved results, demonstrating talent, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout.

## **Badminton**

We have started the academic year very strongly in Badminton. Both KS4 girls and boys travelled to All Hallows for the South Ribble competition this term, with the girls taking home 1<sup>st</sup> place and therefore being named the best KS4 Badminton team in district. The boys were also placed a very respectable 3<sup>rd</sup>. The highlights were the girls not losing a singles match throughout the competition and the boys holding the eventual winners of the competition, to a match tie in the doubles event.

A very well done to the 16 pupils that travelled; something to build on moving forwards.

## **Year 9 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 Football and Basketball. The girls were able to take part in a combination of Football and Netball. We introduced Football this year for the girls after the success of the England Lionesses! The girls thoroughly enjoyed this and were excellent throughout.

The day was a huge success again 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**

97 pupils have signed up to the Sports Tour to Lisbon at Easter 2024. The next payment of £150 is due on or before 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023. A gentle reminder to all parents/carers to complete your child's passport details and return them back to school at your earliest convenience.

## **Indoor Athletics**

A great event that our Year 7 and 8 pupils attend participating against other South Ribble Schools. Our pupils participate in a variety of events from running, jumping and throwing needing to show their talents in these disciplines. All pupils performed really well against strong opposition with some outstanding individual performances.

## **Social Media**



For up to date fixtures, news and sporting successes you can follow us on our PE Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages, by searching:

St Mary's PE Department- Facebook and Instagram  
@LSMPPEDEPT- Twitter



## Under 14's Rugby League

The U14's Rugby Team have started the season extremely well; they took part in a Rugby Tournament at UCLAN with other South Ribble School's participating. During the tournament there were some excellent individual performances, but collectively they had showed great organisation and team cohesion. They were placed in 1<sup>st</sup> position after proving a difficult team to break down and showing great flare in attack.



## 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.



Year 7 pupil E. Kelly who has been selected to be part of the U12's Lancashire hockey team.



Year 8 pupil J. Privett who has been selected to represent Lancashire U13's at cricket.



Year 8' pupil E. Duckworth who claimed the U13 Kickboxing title at the UK Championships at Bristol in October.

Year 10's M. Gradwell, who has been crowned the U15 North West Champion in synchronised trampolining. Millie also participated in the U16 elite competition too, coming in second place.

Year 11 pupil R. Duckworth, who has won the U16 Kickboxing Championships at Bristol and followed this up by recently winning 2/3 categories in the Welsh Open.



## **Careers**

It has been a busy term for our careers provision in school. We have had visitors from the local colleges and apprenticeship providers for our Year 11 pupils to provide them with some information about applying for their next steps. Year 11 also had a focus on careers in their Super Learning Day with workshops and activities linked around their next steps. For Year 10 pupils CV writing was the focus during their Super Learning Day and how this can help with securing their upcoming work experience. We also invited our local colleges in for lunchtime sessions visiting our pupils for a Q&A session.



A careers theme also filtered down to pupils in Year 8 & 9 pupils, with some visiting Edgehill University. They participated in workshops to set themselves some targets at an early age for the future and to get them thinking about which careers and university courses are available to them. They even had a tour of the campus and spoke to students to experience what university life is really like. They were very pleased with what they saw and enjoyed all the campus activity!

It was also the time of our annual Careers Fair for Year 9 – 11 pupils, which was a well-attended event with employers commenting on how well St Mary's pupils conducted themselves. We have had some very positive feedback from our pupils and we look forward to our event next year. Prior to the event some of our Year 10 & Year 11 pupils had a workshop with Oxford University about the possibilities of being an Oxford student. It certainly piqued some of our pupil's interests and how this could be a consideration for the future.

We look forward to more career's activities in the new year to provide our pupils with opportunities for the future! Mrs McVey, Careers Coordinator.



### **Future Dates**

6<sup>th</sup> Jan – Year 10 Mock interview personal statement deadline

24<sup>th</sup> Jan – Year 10 & 11 Interview tips & techniques workshop

31<sup>st</sup> Jan – Year 10 Mock Interview Day

4<sup>th</sup> Feb - Cardinal Newman College Open Event

4<sup>th</sup> February – Myerscough Open Event

1<sup>st</sup> March – Runshaw Open Event

2<sup>nd</sup> March – Year 10 Careers Super Learning Day

8<sup>th</sup> March – Preston College Open Event

8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> March – Year 10 Work Experience