



# NEWSLETTER

Spring Term (1) 2024

## MESSAGE FROM MR THOMPSON

Welcome to our first newsletter of the Spring Term. Plenty of activities have taken place since our return in January, the highlight undoubtedly being the Pupil Council trip to the Houses of Parliament. In addition, as the newsletter demonstrates, pupils have enjoyed, amongst other events, watching a live performance of Hamilton the Musical, trips to a Cold War bunker, visits to local colleges, as well as representing the school at the South Ribble Holocaust Memorial Event. This week, we received a certificate from the EP Robotics Challenge (you will find the certificate at the end of this newsletter). We are one of the few schools in the UK to take part in this Challenge for 4 years. Please can I remind all parents and carers of the importance of uploading your child's medical details via Edulink (see page 5), to ensure every pupil has the chance to participate in out of school activities.

Of course, the term was marked by the sad news of Father Jonathan Cotton's passing. He played a huge role in the lives of many pupils and staff, past and present, as well as contributing to the wider community over many years. St Mary's was represented at both the Parish Requiem Mass in the parish church, and at the funeral at Ampleforth, as we celebrated his life. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.



## PARLIAMENT VISIT 2024

Pupil leaders visited the House of Parliament earlier this month. The pupils started the day by visiting Westminster Catholic Cathedral where they said the eternal rest and lit a candle in Father Jonathan's memory.

Then they went onto the speaker's house to meet Sir Lindsay Hoyle and have a tour of Parliament. The pupils got to witness debates within the House of Commons and the House of Lords and ended the day by having their very own debate in an excellent workshop session.

The pupils represented St Mary's incredibly well! A member of the public praised their behaviour on the train, saying they were a credit to our school.



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



### HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Our Head Boy and Head Girl were invited to a special gathering in South Ribble for Holocaust Memorial Day.

It was a moment of reflection and prayer as we remembered the victims of the Holocaust, and the importance of tolerance and understanding of different beliefs and cultures across our local communities and throughout the world.

Pictured is our Head Boy and Head Girl together with the Mayor and Mayoress of South Ribble.

### CLIMATE ACTION PROJECT

Our pupils had a fantastic opportunity this term to get involved with the Climate Action Plan and Wilding project. They were given the knowledge and insight to make a change with the help and support of @sosukcharity. The pupils are looking forward to implementing those changes and making a difference both individually and in the local community.



### HAMILTON THEATRE TRIP

Our Year 10 & 11 Drama pupils recently visited the Manchester Palace Theatre to watch and learn from the multi award winning Hamilton production. This experience will support their studies and will be a lasting memory for all who attended.



### ELEVATE

A huge thank you to Elevate Education who have provided study sessions for our Year 11 pupils this half term. These sessions provide vital support for their revision, dealing with anxiety & building resilience. Elevate also presented to Year 11 parents regarding various strategies to support their children in the build up to their exams.

## RELIGIOUS STUDIES VISIT TO RUNSHAW

In January six of our Year 10 pupils were chosen to represent St Mary's and attend a Religious Studies workshop at Runshaw College. The pupils were able to explore what college life is like and understand a little more about how A levels are taught at the college.

The pupils participated in two sessions. They examined if human beings truly possess free will. Through the use of both real-life and hypothetical examples, students were encouraged to reflect on the nature of human freedom and to assess whether they can make sense of this idea, as well as considering the implications of their answers to this question.

In addition, they explored the philosophical arguments for the existence of God.





## SPOT LIGHT ON: HISTORY

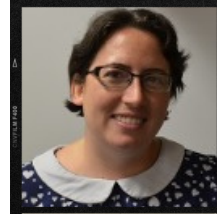
**KNOW THE PAST, LIVE FOR THE NOW, PROTECT THE FUTURE!**

### YEAR 11 COLD WAR BUNKER VISIT

On a very cold January day Year 11, led by Mr Cane, Mrs Blundell, Mrs Lawson and Mrs Stearstree ventured to Cheshire to a Cold War Bunker. Year 11 have been studying the Cold War as part of their GCSE course and considering the relationship and war of words between the USA and USSR. Hack Green Secret Bunker gave pupils the opportunity to see the impact of the Cold War on British shores and how real a threat it was, even in the UK. Pupils saw the Russian room, decontamination chamber, areas to hide in case of an explosion, medical facilities and so much more. Year 11 were excellent ambassadors for St Mary's.



