

# St Mary's News

St Mary's Catholic High School, Leyland  
Newsletter Easter 2023



## A note from Mr Thompson:

Welcome to our Easter newsletter. As you can see, we have been exceptionally busy this term. It is wonderful to witness the many achievements and accomplishments from our pupils. The range of talent at St Mary's is phenomenal, and so wide-ranging.

I'm sure you will agree that the school motto of 'Let Your Light Shine' is brought to life with the many activities described below. All our pupils deserve credit for taking part and immersing themselves in events beyond the classroom, and this newsletter is a celebration all of they do. Special mention also, must go to our dedicated staff team who give their time freely to support the pupils, and of course to you, the parents and carers, who often are the ones encouraging, cajoling and, of course, picking-up and dropping off!

I hope you enjoy the newsletter and, on behalf of all here at St Mary's, may I wish you all a lovely Easter holiday.

	Website	<a href="http://www.lsmchs.com">www.lsmchs.com</a>
	Twitter	@LeylandStMarys
	Facebook	@StMarysLeyland



**Pupil / Eco Council** is going from strength to strength as they are growing in their new leadership roles within school. Pupil Council have already delivered assemblies to the year group in which they represent and created pupil questions for new staff here at St Mary's. We have had information through regarding signing up to the South Ribble Youth Council, so lets watch this space to see if we have any potential candidates.

Eco council are currently in the middle of a proposal for recycle bins and litter pickers where by we as a school will be doing more for the environment, also we are looking into signage of bins and the creation of a display board so we can highlight the work we are going to be doing. We have signed up for the next youth climate event.

**Nurture:** Several activities have taken place in Nurture over the past few weeks.

We had a Lego competition which was judged by Mr. Thompson. Our winners were 1<sup>st</sup> Oliver K. 2<sup>nd</sup> Jacob A. and Ryan H. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ava C.

Many students got involved and there were some very creative and imaginative builds and everyone did a fabulous job of getting involved!



In Nurture we believe in being kind and thinking of others. With that in mind, the pupils in Nurture have been busy making "Hugs", which they put a positive or uplifting message on the back of. These were then passed onto Antony who is going to take them to a care home to cheer up the residents there and hopefully bring them some joy!



Pupils in nurture also made some lovely cards for Mothering Sunday to share with someone who is special to them.

**Reading for pleasure** is one of the best ways to improve your reading and writing skills. With this in mind, we'd like to promote Lancashire Libraries' "Borrowbox" service. Using your library ID and pin (provided by your local library) you can access a huge range of online books and audiobooks and it is completely free. Search "Lancashire Library Borrowbox" or follow the link to access the service. Happy reading!

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/libraries/digital-library/ebooks-and-audiobooks/>





## Year 7 Faith in Action SLD

Year 7 had a wonderful day all about putting their Faith into Action; what better way to start their Lenten journey! The pupils had input from Pax Christi; learning about their aims and how they too can encourage everyone to promote Peace in their own lives, in school and also in the World.

In addition, the pupils experienced putting their Faith in Action through their 'God

given' talents; through the mediums of Art, Music, Drama and Sport. In Art they explored the themes of love, peace and forgiveness throughout the Bible and designed their own stained glass windows- what amazing artists we have! In Music they learnt about the birth of 'Live Aid' and composed their own raps based on the Parable of the Good Samaritan. And, finally, they supported CAFOD's 'The Big Walk' by brilliantly walking or running 526.4km collectively (the same distance if they walked from here to Looe in Cornwall!) and raising over £1100 in the process. What amazing charity ambassadors we have in Year 7. Well done everyone!





## **Year 10 Art Ceramics Workshop**

In January the Year 10 GCSE Art students took part in a Ceramics workshop with Dave Partington who has a studio in Salford. Students learnt a wide selection of techniques for working with clay. They went on to create their own Ceramic tile based on the theme of Coast. The results were excellent, with a good range of textural effects created. The Year 10 students will be submitting these pieces as part of their GCSE Art coursework.



