



NEWSLETTER

Summer Term (1) 2024

MESSAGE FROM MR THOMPSON

Welcome to Volume 5 of our regular newsletter. We were delighted to be able to share news of our recent Catholic School Inspection during this half-term. The report is available on the website for you to read in full, but for St Marys to be described as a “happy community” where pupils “feel valued and respected” was particularly pleasing to note, and strikes at the heart of what we are striving to achieve every day.

You will note a number of wonderful events have occurred since our return after Easter, with the highlight for many being the introduction of Rocket, our therapy dog! The timing of Rocket’s arrival is convenient as this period also marks the most intense time for our Year 11 pupils. Please remember them in your prayers as they continue with their GCSE exams.

As you know, we always take the views of parents & carers seriously and, over recent years, we have welcomed your feedback and implemented a number of changes to our routines and practices. The final page of the newsletter demonstrates this again, as your input has had influence in what our Personal Development programme offers to your child. Thank you for your contributions and your ongoing support of the school.

Mr P Thompson
Headteacher



ROCKET THE THERAPY DOG

Say “hello” to the newest member of the St Mary’s team, Rocket the therapy dog. Following on from our letter sent before the Easter break, Rocket begins his trial with us each Tuesday in school.

There are a range of benefits into the effects of therapy dogs in school, including:

- Increase in school attendance;
- Improved confidence;
- Decreased pupil anxiety resulting in improvements in learning;
- Improved motivation to learn



Rocket is already proving a hit with the pupils (and staff!).



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

NUN VISIT

In April, we were delighted to welcome Sisters Lucy and Carino to St Mary's. The nuns are based in Portsmouth and are members of The Dominican Sisters of St Joseph. Members of our Year 9 Catholic Life group posed a variety of questions ranging from vocation, prayer, the role of women in the Church, and many more interesting topics. It was a privilege to host such wonderful role-models and the group certainly learnt a lot about life in a religious order!



CAKE WATERFALLS IN GEOGRAPHY?

Some of our Year 7 pupils have been busy completing a practical task of using nothing but angel cake to demonstrate the sequenced formation of a waterfall.

Pupils demonstrated their excellent team work and oracy skills to step by step explain how the power of erosion and the differences in geology help shape our UK Rivers.

Pupils loved eating their work at the end!



COMPETITION TIME IN DT!

Year 9 on their Design Technology rotation, have just entered a competition, in collaboration with the INEOS Go Humans Academy.

The pupils designed a helmet worthy of Sir Lewis Hamilton. Their imaginations have run wild, creating designs that celebrate and promote a sense of inclusion on many different levels.

In this competition, UK pupils can get involved with the adrenaline-fueled world of Formula 1.

The winning helmet designs will be photographed with Sir Lewis at a 2024 Grand Prix event.

Fingers crossed for our young designers!



CHARITY WORK

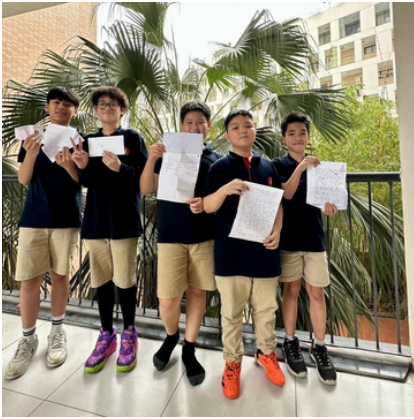
Throughout Lent, pupils and staff donated food items to support our local food bank, Leyland Food Bank.

Special thanks go to the pupils and their families/carers that kindly donated a minibus full of food and Easter eggs!

Thank you for letting your light shine!



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



PEN PALS

You may recall Mr Callaghan's Year 8 class's recently sent letters to a school in Hanoi, Vietnam. The letters arrived over Easter and the pupils at Marie Curie School looked pretty happy with them! Although it looks like their school has a few more palm trees in it than Leyland.

LEADING CADET

Alex H in Year 9 has achieved the status of Leading Cadet at the Royal Air Force, and last week he piloted a glider; he was chosen along with 4 other cadets to take part in the experience.

Along with your parents, we're very proud of you Alex!

Keep letting your light shine!



SUSTAINABILITY AT ST MARY'S

Year 8 have begun a unit in Personal Development on Eco/Sustainability.

The focus is looking at both local and national concerns regarding sustainability. The year group will look upon actions required for a more sustainable future for the next generation. The school is currently working in collaboration with SOS (Students Organising For Sustainability) creating our first ever School's Climate Action Plan



YEAR 11 LEAVERS

Earlier this term we celebrated our Year 11 Thanksgiving mass. It was a wonderful opportunity to thank God for the many blessings that He has bestowed upon Year 11 pupils.

During the day the pupils had chance to reminisce over their time at St Mary's whilst we provided a special lunch for them to enjoy. Following mass they all signed each other's shirts (there were some fantastic designs!).

Special thanks also to Fr. Joe who celebrated the Mass.

Remember Year 11, always 'let your light shine'





LISBON 2024 GALLERY

During the Easter break, 97 St Mary's pupils visited Lisbon on the bi-annual sports tour. Pupils received expert coaching from highly skilled coaches from Benfica, Sporting Lisbon and the Manchester Storm Netball team. The pupils were an incredible asset to school throughout this wonderful enrichment opportunity.