## meet our historians



**Mrs Blundell**  
Curriculum Leader for Humanities



**Mr Cane**  
Teacher Of History

### YEAR 7 EARLY MIGRATION PROJECTS

Year 7 have made an excellent start in their history studies at St Mary's. Pupils have started looking at the early migration of groups to Britain as part of our theme of "A Changing Britain". Pupils created excellent projects based on one of the historical groups we studied. These included Romans, Vikings and Anglo-Saxons. Pupils really did themselves proud and blew away Mr Thompson, Mrs Blundell, Mr Cane and Dr Batty with their imagination and creativity. We saw shields, helmets, coins, jewellery and even shoes. Keep up the excellent work Year 7!



### HISTORY HOMEWORK

The history department have been trialing oracy homework's based on the topics that students have been studying. This has been very successful with pupils discussing the key topics with people at home. Speaking to pupils they have enjoyed the different style of homework and the ability to demonstrate knowledge and understanding in a different way. Parents have been very positive in their feedback. Many said they liked being involved in their children's work and understanding what the children have been learning. Some said the homework have sparked family interest with some having watched topic related films, documentaries or gone on visits and trips to engage more with the history. Great work everyone!

## HISTORY AT ST MARY'S

**Know the past, live for the now, protect the future!**

We teach history at St Mary's Catholic High School, Leyland to engage pupils to develop a love, passion and desire for the subject. As a history department, the curriculum is structured to encourage resilience and an aspiration in the pupils to let their light shine becoming a tolerant independent thinker, who can use their knowledge of the past to understand the issues of the present and how they can shape the future. Using knowledge from feeder primary schools about KS2 topics covered, we have a curriculum that builds on prior knowledge and understanding and moves towards a firm grasp of the second order concepts required for KS5 and the workplace.

	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer term
Y 7	Early Migration and its impact How did the Normans conquer and control England	How did the Tudors change life in Britain? Changes in culture and society	Changes in culture and society Leyland – a Local History Study
Y 8	Who profited from the Slave Trade? How far did Industry and Empire change people's lives?	Was the First World War a major international crisis? How was morale built on the home front during the Second World War?	How was morale built on the home front during the Second World War? Cold War and Changing attitudes.
Y 9	Discrimination by Gender and Colour	Discrimination Case Study Germany	Discrimination by Religion Discrimination by Ideology



## CHAPLAINCY

### THE LATE FATHER JONATHAN COTTON

We pray for the eternal happiness of Reverend Dom Jonathan Cotton, Monk of Ampleforth Abbey who died on 17 January 2024.

Father Jonathan was a wonderful guide to thousands of pupils and staff, over many years and was a friend and supporter of the school in all that time. We were blessed to know him. May he rest in peace



### CHAPLAINCY PRAYER GAMES

Our Chaplaincy prayer games continue to be enjoyed by many year groups. The games are often led by our Chapel Prefect, ranging from interactive games, word searches and quizzes. As always, we close the games with a short reflection and prayer.

### ANIMATE YOUTH MINISTRIES

It was a great pleasure to welcome Animate Youth Ministries to our school. Animate delivered a bespoke presentation to promote the Sacrament of Confirmation to our Year 8 students. If you would like your child to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, and they are in Year 8 or above, please contact Anthony our Chaplain for more information, or alternatively, register on line at: [www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk](http://www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk)



### DEMENTIA CAFE

Our Year 7 'Dementia Friends' hosted our February memory cafe. Our pupils shared stories and poems with our patrons along with hospitality. Special thanks also to the Mayor and Mayoress of South Ribble for joining our café and awarding our school with a 'Dementia Friendly Community' certificate. Well done everyone for 'letting your light shine!'

### WHIZZ KIDZ - FUNDRAISING

Inspired by Pope Francis' words in his encyclical Evangelii Gaudium, various Chaplaincy members organised a cake for 'Whizz Kidz', a children's wheelchair charity. All cakes were sold within 10 minutes! Well done everyone!





## Meet the Staff



**NAME:** Miss Ellison

**SUBJECT:** Religious Studies

**HOBBIES:** Going to the gym and attending gym classes

**INTERESTING FACT:** I have always known that I wanted to be a Religious Studies Teacher, since Year 7. Religious Studies has always been my favourite subject!