## **Careers**

### **Year 10 Mock Interviews**

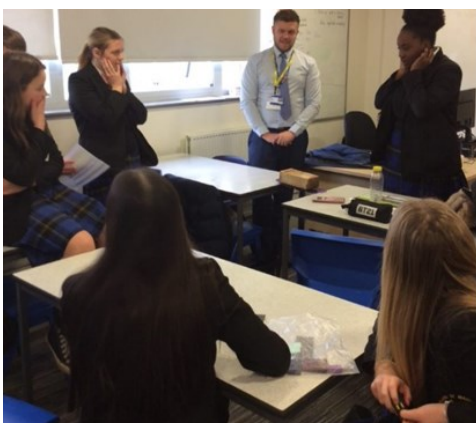
It has been a busy term for careers with a variety of events for our pupils. In January our Year 10 pupils were involved in mock interviews. They had each prepared a personal statement that was sent to the interviewers prior to their mock interview day. A range of professionals



and our local colleges were invited in to interview individual pupils. Pupils were assessed on their personal statement and their interview skills. We had excellent feedback from our employers about the way in which our pupils conducted themselves, whilst giving pupils and experience of having an interview to prepare them for their future.

### **Year 10 Careers Super Learning Day**

Our Year 10 pupils also had their Careers Super Learning Day in March, where local colleges and providers were invited in to provide sessions to pupils about their future.



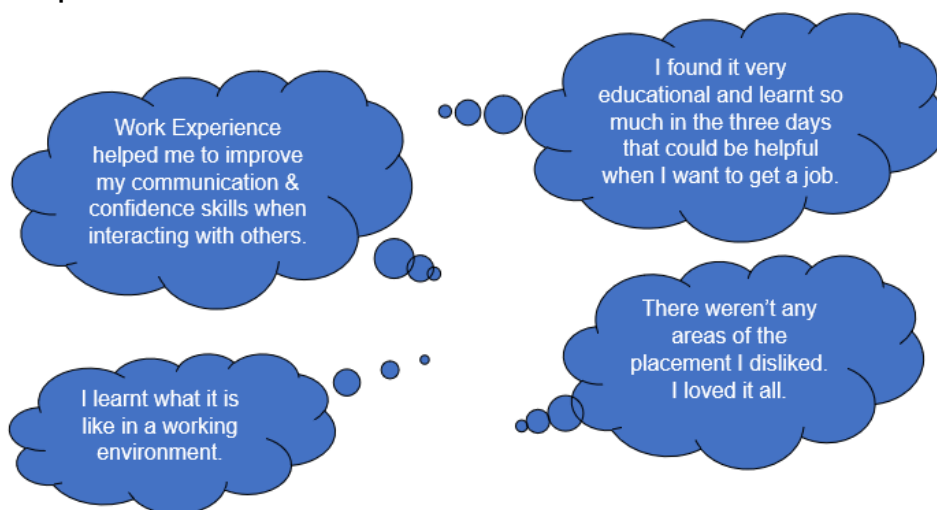
These activities ranged from Construction tasks, employability and interview skills, arboriculture and wellbeing in the workplace. This is a great opportunity for our pupils to engage with other organisations to improve their employability skills and enhance their knowledge about future careers



## Year 10 Work Experience

One of our main events of the term has been our Year 10 Work Experience which took place in March. This is something that we haven't run for many years and is such a worthwhile experience for pupils. It was very positive to see so many of our pupils secure their own placements and get to experience a work place environment. Whilst they were on placement, pupils were tasked with completing a placement diary. This included various tasks and a diary entry that they needed to complete whilst on placement. They also needed to obtain employer feedback and evaluate their own performance and the what they thought of their experience. We had excellent feedback from our pupils and employers. Pupils that remained in school were placed on a bespoke timetable for 3 days. This consisted of a mixture of supporting different departments in school, a variety of visiting guest speakers and team building exercises with MPCT Training.

Here are just a few comments from our pupils about what they thought of their work experience placement: -



We are also very pleased with the employer feedback that we received about our pupils representing the school so well. Here are just a few quotes from the amazing feedback we received: -

"I have no doubt that 'Pupil A' will succeed in life and achieve anything he wishes if he continues to apply himself the way he has done in the past few days. It's been a pleasure and I'd be more than happy to have him back" (*Redrow Homes*)

"I certainly believe that 'Pupil B' has the basics in law ready for the future. We would happily have him back here, he was so well-mannered and also very smart" (*Chadwick Solicitors*)

"Pupil C' was impressive with his attitude and approach. He clearly has an interest in property and this has shone through. He is a wonderful reflection on your school" (*Michael Bailey Estate Agents*)

