



NEWSLETTER

Spring Term 2025

MESSAGE FROM MR THOMPSON

Welcome to the Easter edition of our newsletter.

There have been a variety of exiting opportunities for pupils since the start of the year, which we have showcased on the following pages.

In February, Year 7 pupils were invited on a weekend trip to see the sights of London. Nearly one hundred youngsters took up the chance to visit the capital and thoroughly enjoyed their time. We also recently received news that St Mary's was the first school in the North-West to be awarded recognition for our Climate Action Plan. This was a fantastic achievement and we were honoured to welcome South Ribble MP, Paul Foster, to the school in March to unveil our certificate.

The highlight of the term was undoubtedly the school trip to Rome during February half-term. To visit the Holy See during this Year of Jubilee as Pilgrims of Hope was truly special.

I'm sure you'll want to join me in thanking those staff members who have supported your children in these, and many other events. Congratulations, of course, also go to all our pupils who have participated in, or contributed to, the ongoing success of St Mary's, as shown in the newsletter.

Easter is the most special time in the Church's calendar, where we take heart in the message of Christ's resurrection. We have marked the season through our end of term Mass at St Mary's Church. May I wish you all a very restful Easter holiday and thank you again for your ongoing support.



ROME JUBLIEE VISIT

In February, 30 St Mary's pupils left Leyland to visit Rome as part of the school's Pope's Jubilee celebrations. The pupils visited a wide range of attractions within Rome including the Colosseum, Trevi Fountain and the Vatican. When not creating and eating their Pizza's pupils did also go to Mass and visited a wide variety of churches within the area including St Paul's Basilica. Throughout the 4 days, the pupils were averaging 20,000 steps per day and a well earned break over the half term was well received. Mr Thompson and Mr Cave praised the pupils throughout for their behaviour and manners.

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

SO...WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING DURING THIS TERM?



DUKE OF EDINBURGH

A long and challenging few days, but our pupils did an incredible job! They navigated their routes, arrived safely back at camp, and successfully set up tents, cooked meals and even had time for a little socialising before lights out.

Plenty of teamwork, resilience, and determination on display—exactly what DofE is all about!

#YOLO PERFORMANCE IN EDUCATION: PASSANGER ROAD SAFETY

At the end of the Easter term, we were honoured to invite Performance in Education into school for our Year 9 pupils. They performed an incredibly engaging and hard hitting drama performance “#YOLO Passenger Road Safety”. The feedback from the pupils was outstanding and we look forward to inviting Performance In Education back soon.



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL SERVICE

Our deputy head boy and deputy head girl along with Mrs Blundell and Anthony attended the South Ribble Holocaust Memorial Service in January.

This service marked the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. The theme for this year was 'For a better future', considering present conflicts as well as historical ones

ST ANNES PRIMARY ATHLETICS COMPETITION

In February, we welcomed St Anne's Catholic Primary School Years 1-6 who took part in a Sports Hall Athletics competition. A huge well done to the Sports Leadership Academy and our two Year 7 Primary Ambassadors for St Anne's who ran the event superbly!



YEAR 7 LONDON CULTURAL TRIP

In February, St Mary's completed the inaugural Year 7 visit to the capital. As part of the school's drive to enhance the pupils cultural experiences, 87 Year 7 pupils visited London which included visits to the Cambridge Theatre to watch Matilda, admission onto the London Eye and an evening meal at the Hard Rock Cafe. The pupils were incredibly well behaved throughout the visit and a real credit to the school.

Watch this space for further cultural visits in 2025/26.





PAUL FOSTER MP VISIT



CLIMATE ACTION PROJECT

Paul Foster officially revealed the schools Climate Action Plan certificate, of which the school became first school in the North West to do this. The Eco Team lead by Mr. Riley with the support of SOS (Students for Sustainability) have worked tirelessly to make this happen. Paul Foster, MP, was incredibly impressed by the hard work of the team which included completing energy audits, litter picks, significantly improving recycling around school and not to mention enhancing staff and pupils understanding of Sustainability.