**ADVICE FOR PUPILS AT ST MARY'S:** Always be yourself! Try and relax and enjoy your high school experience. Celebrate each others differences, you will make friends for life!

**NAME:** Miss Tumelty

**SUBJECT:** SENCo/English

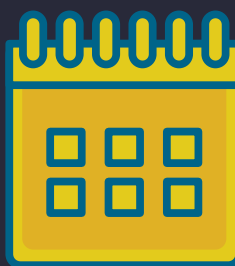
**HOBBIES:** I enjoy reading, going to the cinema and visiting the theatre. I also enjoy walking my dog and spending time outside.

**INTERESTING FACT:** I have flown over the Las Vegas Strip in a helicopter.

**ADVICE FOR PUPILS AT ST MARY'S:** My advice for students who are in Year 9 and are thinking about picking their GCSE options. When deciding what you would like to study make sure you choose something you enjoy, you will be studying this subject for two years and need to ensure it is a subject you are passionate about.



## IMPORTANT DATES



**Monday 19/02/24 - School reopens after the half term break**

**Wednesday 21/02/24 - Y9 Options Talk**

**Thursday 22/02/24 - Band Night, 6pm (tickets on sale!)**

**Friday 23/02/24 - Whole School Rewards Trip**

**Wednesday 28/02/24 - Y9 & Y11 Careers Enrichment Morning**

**Wednesday 28/02/24 - Y9 Parents Evening, 3.30-6.30pm**

**Monday 04/03/24 - Y11 Preston College Interviews**

**Tuesday 05/03/24 - Y11 ~Runshaw College Interviews**

**Thursday 07/03/24 - World Book Day**

**Friday 08/03/24 - Non Uniform Day (Easter Egg donations)**

**Thursday 14/03/24 - Y9 Immunisations**

**Tuesday 19/03/24 - Y8 Spanish Tapas Trip**

**Thursday 21/03/24 - Easter Community Bingo**

**Friday 22/03/24 - Y7-Y9 Swimming Gala**

**Wednesday 27/03/24 - School breaks up for Easter at 1.30pm**

**Monday 15/04/24 - School reopens after the Easter break**

**Year 10 Work Experience:**

**Monday 18th March - Friday 22nd March 2024**

With so many exciting enrichment opportunities being visited outside the classroom, we must remind all parents that all medical information needs to be updated on a regular basis. As a school we have introduced Edulink One for parents to easily update this whenever they wish. Edulink also allows parents to report absences easily and securely.

During this academic year, there are been a few occasions where pupils have been unable to attend an educational visit due to outdated medical information on file and/or pupils not bringing prescribed medication for the visits (Epi pens, Inhalers etc..)

All parents/carers have received an email with instructions on creating your account and accessing the platform. If you have any questions or difficulties, please do not hesitate to contact [edusadmin@lsmchs.com](mailto:edusadmin@lsmchs.com)





## PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT DIARY

### BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS TO LET OUR LIGHT SHINE

The Personal Development curriculum is well and truly embedded within the lives of our St Mary's pupils. A curriculum which has been developed purely on the needs of our children through consultations with parents, pupils and teachers has been building from strength to strength. Highlights since January, have included, Year 10 pupils have finalising their Personal Statements in preparation for their forthcoming mock interviews whilst Years 8 & 9 have investigated how the Catholic teachings underpin our Personal Development learning.

Year 9 pupils have been studying their Shining Light module where they have received guidance from the local police on issues related to their year group, investigated British Values and how it influences our St Mary's community and finally an GCSE v Vocational options assembly discussing the key differences between the two, and the details of all the vocation options on offer at St Mary's