"Pupil D' has been professional throughout her placement and has used good initiative to support the children. She has done everything asked of her enthusiastically" (*Clayton-le-Woods Primary School*)

"Pupil E' has shown an interest in policing and proactively secured her work experience with Greater Manchester Police. She has shown a huge interest, enthusiasm and desire to join this area of work upon leaving school". (*Greater Manchester Police*)





## Runshaw My Futures Day

As part of the Runshaw My Futures programme a selection of pupils were invited to sample the subjects that are on offer at the college. These ranged from Public Services, Business, Hospitality and Tourism to special effects make up. Pupils were involved in activities that had been provided for them and also got to ask questions about the courses to help them with their decision-making post 16. There was certainly a range of subjects that our pupils were able to experience to get them thinking about their next steps after leaving Year 11.



## Leyland Trucks visit

Prior to half term a selection of our Year 11 pupils who wanted to apply for an apprenticeship at Leyland Trucks were invited on a visit. This was such an informative day where pupils were taken on a tour of the whole factory, where we were able to observe how the assembly line operates and watched as the trucks were being built. They also participated in the activities that apprentices would actually be expected to do as part of their training.



This was an excellent experience for our pupils and thank you to Leyland Trucks for providing our pupils with such a fantastic opportunity.

## Future Career Events

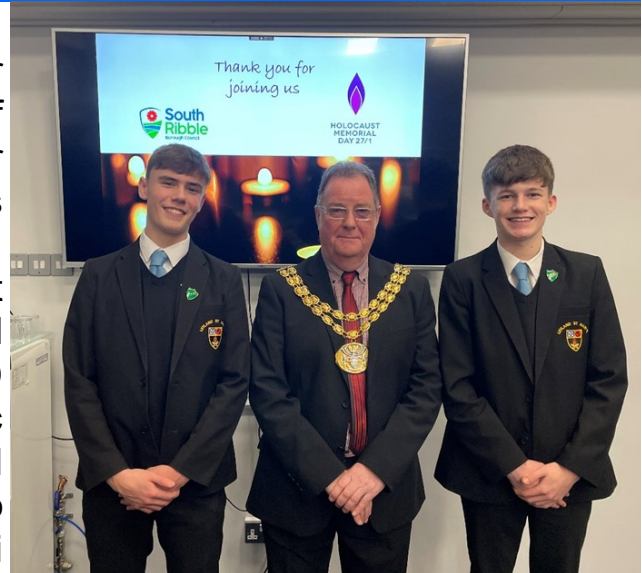
- 25<sup>th</sup> April – Year 10 Runshaw, Preston & Myerscough College Taster Day Assemblies
- 26<sup>th</sup> April – Year 10 Runshaw Master Class Day (select pupils)
- 9<sup>th</sup> May – Year 10 Cardinal Newman College Taster Day Assembly
- 28<sup>th</sup> June – Year 9 Careers Super Learning Day
- 28<sup>th</sup> June – Year 10 Local Colleges Taster Day
- 4<sup>th</sup> July – Year 10 Cardinal Newman Taster Day

# Chaplaincy News



## Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day is the day for everyone to remember the millions of people murdered in the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution, and in the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur. It was a great privilege to accompany our Head and Deputy Head Boys to a dedicated HMD evening service held at the Leyland Civic Centre. As a local community, we all read a 'statement of commitment' vowing to remember the victims of the Nazi persecution and of all genocides. The



Mayor of South Ribble commented on how well our young gentlemen presented themselves. So much so, he requested a photograph with them to use on social media.

## Disaster Emergency Committee

In response to the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, several of our Faith in Action teams took action to raise funds for DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee). Several cake sales were held raising over £80!

## Feast of the Epiphany

As is tradition here at St Mary's, our Chaplaincy and Faith in Action members marked all form rooms with a printed inscription of "20+C+M+B+23". These stickers were applied to door mantels after school. The inscription, as we know, has two meanings: (1) it signifies the names of the wise men who followed the star *Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar*. (2) CMB also stands for the Latin, *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless this house/room". Also during Form Time, forms were visited by 'Wise People' delivering 'Gifts of Gold Coins' and a small prayer to be read by each form to mark the feast of the Epiphany.