TOUR OF THE SCHOOL

Throughout this tour, he was incredibly impressed with the school and was very interested in its history. Paul visited a number of lessons including Technology and Religious Studies to see the pupils and staff in action.



PUPIL COUNCIL

Our pupil council were delighted to be able to question Paul Foster on a variety of issues, from local issues to global concerns. Paul was incredibly impressed by pupil's questions and discussed the current cost of living crisis, pot holes within our local area and even global politics. This was an incredible opportunity for the pupils to be able to discuss key points and we are extremely grateful for Paul Foster's attendance at the school.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES VISIT TO NEWMAN COLLEGE

A number of pupil were invited to a Master Class sessions at Newman College earlier this term, where pupils had the opportunity to deepen their understanding of philosophical and religious topics, while also honing the key skills necessary for success at GCSE and A-Level. Pupils focused on exploring the existence of Evil and the nature of Truth, whilst also developing their examination technique for their forthcoming GCSE's. The pupils were outstanding throughout and we thank Miss Ellison and the RS team for providing this opportunity.





SO...WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING DURING THIS TERM?

BAND NIGHT

Our annual band night took place in a February to a sell out audience. Band night is an opportunity for pupils to perform in a more informal setting than a full concert, to support pupils build their confidence and skill in performing. Our audience was treated to a wonderful range of music from bands, soloists, duets and small ensembles. Congratulations to all who graced our stage!

Our next concert is our GCSE Performance Evening which takes place on Wednesday 23rd April at 6pm. Get your tickets on ScoPay!



WESTHOLME VISIT

On Tuesday 4th March a group of Year 9 and 10 pupils went to Westholme School to watch a performance of the musical, Grease. The performance was sensational, with acting, dancing, singing and a live orchestra accompanying the production. Pupils were also treated to a brief talk from the senior pupils who performed about the Arts at the school. Thank you to Westholme School for the invite!

NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA VISIT

On Monday 24th February, 40 pupils from KS3 were treated to a performance from National Youth Orchestra at Blackpool Tower. This was an amazing opportunity to see a live orchestra and experience a range of classical music. Huge thanks go to Miss Gannon for taking the pupils on this trip, the pupils loved the music and can't wait for future opportunities!



FOOD BANK DONATIONS

During Lent, each form group was tasked with donating a specific food item to support our local foodbank. We are truly grateful to all our families for their generous contributions—your kindness and support have made a real difference to our local community.

CAFOD's Leyland to Rome and Back Challenge!

As Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year, we embraced CAFOD's Big Lent Walk by encouraging our entire school family to take part in the 2,622,000-step challenge. It was truly wonderful to see everyone getting involved and having fun while working together to reach our goal! Thanks to the incredible effort and enthusiasm of our school community, we easily completed the challenge and are already looking forward to our next one. A huge thank you to everyone who sponsored our pupils—your support means so much. All money raised will be donated to CAFOD.



EASTER EGG COMPETITION

Throughout Lent, we have been holding a variety of charity events to raise money for our school charities. We are delighted to announce that the Easter Egg Basket was won by Elias! The money raised will be donated to St Catherine's Hospice, Derian House Hospice, and Rainbow Hub. A huge thank you to everyone who took part and supported this charity appeal!





PE NEWS!

BOYS BASKETBALL

It's fantastic to see boys' basketball up and running this term! With regular training sessions every Thursday, our players have been working hard to develop their skills and teamwork. A special highlight was the first tournament for our Year 7 pupils, marking an exciting milestone for the club. A special shoutout to Harry (Year 8) for his fantastic leadership in supporting and coaching the Year 7 pupils during their first tournament—well done!

We look forward to seeing the club grow and thrive in the coming years, providing even more opportunities for our pupils to get involved in the sport. Well done to everyone who has taken part so far!