Meet the Staff



NAME: Mrs Dudley

SUBJECT/ROLE: Cover supervisor (Come from 15 years of teaching RE and Humanities)

HOBBIES: Sing, sew, visit historic places with my family, Member of a Book club.

INTERESTING FACT: I recently bought my first ever Gluggle jug. Life is now complete, I am a twin, I spent a lot of my childhood on submarines (my dad was head engineer in the marines for subs and the Royal yacht Britannia)

ADVICE FOR PUPILS AT ST MARY'S: Always be Kind. People may not remember your accomplishments but they will remember you were kind.

NAME: Miss Akers

SUBJECT/ROLE: Girls PE Teacher

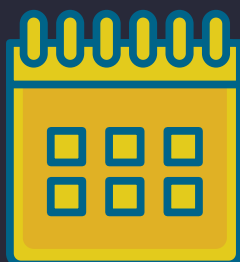
HOBBIES: Spending time with friends and family and doing fun things with my 4 year old son.

INTERESTING FACT: I have held a season ticket at Manchester United for 33 years and have my name on my seat in the Stretford End

ADVICE FOR PUPILS AT ST MARY'S: Put effort and enthusiasm into everything you do - it is recognised! Treat others in the way you would wish to be treated yourself. Never give up!



IMPORTANT DATES



Monday 3/06/24 - School reopens after the May half term

Tuesday 11/06/24 - Year 11 Study Leave Begins

Wednesday 18/06/24 -RE Trip (Synagogue)

Thursday 19/06/24 - Sports Day

Monday 24/06/24 - Yr 11 pupil leadership meal

Wednesday 26/06/24 - Preston/Runshaw Taster Day For Yr 10

Thursday 27/06/24 - Yr 10 Geography Fieldwork Visit To Ainsdale

Thursday 27/06/24 - Yr 11 Leavers Prom

Friday 28/06/24 - Cardinal Newman Taster Day For Yr 10

Monday 01/07/24 - Rewards Trip

Thursday 04/07/24 - Friday 05/07/24 - Year 8 Pilgrimage

Monday 08/07/24 - Friday 12/07/24 - Year 10 Retreat

Friday 19/07/24 - School breaks up for Summer, 1.30pm dismissal from Church

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 have 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





PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT DIARY

BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS TO LET OUR LIGHT SHINE



Career's Corner



ENGINEERING CAREERS ENCOUNTER

Earlier this term, we had an ex pupil, Dan Higham visited St Mary's, he is now an Engineer on the submarines at BAE. He engaged with our Year 10 and 11 pupils who are currently completing their own Design Technology and Engineering qualifications. He discussed his own career journey and how design and engineering is used everyday with STEM in his industry.

Thank you Dan for a fascinating discussion and presentation.

YEAR 10 MOCK INTERVIEWS

In early May, Year 10 pupils conducted mock interviews with a variety of local employers for example, Leyland Trucks & South Ribble Council to name a few!

All pupils had written their personal statements in the PD lessons and these were then forwarded to our interviewers. We are very proud of our pupils with the wonderful feedback we received about how well our they conducted themselves.

Well done Year 10, you have truly let your light shine

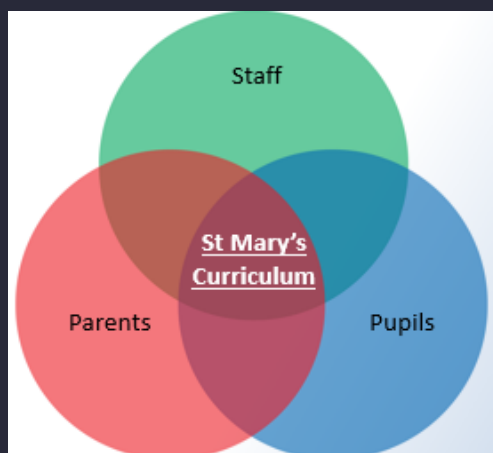
As always, a big thank you to all our employers and colleges who volunteered their time so that our pupils could experience an interview to prepare them for their next steps after St Mary's.





PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT DIARY

BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS TO LET OUR LIGHT SHINE



Personal Development 2024/25

- Built upon recommendations from our own pastoral team, in terms of key priorities
- Designed upon information from the community, local police and LCC regarding recent incidents or rises in specific issues.
- We use expert external agencies delivering age appropriate material.
- Input from members of staff across the whole teaching body, the Senior Leadership Team and the Head Teacher.
- Input from school Governors.
- Gain regular feedback from the “Voice of St Mary” (Parents/Pupils/Staff) and edit/change the curriculum appropriately to the needs of our pupils.

Parental Suggestions	2024/25 Personal Development Curriculum
Parent Suggestion 1: Personal Finance	Modules included in KS3 and KS4 with a new module in Year 11 to support pupils at colleges and university. Addressing the idea of real life money management.
Parent Suggestion 2: Catholic Life	Life to the Full Curriculum will teach Relationships Education and Health Education within the context of a Christian understanding of human sexuality rooted in the wisdom and teaching of the Catholic Church
Parent Suggestion 3: Mental Health & Social Media Influence	Increased the number of lessons from 2023/24. This topic area is revisited in each year group.
Parent Suggestion 4: Interview Techniques	This has been developed throughout 2023-24. Investigating the key aspects of success interviews plays a key role in KS4 as pupils prepare for their mock and college interviews.
Parent Suggestion 5: Extremism	This is taught throughout our Personal Development curriculum however we have introduced a bespoke Extremism module for KS3 in 24/25.