### **CAFOD Fast Day**

Competing against the mouth-watering Fridays 'Fish and Chips', members of our wonderful year 7 Faith in Action team sold vegetable soup and bread (in addition to cold water and bread) to raise money for CAFOD. Students and many staff swapped their usual lunchtime meal for soup and a piece of bread for a donation of



£1. Special thanks also go to our amazing canteen team who made beautiful and healthy soup! Various other charity events have taken place, including the famous cake sales, all to raise much needed financial support for CAFOD. Well done everyone that supported our charity events!

**REMEMBER LOVED ONES AND SUPPORT**

St Catherine's hospice care

Remember - Reflect - Restore  
St Catherine's

**6 or 8-mile sponsored walk!**

**MOONLIGHT & MEMORIES WALK**

**SATURDAY 3RD JUNE, 8PM**  
**ST CATHERINE'S PARK, LOSTOCK HALL**

**ALL WELCOME - £15 for adults and £10 for children** including 2023 event t-shirt and medal  
**SIGN UP** at [www.stcatherines.co.uk](http://www.stcatherines.co.uk) or call 01772 629171





# Sports News



## **Boys' Football**

Boys football has continued throughout the year and it has been absolutely fabulous to be able to use our new 4G astroturf, which is the envy of all other schools in the District and beyond. The South Ribble League standings are currently as follows, with a few league fixtures to fulfil in one year group:

Year 7 - 4<sup>th</sup> out of 8 teams. The league will split into two next year. The 7's will play in the 'A League'.

Year 8 - 4<sup>th</sup> out of 4 teams ('A League'). The 8's will play in the B League next year.

Year 9 - 1<sup>st</sup> out of 4 teams ('A League'). League Champions!

Year 10 - 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 3 teams ('B League').

Year 11 - 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 7 teams ('A League'). The 11's have two more league fixtures to play, to cement their 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish.

The Year 9 football team are also through to the Semi Finals of the South Ribble Cup, were they will play Lostock Hall. If they win that game, they will play Hutton in the final, which will take place w/b 1<sup>st</sup> May at a neutral venue. The 9's are also through to the Quarter Finals of the Lancashire Cup, were they will play Broughton at home. It is hoped that the game will be played first week back (w/b 24<sup>th</sup> April), after the Easter holidays.

Unfortunately, all other teams are out of the South Ribble and Lancashire Cup competitions however, at the time of writing the Year 7 football team had made it through to the Semi-Finals of the Chorley Hospital Cup, playing St Michael's at home on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> March.

Year 7's Jacob H. and Harry M. will be hoping to get the team through to the Final of the Chorley Hospital Cup, in the next few weeks. Both boys have had a great season, along with Captain Alfie J.



## **Rugby League**

Year 7-9 pupils have been undertaking rugby league in their PE lessons, with a fantastic attitude been shown across KS3. KS4 and KS3 rugby practice has also taken place after school this term, with good numbers coming down and wanting to further improve.

### **Girls' Football**

Following the fantastic success of the Y7 / 8 girls football tournament, hosted by St Mary's, which involved over 100 pupils, Thursday night girls football practice has continued to go from strength to strength!

Due to its increased popularity, our current football training programme will continue to run on Thursday evenings from 3 - 4pm up until the end of the spring term, with the key focus upon zonal marking and transition play. In addition to this wonderful success, St Mary's was immensely proud to be asked to host the Year 9 / 10 girls football tournament which will take place on the 30/3/23 from 3:30 - 5:00pm.

Good luck to all of the girls involved!



### **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 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2023. Dates have also been submitted to Governors regarding the tour. It is hoped that we will be able to go on the following dates below:

**Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March (Maundy Thursday)- Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> April (Easter Monday) 2024.**

Mr Walsh and Mr Riley are also looking to embark on an Inspection Visit, before school finishes for the Summer holidays.

### **Table Tennis**

Four Year 11 pupils competed in a table tennis competition at Balshaws on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> March. All pupils gave it their all and put in some strong performances.

### **Sports Studies Update**

The pupils in Year 11 are nearing the end of the Sports Studies course with all elements of the NEA having been completed. Those pupils who are re-sitting their exam in May, are working hard in lessons and undertaking past exam papers. It is hoped that some of the pupils will be able to achieve their target grade, with one 'final push' required between now and the exam. The Year 10's are working hard in lessons, with a mixture of theory and practical activities undertaken. Hopefully, they will start to reap the benefits of their hard work, in the months to come.