NETBALL

The Netball teams have gone from strength to strength this year with Year 11 coming second in the South Ribble Tournament, their highest placing in their 5 year history – well done girls! The year 10 tournament is scheduled for Monday 31st March. The Year 9s won their Central Venue league and came 4th overall in the South Ribble Tournament which was a fabulous achievement, well played girls! The Year 8s came 4th in their tournament, showing some incredible skill and teamwork. The Year 7 girls are due to play their tournament on Monday 24th March. We wish the 10's and 8's luck as they move forward.

FOOTBALL

Boys football has continued throughout the year, with the league season completed. The Year 11 football team in their final season, have won the South Ribble league for the fifth year in a row. South Ribble Cup games have also been taking place over the last few months, with the Year 9 football team through to the semi-finals. They play All Hallows at home on Wednesday 2nd April, with the opportunity to reach their first ever final in early May.

PUPIL SUCCESS

Congratulations to Year 10 pupils Harry, Adam and Harley who in early March represented the U15 South Ribble District football team. They came away 1-0 winners against Blackburn and Darwen.





Meet the Staff



NAME: Miss Pilkington (Teaching Assistant)

HOBBIES: Going to the gym- usually at 5.30 in the morning.

INTERESTING FACT: Before becoming a teacher assistant, I was an exam invigilator here at St Mary's & I am training to compete in a gym competition.

ADVICE FOR PUPILS AT ST MARY'S: Believe in yourself! Always try your best!

NAME: Miss Fields (Teaching Assistant)

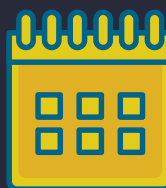
HOBBIES: My Hobby is singing, I studied Musical theatre at college and have loved it ever since. I do gigs in and around the area which I love!

INTERESTING FACT: I am a former pupil here at St Mary's!

ADVICE FOR PUPILS AT ST MARY'S: Your school days are your best days even though sometimes you won't think it you miss it a lot once you have left!



IMPORTANT DATES



Tuesday 22/04/25 - School reopens after the Easter

Wednesday 23/04/25 - Music GCSE Performance Evening

Thursday 24/04/25 - Yr10 History trip to The Thackray Medical museum.

Friday 02/05/25 - Year 11 BTECH/GCSE Exams begin.

Friday 09/05/25 - Year 11 Thanksgiving mass (1.30pm finish)

Monday 12/05/25 - Dementia Cafe

Wednesday 21/05/25 - Y10 Parents Evening, 3.30-6.30pm

Friday 23/05/25 - Pupils break up for May Half Term

Monday 02/06/25 - Pupils reopens after the May Half Term.

Wednesday 11/06/25 - Y7 Parents Evening, 3.30-6.30pm

Friday 13/06/25 - Y10 Geography fieldwork visit (Ainsdale)

Tuesday 17/06/25 - St Mary's Does Shakespeare: Expressive Arts Event

Thursday 19/06/25 - Sports Day

Tuesday 24/06/25 - Year 10 College Taster Day (Preston/Runshaw)

Thursday 26/06/25 - Year 11 Prom

Tuesday 01/07/25 - Year 10 College Taster Day (Newman College)

Wednesday 02/07/25 - Whole School rewards trip

Thursday 03/07/25 & Friday 04/07/25 - Year 8 Pilgrimage (Liverpool)

Wednesday 09/07/25 - Friday 11/07/05 - Year 10 Retreat (Ampleforth)

Wednesday 16/07/25 - Summer Arts Festival

Friday 18/07/25 - Pupils break up for the Summer Break

AMBLESIDE 2025 "GEOGRAPHY ROCKS"

Year 11 Geographer's completed their annual Ambleside Fieldwork residential. Pupils left school on Thursday evening and travelled up to the YHA Ambleside to be amazed by the views from the accommodation. After completing a variety of fieldwork activities throughout the 3 days, pupils also walked to Stock Ghyll Force waterfall to see their "Geography in Action" and completed an orienteering task at Brockhole on Windermere. The Year 11 pupils were outstanding throughout the visit and were even treated to a Mr Weaver quiz on the Saturday evening.