#### St Mary's Catholic High School Personal Development Model



YEAR	LIVING WORLD (1)	LIVING WORLD (2)	RELATIONSHIPS Ten Ten (RSHE For Catholic Schools)	HEALTH & WELLBEING (1)	HEALTH & WELLBEING (2)	LETTING YOUR LIGHT SHINE (Bespoke Module)
7	<b>Developing skills and aspirations</b> Careers, teamwork and enterprise skills, and raising aspirations <b>(Morrisby Careers Platform)</b>	<b>Financial decision</b> making Saving, borrowing, budgeting and making financial choices	<b>Life Live To The Full</b> Our core identify, changing bodies, healthy inside and out, changing bodies, where we come from, family and friends, my life on screen and living responsibly.	<b>Religion and Belief: Christ at the Centre &amp; First Aid</b> Engage with the Catholic ethos and values of St. Mary's	<b>Health and puberty</b> Healthy routines, influences on health, puberty, unwanted contact, and FGM	<b>Welcome to St Mary's</b> Expectations and standards at St Mary's.
8	<b>Community and careers</b> Equality of opportunity in careers and life choices, and different types and patterns of work <b>(Morrisby Careers Platform)</b>	<b>Digital literacy</b> Online safety, digital literacy, media reliability, and gambling hooks	<b>Life Live To The Full</b> Created and chosen, appreciating differences, feelings, before I was born, tough relationships, think before you share and the wider world.	<b>Drugs and alcohol</b> Alcohol and drug misuse and pressures relating to drug use	<b>Emotional wellbeing</b> Mental health and emotional wellbeing, including body image and coping strategies	<b>St Mary's &amp; Me</b> What can you do to support the greater community at St Mary's (Sustainability)
9	<b>Setting goals</b> Learning strengths, career options and goal setting. <b>(Morrisby Careers Platform)</b>	<b>Employability skills</b> Employability and online presence	<b>Life Live To The Full</b> The search for love, love people & use things, in control of my choices, fertility and contraception, marriage, one hundred percent and knowing my rights & responsibilities.	<b>Peer influence, substance use and gangs</b> Healthy and unhealthy friendships, assertiveness, substance misuse, and gang exploitation	<b>Healthy lifestyle</b> Diet, exercise, lifestyle balance and healthy choices, and first aid	<b>Options (Preparing for KS4)</b> Discussion of options and pathways at KS4.
10	<b>Financial decision making</b> The impact of financial decisions, debt, gambling and the impact of advertising on financial choices	<b>Preparing For Employment</b> Personal Statement Writing <b>(Morrisby Careers Platform)</b>	<b>Life Live To The Full</b> Authentic freedom, self-image, beliefs, values & attitudes, parenthood, pregnancy & abortion, abuse and solidarity	<b>Mental health</b> Mental health and ill health, stigma, safeguarding health, including during periods of transition or change	<b>Exploring influence</b> The influence and impact of drugs, gangs, role models and the media	<b>Work Experience</b> Preparing, completing and evaluating work experience placements.
11	<b>Moving Forward</b> Revision techniques/strategies and future opportunities	<b>Next Steps</b> <b>(Morrisby Careers Platform)</b> CV Writing & Preparing for KS5	<b>Life Live To The Full</b> Self-worth, addiction, eating disorders, birth control, pornography, STIs and coercive control.	<b>Building for the future</b> Self-efficacy, stress management, and future opportunities	<b>Independence</b> Responsible health choices, and safety in independent contexts	<b>Options (Preparing for Exams &amp; KS5)</b> Pupil wellbeing, stress management and supporting applications at KS5.

*Building the foundations to "Let our light shine"*

# LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE



## PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT DIARY

BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS TO LET OUR LIGHT SHINE



### Career's Corner



#### Alumni @ St Mary's

As part of our careers education, that we provide to our pupils, we are currently building our links with our alumni. If you are interested in sharing your career pathways, and would be interested in created a profile that will inspire our St Mary's pupils, please contact Mrs McVey at [careers@lsmchs.com](mailto:careers@lsmchs.com)

#### Year 10 Mock Interviews

Due to unforeseen circumstance this week, the Year 10 mock interviews were postponed and a date will be shared with pupils and parents at the beginning of next half term. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.

#### Leyland Trucks Visit

Year 11 pupils were invited to Leyland Trucks to find out about their apprenticeship schemes and to get an insight on how the business operates.

This opportunity will help our pupils when applying for positions within the company. A big thank you to Leyland Trucks, we really enjoyed the visit!

#### Careers Week @ St Mary's

WC: Monday 26th February

This is 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.

At St Mary's this academic year, we will be celebrating with our end of Key Stage enrichment morning where pupils will encounter various careers and educational pathways that will support them once they leave St Mary's

All pupils will be taking part in careers based activities around school and within various lessons, whilst Year 7 will be conducting our "first ever" Careers Treasure Hunt.....

Can they find out which teacher used to be a bricklayer?



# Congratulations!

Leyland St Mary's Catholic High  
School

Well done  
and thank you

for taking part in  
the EEP Robotics Challenge  
for 4 years