### **Swimming Gala**

The Swimming Gala event was extremely successful and our largest yet, with 145 KS3 students competing to see who could claim the Swimming Gala interhouse trophy. We saw some outstanding performances from students who belong to a club outside of school. Congratulations to everyone who took part.



## **Pupil Success- Out Of School Sport**

Congratulations to Year 8 pupil Ellis D. who is now the U13 two time British Kickboxing Champion, after winning in Leicestershire in February. An outstanding achievement Ellis, well done.



Congratulations to Year 9's Maisie S. who won Gold at the English Judo Open Competition at the end of February and also at the London Open, taking the 52kg English title. A fantastic achievement Maisie, we are very proud of you.



Congratulations to Year 11's Jacob S. who finished 3rd in the British Judo Championships in March. A fantastic achievement and testament to Jacob's hard work and commitment to his training.



Year 11's Charlie M. won the U17 English Championships in February half term, she showed huge character and determination throughout the whole tournament and beat everyone convincingly. As a result and after an unbelievable season, she has now been selected to represent England at the upcoming U17 European Championships in May.

Charlie is following her dream at becoming an elite sportsperson in her field of squash and is well on track to become a professional player. Long may this continue enabling her to let her light shine.

## **Girls' Basketball**

Well done to all the girls who have been attending basketball practice on Wednesday nights from 3:00 - 4:00 pm in the Sports Hall. Our girls have worked tirelessly on perfecting their shooting technique with various lay-up and free throw drills along with tactical plays such as fast breaks and the use of screening to create spaces for attacking options.

## **Boys' Basketball**

Boys' Basketball began to grow in popularity over recent months especially at KS3. It would be great to see more pupils in KS4 attending. We hope attendance numbers continue to grow so we can arrange fixtures and tournaments.

Basketball practice will continue to take place after school every Thursday after the Easter holidays.



## **GCSE PE update**

It's coming up to the business end of the Year for our Year 11 GCSE pupil's as they will be entering into the moderation and exam period. Moderation this year will take place on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> May and will be hosted at Browndedge St Mary's Catholic High School.

Practice moderations have been a particular focus in order to standardise marks but to ensure our pupils are familiar with their surroundings on moderation day. We wish them the best of luck for the future!

## **Sports Leaders**

The Year 9 Sports Leaders have been doing outstanding work in the district for primary sport. The Sports Leaders coordinated and officiated the Primary School Rugby competition at St Mary's Catholic High School, Leyland. They have put in numerous hours prior to the events to ensure that they are well prepared and that the events run smoothly and successfully. Year 9 students are currently preparing for the Primary Girls Football event, which will take place following the Easter break. Outstanding work, Sports Leaders!

## **SLD – Year 8 Interhouse**

It was Year 8's turn to compete in their annual PE Interhouse SLD in March. Again, the goal was for our students to demonstrate core values through sports (Respect, sportsmanship, fair play and many other core principles). Pupils participated in a variety of activities. The boys participated in football and basketball. The girls participated in dance and netball. The day went extremely well, with all students participating. We concluded with a presentation in which our students' received certificates and prizes for their efforts throughout the day. Because we had two houses with equal points, the winner was determined by the House that won the most events!

Josephine Bakhita was the overall winner.



**Year 8 Interhouse Winners  
(Josephine Bakhita)  
Kate B. and Harry C.**

## **Year 7 – 11 Netball**

This term has seen the continuation of another round of excellent commitment and dedication to Netball practice and fixtures! The Netball season has now ended with tournaments running across all the year groups, as always St Mary's fielded strong teams. The Year 11 girls placed 3<sup>rd</sup> – well done! The Year 10s played superbly well against tough opposition in the league and tournament, ending up placing 1<sup>st</sup> in their league which is a real testament to the teamwork of the squad! Year 8's league is now complete and they have their tournament on the 27<sup>th</sup> March. Year 7 have also shown an incredible enthusiasm for the sport with try-outs for the A and B team seeing over 45 girls down, making life very difficult once again to try and pick just a squad of 16! The Year 7 tournament is on the 25<sup>th</sup> April and the Year 9 Tournament is on the 24<sup>th</sup> April so as we go to print we wish both the year 9 and 7 girls the very best of luck!