#GEOGRAPHYROCKS

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT DIARY

BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS TO LET OUR LIGHT SHINE



Career's Corner



Year 9 & 11 Careers Enrichment Morning

In January, our Year 9 and Year 11 pupils participated in their end of Key Stage Enrichment Event. The focus of the morning was to provide pupils with further information about their next steps, whether that be their Year 9 options or post 16 choices.

To support our pupils with these decisions, we invited various employers and colleges in to school to run workshops for our pupils.

The event was a great success and our pupils were once again praised for their behaviour in the sessions!



Year 11 Leyland Trucks Visit

At the end of last half term our Year 11 pupils were invited to the Leyland Trucks Apprenticeship visit.

The aim of the visit was to provide them with more information about Leyland Trucks, their apprenticeships and how to apply.

Pupils were given an informative tour of the factory to see how the trucks are manufactured along with a presentation about the apprenticeships that are currently being advertised.

Pupils really enjoyed the visit. This opportunity has helped to support them with their applications.



Year 10 Mock Interviews

In February, we hosted our Year 10 mock interviews where we invited over 20 employers from a range of different industries to interview our pupils giving them invaluable experience.

All pupils produced a personal statement in their Personal Development lessons, these were then submitted to the employers before they met. Our pupils conducted themselves in an exemplary manner throughout the process and the feedback we received from the employers was excellent





PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT DIARY

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Career's Corner



Careers Week @ St Mary's

WC: Monday 24th February

This was a celebration of careers guidance and education across our St Mary's community. The aim is to provide a focus for careers guidance activity at an important stage in the academic calendar to help support young people leaving education.

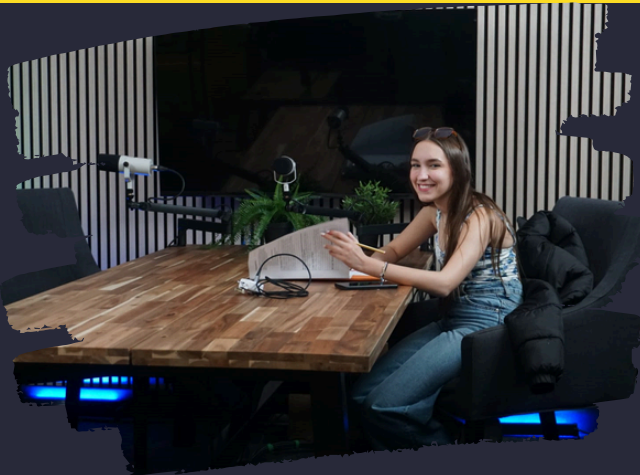
During the week we were lucky to welcome a variety of guest speakers including James Grayston who discussed with pupils his career as an advanced nurse practitioner whilst Year 7 pupils completed their careers scavenger hunt investigating career pathways of teachers around school.



Year 10 Work Experience

During March, Year 10 pupils completed Work Experience in a variety of industries around the local area. The feedback we received from employer's was incredible and some of the activities including recording a Podcast, designing logo's and some pupils even travelled to Northumbria to work as a Bricklayer.

The pupils were a credit to the school.



Recognition of Achievement, proudly presented to

St Mary's Catholic High School

For completion of their Climate Action Plan in line with the
Department for Education's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy.

As the first school in the North West Region to successfully complete the SOS
Climate Action Plan programme, St Mary's Catholic High School has
demonstrated a strong commitment to building a youth led sustainable future.

Quinn Runkle

Quinn Runkle

Director of Education, SOS-UK

Date: 22.11.2024



Year 7 Cultural Trip To London

